

Life at The Top – Chapter 1296

“I... I didn't think it would turn out like this either. What do we do now?”

Scott was truly terrified now.

“Your grandfather is talking to him in person now. Let's see how it goes first. If he's willing to compromise, then the Covington family is willing to share some of our profits. But if he truly wants to fight us to the end, then the Covington family will not surrender so easily either!”

In the tea room downstairs.

“Drink some tea whenever you're free, young man. Tea clears the mind and soothes the soul, there's no need for so much anger all the time.”

Gerald passed Jasper a cup of tea.

“People are all driven by interests. There's no need to go to such extreme lengths.”

Jasper took the cup of tea and had a small sip before he replied calmly, "Mr. Covington, I never intended to oppress people with my power. Most of the time, my actions are merely a form of self defense when I'm forced to fight back. The same goes for this particular incident."

Gerald's eyebrow twitched and he said solemnly, "Scott's been spoiled rotten. But isn't a small lesson enough when a child's made a mistake? There's no need to strain our relationship."

Jasper smiled and replied, "Mr. Covington, what if I was a poor man, then? Or perhaps only had a few million Somer Dollars worth of assets. Would I still get the chance to drink tea with you here after Scott threatens me?"

Gerald's smile slowly disappeared and he said, "You're just making excuses."

Jasper replied calmly, "Excuse or explanation, the situation's already occurred. The Covington family invited me today and I agreed to come. So, let's get straight to the point."

"Alright."

Gerald nodded and said expressionlessly, "I've already seen the extent of your capabilities and I admit that you are powerful. Frankly speaking, the Covington family cannot afford to continue fighting like this. What are your demands for you to stop attacking?"

“Simple.”

Jasper looked at Gerald and said, “I don’t want money, nor do I want your family’s property. All I ask is that from today onward, Scott leaves and never returns to Tefa City again.”

Gerald was enraged by what he heard.

“You’re going too far, Jasper!

“The Covington family only ever has a sole heir. Right now, Scott is the only son. What difference would it be between having him leave Tefa city and uprooting the Covington family entirely?!”

Jasper replied calmly, “I don’t care whether the Covington family gets uprooted or not, nor does that have anything to do with me. But I don’t want to see Scott in Tefa City again.”

Gerald clenched his jaw and looked at Jasper icily. “I can put in a word to pay you 5 million worth of compensation. I also have a plot of land by the borders separating the South Mountain area and Nauritus City. It’s quite an expensive plot of land, and I can gift it to you.”

“If you’re willing to sell a portion of Downstream Investment Company’s shares, then I can double the price I suggested just now.”

Jasper looked up gleefully and asked, “Mr. Covington, do I look like someone who lacks money?”

“ ... ”

“Jasper, the Covington family might not be as wealthy as you, but we’ve been in Tefa City for years. Even if we were to be destroyed, you would not come out unscathed. I’ve been in business for decades and I still have a few old friends and acquaintances. Do you truly not plan to show me any respect?”

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly and replied calmly. “I already gave you respect. Otherwise, there’s no way I’d accept the invitation to come to the Covington family villa.”

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“I’m warning you, Jasper. Downstream Investment Company isn’t something the Covington family wants to buy. There’s someone ever more powerful behind who’s interested in it! You’re only going to get yourself screwed over if you keep acting so stubborn!”

Gerald stared at Jasper and said.

Jasper arched his brow slightly.

Jasper believed what Gerald said since it was likely true. Downstream Investment Company did not come with a license in his past life.

However, it did in this.

Usually, the acquisition of a state fund investment company should not come with a license.

Someone probably pulled a few strings throughout all this.

Only someone with very powerful contacts could include a priceless license along with the sale of a state-funded investment company.

Therefore, Jasper could believe that someone extremely powerful had pulled the strings in question.

The Covington family was certainly not qualified enough to do so.

They were basically an agent in this situation.

Both Scott and Gerald had now brought up purchasing shares of Downstream Investment company.

Hence, it intrigued Jasper when Gerald straightforwardly told him about a more formidable character's involvement.

"I've already acquired Downstream Investment Company, and this is a fact that no one can change. Be it you or this formidable figure you speak of, no one will be taking a dollar of profit from this company. Let alone invest and become a shareholder."

Jasper looked at Gerald and continued calmly, "I'm sure this formidable person has already pulled the strings. But instead of acquiring the business himself, he decided to have your family act as a middle man. So, either this formidable person's got a sensitive identity and cannot appear in person, or he doesn't actually want the company itself. Correct?"

Gerald did not say anything but his heart shook in fear. This Jasper was truly skilled, a few sentences were all it took for him to recount the whole truth.

“No matter what the situation is, the only reason I’d give you what I have is if I don’t want it. If you want to steal it from me, then come and get it.”

Jasper then got up and walked toward the door.

“Either accept my conditions, Mr. Covington, or go and look for this powerful person supporting you. If he manages to defeat me, then there’s nothing I can say. But I, Jasper Laine, have never surrendered to anyone since I started doing business.”

“Just come and try me...”

Jasper did not look at Gerald’s sour expression and immediately left with Julian in tow.

Jasper had just left when the doors to the tea room opened and Emmett entered the room carefully.

“Dad, how’d the talk go?” Emmett asked.

“Horrible,” Gerald replied expressionlessly.

While he had been prepared, Emmett's expression still darkened when he heard the result.

"He doesn't want money or land. The only request he has is for Scott to leave Tefa City forever."

Emmett was enraged when he heard Jasper's condition.

"Bullsh*t! All of the Covington family's foundations are in Tefa City! There's no way we can move elsewhere. We've only got one heir, so what's the difference between that and completely destroying the Covington family?"

"Why would he care?"

Gerald sneered. "If not for your great son, this incident would never have developed to this point. I already asked around, and it was your son who offended others first. This wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Emmett asked bitterly, "Then what do we do now?"

"What else can we do?"

Gerald clenched his jaw and said grimly, "Prepare the car. I need to visit the Marquis."

Emmett was stunned. "Are we really going to tell the Marquis about this? He told us to acquire Downstream Investment Company on his behalf, but not only did we screw up, we even offended Jasper. I'm afraid the Marquis will think that we're incompetent..."

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"Do you have a better plan?" Gerald looked at Emmet icily, "Do you plan to fight Jasper head on, or send Scott away?"

Emmett stammered but did not say anything for a long time.

Gerald sighed deeply and said, "Go prepare the car. At least the Duke of the Northwest and I have some history."

"Instead of looking for anyone else, the Marquis came to ask our help on his trip to pay his ancestors respect in Tefa City. This means that there's still a level of closeness to our relationship. We have no one else to turn to but the Marquis right now."

Emmett's eyes lit up and he replied excitedly, "Dad, are you planning to have the Marquis attack Jasper? We'd have nothing to worry about if that's the case! We might

not win against Jasper, but he's trash in comparison to the Marquis. The Marquis would be able to get rid of him easily."

The Covington family seemed to have completely given up on negotiating with Jasper over the following few days.

They began to fight back strongly against JW's subsidiaries and Schuler Supermarkets' coordinated attacks.

One had to admit that the Covington family certainly exercised a degree of power and skill as the wealthiest family in Tefa City.

However, JW Company was no longer the weak and cautious company that was too afraid to offend others anymore. In fact, a huge number of people in many industries had to make sure not to anger JW Company.

Not to mention that this fight occurred within the Southeast Province.

To quote a formidable and high status person in Southeast Province, "JW has already made a name for itself."

The Covington family's defense appeared strong, but everyone knew that defeat was only a matter of time. However, both attacking and defending parties had to pay a price whenever there were these business wars. JW Company had used up quite a lot of money during the past few days as well.

Not that Jasper cared.

Ignoring the benefits Jasper would earn once the Covington family was destroyed, the benefits brought by the financial license from Downstream Investment Company alone could replenish ten to twenty times the value of the money lost.

Not to mention that getting rid of the Covington family was a must if he wanted Downstream Investment Company to develop well in Tefa City. These were prices he had to pay.

"Jasper, there's an invitation for you."

Jasper had just ended a video conference with the people over at Nauritus City when Julian brought a bronzed invitation over.

Jasper took it from the man.

It was an invitation to a meal.

Jasper immediately frowned when he saw the sender's name.

This was not a famous name at all, and only a small amount of people knew of him.

However, anyone who heard this name knew what it entailed.

Lionel Alvarado.

Lord Alvarado, the oldest grandson of the Alvarado family, under the Duke of the Northwest.

Jasper only knew of him because he heard his boss Baz boast about him while drunk during his past life.

Within Somerland, the Duke of the Northwest was publicly recognized as a powerful person. The Northwest Alvarado family was extremely powerful and kept a low profile.

The reason why Baz, the owner of a small business, knew about him was because Tefa City was the

Alvarado family's ancestral land. Baz had also been lucky enough to see Lord Alvarado from afar when he acquired Downstream Investment Company.

Coupled with the understanding Jasper had of upper class families in this life, Jasper recognized that both the identity and status of Lord Alvarado were on par with Waterhoof City's little prince and Swallow Capital's Brown family's crippled son. They were the outstanding individuals from this younger generation.

These three together were known as the three most brilliant young leaders of Somerland's new millennium. This Lord Alvarado simply kept a lower profile than the other two, so fewer people knew of him.

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“Jasper, is there something wrong with this invitation?”

Julian had been following Jasper for a very long time. One could even say that Julian was the person Jasper spent the most time with.

It had gotten to the point where Jasper had the habit of bringing Julian wherever he went.

Therefore, Julian knew Jasper very well, and when he saw how Jasper's expression turn solemn at the sight of the invitation, Julian immediately realized that the situation was more complex than he had initially thought.

"Nothing much." Jasper shook his head.

He did not have the intention to hide things from Julian, but the situation here involved too many people and Jasper did not know where to start with his explanation.

Lord Alvarado's appearance caused Jasper to realize that Tefa City's waters ran deeper than he thought.

He did not have much contact with Lord Alvarado in his past life. Therefore, this sudden invitation was most likely related to his fight with the Covington family. This was coincidentally the worse kind of news for Jasper.

"Tell Baz to speed things up with the headquarters and the staff arrangements. Have him take control of Downstream Investment Company as soon as possible," Jasper said grimly.

Julian grunted his acknowledgement and left to look for Baz.

When he heard the sound of the door closing, Jasper placed the invitation to the side.

This meal would certainly be a dangerous one to attend, but Jasper did not plan to decline.

Many things could not be avoided. Therefore, he might as well attend generously and decide his next course of action after he better understood the situation. Exquisite House was a renowned private kitchen in Tefa City.

Its superior dishes were also accompanied by superior prices.

With an average meal price of 2000 Somer Dollars per person in the year 2001, one would never see a regular salarymen appear in the restaurant.

This meal was arranged to begin at seven pm.

Unlike the bustling everyday restaurant, Exquisite House was completely empty, as it had been bought out for the night.

It took more than just money to buy out a restaurant of such sophistication.

Jasper got out of the car and found a few suited men, who were evidently not servers, staring at him intently from the entrance of Exquisite House.

One of them walked over and asked courteously, yet still conservatively, “Are you Mr. Jasper Laine?”

“I am.” Jasper nodded.

“The Marquis is waiting upstairs, please follow me.” The suited man turned around and pushed open the door after saying this.

There were no traces of any servers in Exquisite House’s dining hall. In place of them were men in black suits standing around casually despite being extremely alert. Each of them occupied strategic points of the Exquisite House and stood protectively at the entrance of the staircase.

On the second floor, at the entrance to a private room, two ladies in elegant traditional clothing reached out to open the door at the same time when they saw Jasper and Julian arrive.

The strong scent of hotpot invaded their nostrils.

A young man was sitting at the end of the round table in the large private room, clearly focused on his food in front of him. There were also two alluring and beautiful women on either side of him, one with a bottle of red wine and the other with a towel.

There was an expressionless man in a suit at each of the room's four corners. It was a grand scene.

Jasper arched his brow slightly.

“There are two good fighters, Jasper.”

Julian whispered quietly.

Jasper nodded. There was nothing surprising about a few good fighters protecting someone as important as Lord Alvarado.

However, the scene did seem rather extravagant.

“You’re here.”

Lord Alvarado said calmly from behind the table. As he was served by two beautiful women, Lord Alvarado did not look up at all as he continued to cook the slices of lamb in the hotpot.

“Come take a seat and eat since you’re here.”

The man’s tone sounded like he was greeting an old friend.

Jasper did not decline, and while the grandiose downstairs and outside the room did not quite match with a hotpot meal, he settled in any way. He walked over to the seat opposite Lord Alvarado and sat down casually.

Even though he sat down, Jasper still did not touch his cutlery.

Instead, he looked at Lord Alvarado closely.

To be honest, Lord Alvarado might be the most attractive man Jasper had ever seen.

With exquisite features, sharp brows, and starry eyes, the man's facial features were arranged in beautiful symmetry. What caught his attention the most was the beauty mole under his left eye, which added a feminine touch to the man's delicate appearance.

The two dressed up women behind him were also extraordinarily beautiful, but they paled greatly in comparison to Lord Alvarado.

'What a shame.'

'That such beauty is found on the features of a man.'

This was the first thought Jasper had when he saw Lord Alvarado.

"Why aren't you eating?" Lord Alvarado realized that Jasper had been staring at him for a long time. However, he seemed used to it and did not express any displeasure. Instead, he asked Jasper kindly.

"I prefer my food spicy," Jasper felt slightly embarrassed and simply picked an excuse.

"My bad, it's an oversight on my part."

Lord Alvarado smiled at Jasper. Even Julian felt slightly defenseless against the beauty of the man, let alone Jasper.

Lord Alvarado turned around to instruct the woman beside him, "Go and ask for a plate of spices."

The woman acknowledged courteously, then she turned and left.

At the same time, Lord Alvarado placed a cooked piece of lamb into his mouth. Lord Alvarado made such a simple action seem completely in tune with his aura.

The man managed to make hotpot seem like a noble delicacy. Lord Alvarado's appearance and charm were genuinely off the charts.

"I don't have a lot of time." Lord Alvarado said as he ate.

"I can only spare some time to talk to you while I eat."

"Let's get straight to the point. The Covington family is just a medium, I'm the one who wanted Downstream Investment Company."

Jasper nodded and replied, "I thought as much."

Lord Alvarado smiled and continued, "I don't like people interrupting me when I speak."

Jasper shrugged.

Lord Alvarado might seem like an easy person to talk to when Jasper walked in, but there was no powerful trust-fund child that was truly easy to talk to.

One would be dead before they it if they fell for a simple façade so easily.

The woman returned and brought Jasper a plate of spices.

Jasper grabbed a piece of lamb to cook it, then dipped it in spices before placing it into his mouth.

'F*ck. I miscalculated. It's really f*cking spicy.'

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The hotpot soup bubbled as steam permeated the air. In what seemed like a harmonious environment, Jasper and Lord Alvarado's first meeting was taking place.

“Continuing where I left off, I don't really care too much about Downstream Investment Comp any or the Covington family. They're both toys and insignificant to me.”

Lord Alvarado focused on the hotpot in front of him and said slowly.

“But someone from the Covington family came to complain to me today that you're being too domineering, that you're vying to kill them after you stole their company. I had someone check and the situation's pretty much as they claimed.”

Jasper arched his brow. He did not say anything. Arguing or explaining himself now was not a smart move.

Not to mention that explanations were futile in the adult world. When you had enough power, you could call a deer a 'horse' and someone would still praise you for having great eyesight.

If you were not powerful enough, someone would still call you an idiot no matter how much you explained yourself.

Lord Alvarado was satisfied with Jasper's behavior and continued, "They think that if they complain to me, then I would get rid of you angrily. But they thought wrong."

Lord Alvarado shook his head and said regretfully as if he could not understand the stupidity of the Covington family.

"Think about it. I came back to pay my ancestors respect and rarely got my attention piqued. I even paved the way and all I needed was for someone to help me get it. This was something even idiots could accomplish, yet they still managed to screw it up. Don't they deserve what they have coming?"

Jasper did not say anything.

"Why are you so quiet?" Lord Alvarado asked after a moment.

"You said you don't like being interrupted. And I couldn't be sure if you've finished saying your part," Jasper replied sincerely.

Lord Alvarado was stunned for a bit before he replied, "Interesting. You're a very interesting man."

“Everyone lives for a useful purpose. Even a beggar or a crippled man has something of use. If someone’s completely loss their usefulness, then them staying alive would only be a waste of resources, wouldn’t you say?”

Jasper nodded in agreement in response to Lord Alvarado’s question after he laughed out loud.

“So I won’t care about what happens to the Covington family. Just kill them, I quite like watching scenes like this.”

Lord Alvarado said with a crescent-eyed smile, yet Jasper could not help but feel a chill run down his spine. Under the extraordinary beauty was a truly selfish and cold blooded man.

The Covington family had helped him here and there, yet once they screwed up, he completely disregarded their history.

People like this were the last people you wanted to offend. Jasper had given the matter some thought before he

arrived.

Lord Alvarado might interfere and threaten him into ceasing his attack on the Covington family. Or the man would be enraged and turn against him directly.

However, not only did this man allow Jasper to attack the Covington family, he even seemed to anticipate it. This was the last thing Jasper wanted to see.

This showed that Lord Alvarado was an extremely ruthless person and was very difficult to deal with.

“As for you.”

Lord Alvarado chuckled and reached out his hand.

The woman behind him immediately passed him a hot towel.

Lord Alvarado took the towel and wiped his mouth before he tossed it on the woman's hands. Then, he said slowly, “Reputation and image is something that matters to me a lot, and I hate it when someone doesn't want to act accordingly. Jasper, you know you're damaging my reputation here, right?”

This entire time, Jasper had listened as Lord Alvarado talked.

Now that Lord Alvarado was done, it was Jasper's turn to speak.

However, now a choice had suddenly been thrust in front of Jasper.