

# Life at the Top Chapter 1951

Gale nodded when he saw Dean finally understood.

“So, I will still go back to that problem. If you were me, how would you solve this issue?”

Dean thought for a while as he looked at Gale’s calm face. He knew very well that Gale had already decided what to do in his heart.

This question seemed casual, but it was actually an inspection.

Gale had no heirs, and he only adopted many orphans like Dean until he was old.

That was why not a lot of people could call Gale their grandpa.

Because of Gale’s deliberate training,

many of them were able to be independent and take charge of matters themselves.

Dean was originally one of the best, but after he messed up the last matter, it greatly reduced Gale’s good impression of him.

Although he could still stay with Gale and help him now, Dean could clearly feel that Gale’s attitude towards him was not as good as before.

This test was a rare opportunity.

Dean knew Gale too well. Gale was not stingy in giving opportunities to others,

otherwise, he would not be able to be here today, let alone be asked this question.

However, Gale had a very distinct personality.

What he really needed was not a talented successor, but a successor who maintained a high degree of consistency with him and could implement the Haddock Chamber of Commerce's management philosophy even a hundred years later.

Gale was too conceited. In his opinion, his ideas and opinions were the most suitable for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, so he would not allow others to change them.

Even if it was someone he cultivated, he would not allow them to influence the management philosophy no matter how good the person was. It just so happened that Dean was the best

candidate among the successors that Gale

had cultivated thus far.

That was why he could get a second chance.

Hence, in the face of this test, Dean's answer could not indicate how he would solve the problem most appropriately, instead, he needed to guess Gale's attitude. If he guessed right, he would win. However, if it was wrong, he might really be over.

It was a matter of life and death, so Dean did not dare to waste any time.

He took a deep breath and put himself in Gale's shoes to think about the problem and weigh all the pros and cons.

He did this for an extremely long time.

Dean did not say anything, and Gale did not rush him.

Just as Dean understood him, Gale also understood Dean well.

He was sure that Dean would realize what he meant.

He did not mind the people below him trying to figure out what he meant because this was exactly what he wanted.

He was over eighty years old, so no matter how energetic he was, he would still need to count his days. Moreover, over the past two years, he had clearly felt that his energy and physical condition were not as good as before.

As his age and influence began to decline in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, factions separate from his own had begun to appear.

Under the superposition of various factors, the task of appointing his successor had become something urgent that Gale had to solve immediately.

Seven or eight minutes passed before Dean finally spoke.

"I think we should go to Jasper."

Upon hearing this, Gale did not show the slightest expression and closed his eyes slightly, hiding a hint of disappointment.

"Why?"

Faced with Gale's question, Dean continued, "What I am talking about is the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, not you, Grandpa."

"Oh?"

Gale opened his eyes and looked at Dean with a grin.

Dean bowed slightly to Gale, smiled, and said, "The current situation is already

broken and crumpled. Wall Street is just putting the pressure on Jasper through us.

“Although the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is powerful, in the face of international capital, we can only be cannon fodder. Hence, it is absolutely impossible that they are deliberately targeting the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“And what Jasper did was transfer the pressure from Wall Street onto us and let us make this choice.

“When the pressure is on us, why can't we pass it on to the next level?

“Many from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce participated in the previous economic forums. Now that everyone has agreed to help each other, it's only reasonable for them to go to Jasper now that they are under attack.”

When Dean said this, he paused slightly. Then, he faced Gale, who was beginning to appear increasingly satisfied, and continued, “And you can't be the person who's going to talk to him, Grandpa, because you are the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is also you. Hence, as long as you speak, no matter what you say, it will become the will of the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“Having said that, the one to speak can't be the bosses of the most severely attacked companies in the Chamber of Commerce. To put it bluntly, they don't have enough weight.

“Therefore, I will be the most suitable candidate.”

Upon hearing this, Gale laughed.

He pointed to Dean as he laughed and said, "Yes, very good.

"Since you got it right, then you should do it right away. Once it is done, you will be the next vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

When Dean heard these words, his expression was full of uncontrollable excitement.

"Thank you, Grandpa."

"This is what you deserve."

Gale's smile gradually diminished, and his eyes and expression became more serious. "I am letting you know in advance that this will be the reward you will get. You will only get it once the matter at hand is done well, otherwise, even if I forcefully appoint you, this position will be nothing but a name because you will still have no contribution to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

"Only when you have really saved their lives and made a large enough contribution, will you wield true power when you obtain this position. People will

respect you, and you will have the power to

rally supporters and influence others."

"I will remember your teachings, Grandpa," Dean said respectfully.

"Go and execute it now."

Gale closed his eyes contentedly as if the violent mood swings just now had consumed too much of his energy. He waved his hand lazily and said, "It does not matter whether you go to meet him in person or communicate over the phone. It does not matter what method you use as the process does not matter. What the Chamber of Commerce and I want to see is the result."

Dean did not say anymore when he heard those words. After bowing slightly, he left the room.

Gale's brows trembled and a meaningful smile appeared on his face when he heard the door closing.

Dean got into the car that had already been prepared at the door after exiting the manor.

“Go to Nauritus City right now.”

## Life at the Top Chapter 1952

Dean was in luck.

By the time he rushed all the way from Suesville to Nauritus City, it was half an hour before the afternoon opening.

Jasper was eating when he received a report from downstairs that someone named Dean wanted to see him.

Wendy was still in Harbor City, so no one would bring him lunch anymore. Hence, Jasper and Baz could only have lunch prepared by the team of chefs from a five star hotel.

Jasper was picking at the food in dissatisfaction. Then, he said without looking up, “Let him come up and ask him to come here directly.”

A few minutes later, under the guidance of the staff, Dean appeared in front of Jasper.

“Have you eaten yet?”

Although there had been some conflicts between them, in Jasper’s view, they were all adults. Thus, personal grievances and things like that did not exist in their world. Instead, they were all here for profit.

Now that the previous matter had been settled and mutual interests had been taken care of, there was nothing to worry about.

If he was here, he should sit down and talk if he had something to say. If he did not, he should leave after the meal.

There were not so many grudges in the adult world.

"I was in a rush, so I didn't."

Dean was not courteous at all as he said

this directly.

"What can I do then? My meal portions are all fixed, and I didn't prepare yours,"

Jasper said.

After speaking and watching Dean's stunned and embarrassed expression, Jasper laughed and said, "I was just teasing you. I will get them to make some even if I don't have it right now since we have a guest, right? Come sit."

Dean sat down opposite Jasper, clenching his teeth secretly.

That small so-called joke made him lose the opportunity to seize the initiative.

This was not a good sign.

At the same time, it secretly surprised

Dean.

Jasper was even more cunning than when they were in contact a few months ago.

Soon, the sumptuous and delicious dishes were served. Dean also picked up the fork and took a few bites. When he saw that Jasper was not going to say anything, he sighed and spoke after putting down the fork, "Mr. Laine, I think you must know the reason why I came here this time."

"I don't like guessing. I like to say whatever's on my mind."

Jasper wiped his mouth and glanced at the

time while he was at it. After this obvious gesture, he smiled at Dean and said, "There are still 20 minutes before the opening. I don't have much time to accompany you."

Dean gritted his teeth slightly. Then, he looked at Jasper and said, "Okay, I'll go straight to the point.

"This morning in the market, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce suffered heavy losses. With the exception of the textile industry, our other industries have suffered a lot. More than 60% of the listed companies belonging to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce have reached the limit down. The Haddock Chamber of Commerce won't be able to hang on for

long if this continues. So, I was entrusted by others to come to ask you for help."

"Entrusted by others?"

Jasper smiled and asked, "Is it Gale, or someone else?"

"It's not my grandpa."

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1953**

Dean shook his head. At this moment, obviously, he would remove all traces of Gale's involvement in this.

"My grandpa has been retired for many years, and over the past two years, he has hardly taken care of the affairs of the Chamber of Commerce. According to him, it is time to enjoy the blessing after having worked his entire life. He doesn't want to care about so many things."

Jasper replied with a faint smile, "I remember him saying the same thing when I first met him, but in the end, if there is something important happening i



n the Chamber of Commerce, shouldn't he decide on it?"

"It can't be helped. After all, Grandpa is still around. If something huge happens, it's not appropriate for the Chamber of Commerce to take the initiative and act without his consent, but Grandpa didn't express any opinions this time, so the people below him can do whatever they think is suitable. After all, grandpa can't control them forever, right?"

"Well, that makes sense."

Jasper said, "You said you want me to help you, but this is not easy."

"You should be very aware that the reason why the listed companies in the textile industry have not suffered too much is that JW is protecting them. I don't need to tell you the reason why we choose textiles, right?"

"Textile enterprises are a relatively important part of the current domestic light industry system. Large upstream and downstream enterprises with large output values have a wide range of influence, so I can only choose to protect the textile industry right for."

"As for other industries, it's not that I don't want to protect them, but that my power is limited. You must know that in the morning alone, JW's small capital chain was almost emptied, not to mention Wall Street has a capital pool of 120 billion US Dollars. If they wanted to smash these industries at all costs, JW will have difficulty protecting themselves, let alone others."

"Mr. Laine."

Dean quickly replied, "I understand, but we are all sensible grown-ups. JW is not a

listed company so even if it is affected, it will be the last one to be affected.

“Only when almost all the other listed companies are finished, the industry is crashing, and the economy is on the verge of collapse, will it really affect JW. Besides, JW has its own deterrent, so Mr. Laine, do you really need to worry about yourself?”

“Of course, I am here this time on behalf of those members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to ask Mr. Laine for help, but at the same time, I’m also giving you a chance, right, Mr. Laine?”

“Oh? Giving me a chance?”

Jasper was amused. He asked with a smile,

“What do you mean by that?”

“Everyone knows that you and the Haddock Chamber of Commerce don’t get along. If the Haddock Chamber of Commerce fails to get through this, what will outsiders think of you, Mr. Laine?”

Will this be considered as you seeking revenge through alternative methods,

which, in this case, is just standing by and

doing nothing?

“In the economic forum that Mr. Laine hosted before, what you said about everyone working together to resist foreign enemies is still ringing in their ears. Now that such a thing is happening, such actions would be very chilling indeed.

“When the will of the people is scattered, then it will not be easy to lead them anymore. Don’t you agree, Mr. Laine?”

Dean’s words made Jasper narrow his eyes slightly as the smile on his face gradually faded. Jasper asked faintly, “Are you threatening me?”

Dean was shocked.

He raised his head and looked at Jasper, who was sitting across from a dining

table, with surprise and regret in his heart.

At this moment, he remembered that the Jasper in front of him was no longer the same Jasper as before, not to mention that even the original Jasper was not someone he could threaten.

He thought about a lot of rhetorics along the way here, but he forgot that he had to watch his mouth and remember his place when he was speaking to Jasper.

Dean was feeling conflicted and he hesitated for a moment. Finally, he apologized, "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine. I didn't mean that."

"You have already said it doesn't matter if you mean it or not. This is not your own opinion."

Jasper looked at Dean and sneered, "If Old Master Hurlbutt thinks that I am not doing well enough, then that's okay. Please ask him to come out and play the leading role. If he just nods, I will hand all of the responsibility over to him.

"Do you think I really want to do all this thankless work?"

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1954**

The cold sweat on Dean's head visibly

oozed from his skin, forming droplets of

sweat as big as peas.

Dean was under extreme pressure at this

moment.

Although he knew that Jasper was only using this as a pretext to kick up a fuss, the huge gap in status and power between

them made him afraid to continue to provoke Jasper..

After taking a deep breath, Dean gritted his teeth and said, "Mr. Laine, I didn't mean that. I said the wrong things and I apologize for that."

"No need to apologize."

Jasper saw Dean turning pale, so he did not continue to embarrass him.

Jasper was very busy now. He was required to make decisions and strategies for all kinds of things. At this moment, Jasper was the most fed up with people like Dean who would play cheap tricks with him.

Hence, he decided to give Dean a warning with an initial show of strength right from the beginning. At the very least, Jasper would let Dean know that he was the one with the final say here.

Now that the desired effect had been

achieved, he did not need to be aggressive anymore.

"I understand your worries and concerns very well. If I can help you, I will definitely not stand idly by, for example, with the textile companies. If I didn't provide help in the morning, you would all be finished.

"But whether it was on the forum at that

time or here now, I will still say the same thing, and that is my ability is limited. At the moment, we are surrounded by powerful enemies and the enemies are stronger than ours in terms of experience and capital reserves, so it's impossible to only count on me to save the market.

“Therefore, by my calculations, even if we end up defeating Wall Street, we can’t retreat completely because we will still have to pay the necessary price.”

Dean tried to calm down. Then, he said, “The Chamber of Commerce and I understand this, but please, Mr. Laine, you must retain as much of the blood and sweat of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce as possible.

“At the end of the day, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is not that bad. Everyone is honest and responsible when it comes to doing business. It is not easy for any of them to support their families. If the Chamber of Commerce, which has been passed down for hundreds of years collapses, it will develop into a precarious situation which won’t be good for anyone.”

Jasper gave Dean a deep look and said, “I know.”

After speaking, Jasper saw that there was only a few minutes before the opening. Hence, he got up and said, “I’m going to work now. You can come along if you are interested.”

“Can I?”

Dean looked at Jasper in surprise.

Even fools could see how important the command center of Nauritus City was. The security center below and outside of the entire building, as well as the 24-hour police patrol was proof that there was no room for error.

As for the command center, it would be impossible to enter without Jasper’s approval or if they were not the core figures surrounding Jasper.

Before this, Dean had not really thought that Jasper would agree to let him enter the command center that was almost mythical to the outside world.

“Why not? There is nothing shameful about it. Will you become a spy and contact the enemies from the inside again?” Jasper asked rhetorically.

Dean smiled bitterly and said, “Anyone can be a spy except me.”

Jasper smiled. In a sense, Dean’s words were not exaggerated.

The Chamber of Commerce certainly had its drawbacks, but it also had an advantage. The organization of the Chamber of Commerce deeply binded the

interests of every member to this country.

Doing things that damaged the national interests would not do any good to the Chamber of Commerce and it would do nothing to the members of the chamber. Hence, they tend to have higher loyalty to the country than some individual companies.

This was even more true for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. In the early stages of the reformation and

opening up, when the national economy was still lagging, the rise of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was earlier than that of the River City Chamber of Commerce or Canter Chamber of Commerce, and their contributions were even greater. Even Jasper, who did not like the Haddock Chamber of Commerce that much, had to recognize this fact.

When Jasper took Dean to the command center, Baz and the others just glanced at Dean, and then continued on with their business.

Meanwhile, Dean looked at the busy team with emotion.

To be honest, if it were not for what happened before, he might have been a frequent visitor here.

Furthermore, this place could even be said to be the current financial command center of Somerland.

The rise and fall of the financial market could be determined with one word in this several hundred square meter area.

Moreover, it was the man in front of him, Jasper, who made these decisions.

There were not many surprises during the opening this afternoon.

Soros' attack on the Haddock Chamber of Commerce continued, but the futures market was calmer than before. It even felt like the calm before the storm.

It could be said that the timid ones and the ones with insufficient funds had already fled, whether in the stock market, or specifically, the futures market.

The remaining players were either the ones who were strong enough to fight, not afraid of death, or players who had been trapped in a high position and could only beg for a miracle.

Thus, the entire financial market seemed extremely calm before Jasper and Soros started their fight.

Everyone was accustomed to the big fluctuations. It could even be said that they were numb to it.

The two sides of the futures market were standing still, while the stock market was a bit turbulent.

Soros was still pushing the stock prices belonging to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce while Jasper adopted measures appropriate to the actual situation and only protected the life and death of the textile company. As for the rest, he would not even bother about them.

Even so, Jasper's defenses still seemed too passive and weak under the pressure of Soros' powerful funds.

So, when the market closed in the afternoon, not only did the traditional

core businesses of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, such as wood, furniture, and tea, reach their limit downs, even the stocks of two listed companies in the textile industry were forced to a limit down.

Jasper was helpless even if he had the

intention to help when he looked at the

millions of limit-down orders.

At this time, anyone could clearly see a very obvious situation developing, that was, under Soros's reckless attack, even Jasper could not turn the situation around.

After all, in the capital market, when the size was large enough and it was this kind of obvious offensive and defensive situation between the two sides, it was not a battle of skills or luck anymore. Instead, they were competing with their backgrounds. To put it more plainly, it was a fight between who had the most money.

If they did not have enough money, they would go short if the enemy went short, and go long if the enemy went long. Even if Jasper was the real stock god in this world, he would not get anywhere without his equipment. Therefore, he could only watch as the companies fell to their limit downs one by one.

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1955**

As it got near to the closing time, Dean opened his mouth and stopped himself from talking countless times.

He was almost dying from anxiety.

Right now, not only were the members of

the Haddock Chamber of Commerce

keeping an eye on him, even Gale was



keeping an eye on him.

If there was no reaction in the stock market, then, of course, everyone would think that the purpose of his trip had failed.

And this time, the mission was related to his position as the vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.

With Gale's increasing age, this position was equivalent to almost half of the heir's identity.

Hence, this mission was very important to Dean.

However, Jasper's show of strength just now was a bit ruthless, so the horror that

he had just experienced still lingered.

Hence, Dean did not have much courage to

bring it up again.

It did not matter if the mission failed, but if

Jasper was offended, then even Gale

would not be able to save him anymore.

Hence, Dean was feeling very conflicted at

this moment.

"Don't worry, this drop is nothing."

When he saw Dean's pain and internal

conflicts, Jasper finally took the initiative to

speak.

"In the domestic stock market, the 10% rise and fall limit are to control certain unpredictable risks that will cause extreme market fluctuations. The limit of the rise and fall is only 10%. Soros can't break this limit even if he has all the money in the world."

Jasper's words gave Dean some comfort.

However, Jasper's words caused him to

put on his mask of pain again.

"This is just the beginning, and there will be many 10% declines in the future, but the Haddock Chamber of Commerce has built up a stockpile of reserve over the years that will be able to help you guys make it through this period.

"Therefore, we won't see a decisive victory or defeat in the domestic financial market battle within the next day or two. As long as we drag this out and prevent the stock market from crashing completely, we can consider it a victory.

"Soros doesn't own even ten dollars more than the money he is currently holding. Most of them belong to investors, and investors' money did not appear out of thin air. What they need to see are the huge short-term benefits, otherwise, it would be a joke for them to take such a big risk.

"The money is all that they could piece together when the United States financial market was about to be overturned by the financial turmoil, which further increased their requirements for the return cycle

and rate of return. "Hence, we can drag this on, but Soros can't afford to do so.

"If he wants to take decisive action in this complex situation, then I will take as much time as I can to show everyone my real ability. This will also require certain methods."

Jasper's words made Dean very

uncomfortable.

"Mr. Laine, are you saying that this

situation will continue for a long time?"

"I don't know how long it will take, but it will definitely take some time. You have to understand that under the huge disparity in strength between the two sides, many things are actually visible right on the surface. What we can do is drag on as much as possible while waiting for an opportunity to strike."

After Jasper said this, the market immediately stopped all trading and the dense data that was previously refreshing was also frozen.

"Okay, the market's closed for today."

Jasper glanced at the market, which had fallen by a full 8%, and sighed.

On this day alone, at least 100 billion Somer Dollars had evaporated in the domestic financial market.

This was the price of being inferior to others.

Looking at Dean's unpleasant expression, Jasper said, "If you really want to be the savior of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, I can give you a chance, but again, you have to understand that everything in this world must be paid for. You know what I mean, right?"

Dean was stunned for a moment as his brain swiftly started thinking about the meaning of what Jasper said.

He did not dare to give any promises immediately, so he could only say cautiously, "I have no intention of being a savior..."

"There is only one chance, so don't play dumb with me. If you don't want it, I really don't care. However, it won't be that easy if you want to come back after turning away now," Jasper said with a frown.

He really despised it when Dean would pretend to be astute and play hard to get. This was not the time to play these kind of dirty tricks.

Dean gritted his teeth.

His temper was chased away by Jasper.

“Mr. Laine, tell me.”

Jasper said, “Soon, I will cooperate with Swallow Capital to adopt a series of market stimulus measures to counter the reshuffle of the domestic financial market started by Soros. There are some more intense methods that will provide huge opportunities, such as the centralized listing of mega-level central enterprises. Once approved, the market will quickly warm up.

“And among these opportunities, the biggest is the entry of the Social Security Fund. If possible, I will try my best to include a few companies from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce list of listed companies in the Social Security Fund’s buying position. Once the Social Security Fund is there as backup, it’ll be hard for this stock to lose money, but the quota is definitely limited and the threshold will be high..

“You should know what the Social Security Fund is. It is closely tied to the stability of Somerland’s entire society. Even Swallow Capital is afraid to make a mistake on this issue, let alone you or me. Therefore, the stocks it selects are not in an attempt to maximize profit, but to ensure that the stocks are safe and will not lose money. This threshold is already very high.

“As for this quota, I can ask you to recommend part of it. In this way, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce will not suffer as much right now, and also will not be destroyed completely. When the time comes and you want to take over, it will also be much easier.”

Dean’s eyes gradually became brighter.

He knew very well that once Jasper’s statement was true and the Social Security Fund invested in listed companies of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, then the power to control this quota would be

extremely huge.

Everyone wanted to be included in this quota so how would they do so? Of course, they would all curry favors with him,

please him, and promote him to the highest authority.

If this worked out, he would not even have to wait for Gale to pass away before taking over.

The thought that appeared in his mind suddenly caused Dean's breathing to quicken.

After lifting his head abruptly, what Dean saw was Jasper's grin.

Dean was shocked, but he did not try to hide his greed. He knew that Jasper must have figured out his thoughts, so it was completely unnecessary to hide his emotions in front of Jasper – not that he could do so anyway.

After he took a deep breath, Dean asked in a deep voice, "Then, what do I need to sacrifice?"

"All you need to do is replace Gale Hurlbutt."

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1956**

Even if he expected this, Dean was still shocked when he heard this from Jasper.

"What?"

Jasper smiled and said, "Don't tell me you don't want to. In a sense, you will fulfill my request sooner or later, so why the dilemma?"

"You guys are all vying for the position of the crown prince. At the same time, the power in my hands is enough to put you on the throne and crown you the king with

the right to rule. Do you still want the position of the crown prince if that's the case?"

Jasper patted Dean, who was trembling all over, and continued with a smile, "Believe me, the taste of being above everyone is much better than the taste of being above everyone but one."

Dean swallowed subconsciously.

He looked at Jasper and said, "But my grandfather has a position that no one can replace in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. He is the spiritual leader of all of Haddock Chamber of Commerce..."

"He is old, and he's already abandoned by time. Haddock Chamber of Commerce doesn't need such an old guy to boss everyone around. Over the years, what results has he led the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to achieve? How much profit has he generated?"

"He is more like a person who has already stepped down but is actually controlling everything behind the scenes. Meanwhile, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is a business organization. The world is bustling and everyone's chasing after profit. As long as you show greater value than him and let others see that, then naturally, there will be people supporting you."

Dean asked seriously, "I want to know what is your purpose for doing this?"

"My purpose?"

Jasper chuckled and said, "Can't I just hate that old fart?"

The corners of Dean's lips twitched and h

e could not say a word.

“Stop guessing.”

Jasper glanced at Dean and said faintly, “I am not interested in the measly assets of Haddock Chamber of Commerce. Besides, the Chamber of Commerce is a loose organization. Everyone is just adhering to the tradition and it’s indeed easier to obtain warmth by staying close together. Even if Gale is asking the members of the Chamber of Commerce to hand over all the money, so do you think anyone will pay attention to him?”

“If that’s the case, what else can I get after I help obtain the leadership position?”

“If you insist on me having a reason, I can only tell you that the financial war is only temporary. Neither we nor the United States can fight a protracted financial war.

“If you look further out at the overall situation, you will find that countries such as the United Kingdom and Sunrise Land are thrilled because they’re making money in the dark. At the end of the day, they are the biggest winners of this financial war.

“Now neither Soros nor I have a way to stop immediately because the cost is too great, but the time for us to stop will come sooner or later. After the financial war subsides, stable development will be the main theme of this era and what I want is a stable home front.

“JW’s vision has always been on the global layout. Somerland is the back garden of JW, and I need a group of more unified and forward-looking kindred spirits, understand?”

Dean was stunned for a long time before h

e finally smiled bitterly.

If he did not want to admit that he was

unconvinced and jealous before, right

now, he was truly won over.

He also understood that since then, it would be difficult for Jasper to have an opponent in Somerland.

Everything else aside, just his dignity and mind, as well as a strategic vision, far surpassed the others by at least 10 years. This was what made Jasper invincible.

“Do you need time to consider?” Jasper asked.

Dean was stunned for a moment. Then, as if he had made up his mind, he replied in a deep voice, “I don’t need to think about it. I agree with your terms.”

With a chuckle, Jasper said, “That’s right. Those who do big things shouldn’t split hairs on trivial matters. If you’re hesitating and indecisive, it will only make you lose the opportunity that’s right at your fingertips.”

## Life at the Top Chapter 1957

Just as Jasper and Dean were planning out how to take Gale down, far away on the endless open sea of the Atlantic Ocean.

A huge fully-loading cruise ship was mooring on the sea. There were no waves on the calm sea, as extremely thick black smoke rose from this huge vessel.

The black smoke first poured out of the warehouse before the fire spread instantly within a few breaths.

When the crew on the ship saw the fire, they were shocked.

They knew that the ship was full of rubber.

Rubber was a flammable substance, and once it burned, it would immediately release toxic smoke.

A cruise ship full of rubber was on fire on the vast sea, so it meant that they had almost no means of escaping.

Although these crew members had tried their best to put out the fire, the fire still relentlessly devoured everything it could reach.



With that, it took only more than ten minutes for the heavy smoke to turn into open flames, after which, it took only half an hour for the fire to immediately devour the whole ship.

There were screams and cries for help everywhere. This huge cruise ship transformed into a huge fireball as it undulated on the sea.

If one could look down from a higher vantage point, they would find that it was not just this ship that had caught on fire. Several more ships nearby were also caught on fire.

These ships all shared one similar characteristic.

They were the fleet belonging to the Boyles in Harbor City, and the goods on them were the supplied goods accumulated by the King of Rubber, the Atticus family over the past six months.

The fire was still burning, and when the news reached Sawyer, he had just fallen asleep.

Because of the stress during this period, Sawyer would turn off his mobile phone while he was sleeping. If there was something urgent, they would contact him through Fabian.

Sawyer figured there was still about four to five hours till the opening, so he could take a nap. The moment he lay down, he bolted right up from being shocked by the rapid knocking on the door.

“Dad, it’s me, open the door! We’re in trouble!”

After hearing Fabian’s voice outside the door, Sawyer quickly got up and put on his slippers to open the door immediately.

“What’s up?”

Seeing Fabian’s face full of panic and anxiety, Sawyer, who was originally enraged by Fabian’s impatience, also had a bad premonition. Thus, he asked immediately.

“Dad, I just received the news from Harbor City that our goods were all burned in a fire at sea! It was 4 million tons of rubber!”

This short sentence turned Sawyer red.

“Bullsh\*t! There are 7 ships, each of which is only hundreds of thousands of tons, even if one caught fire... Did they all catch on fire?”

Fabian panted heavily and said, “All seven ships were caught in the fire. When I got the news, two of them had sunk. The 4 million tons were either burned out or are now at the bottom of the sea as fish food. Dad, what should we do? The family is in a mess now!”

Sawyer’s eyes widened. At this moment, he only felt that he was short of breath. He could feel some blood stuck in his throat and he could not swallow or spit it out. Then, his vision turned black and he became lightheaded. He could not even stand up straight anymore.

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1958**

When he saw that Sawyer was swaying and looked as if he was about to pass out, Fabian was terrified, and he quickly stepped forward to support the man.

“Dad, don’t get too emotional. Now that the matter has reached this point, we have to find a solution quickly. If you collapse right now, we’ll be finished.”

At this moment, Sawyer was seething. He was gasping and there was a look of fierceness in his eyes. His expression was almost cannibalistic as he growled, “This is a conspiracy. Someone is targeting us. They want to uproot the Atticus Family!”

There were 4 million tons of goods, and at this critical moment, the loss of these goods would cause Atticus Group to directly breach all partnerships and contracts. Aside from the immeasurable loss of reputation, the liquidated damages alone could crush the current Atticus Group.

A series of chain reactions that were likely to happen, which made Sawyer panicked and frightened.

“Dad, what do we do now? I just asked, if it is a natural disaster, the insurance company will handle it, but once it is determined to be man-made arson, the insurance company will not pay us a single dime.”

Fabian’s words made Sawyer’s eyelids tremble fiercely.

“Go find Half-the-Harbor Langdon first.”

Sawyer asked worriedly, “Will they give a sh\*t about us?”

“They have to even if they don’t want to!”

Sawyer gritted his teeth and said, “Now, the three of us are allies. If the Atticus Group collapses, then they will be the only ones left standing. What else can they do? The reason I choose to cooperate with them in the first place is because of this relationship where we’re bound together for better or for worse.

“When we divide the benefits, everyone will scramble to get it. Now that we are in trouble, they want to run? No way. They won’t do such a stupid thing.”

After speaking, Sawyer took Fabian and walked towards the room of Half-the Harbor Langdon.

More than ten minutes later, Kayden, who was the last to arrive at the scene, hurriedly barged in through the door. By

then, everyone else was already there.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon, Sawyer, and Kennedy sat in three corners of the room, while Fabian stood behind Sawyer. After Kayden walked in the door, he walked behind Half-the-Harbor Langdon and observed the situation silently without saying anything.

The three elders were here, so he did not have the right to be the first to speak.

However, Kayden already knew what had happened. He could not help but glance at Fabian, who looked terrified beside him, and Kayden silently mourned for him in his heart.

At this juncture, the Atticus Family might have to bear the consequences if something like this happened.

Now it was up to the three alliances to see how much power they could invest to save the Atticus Family.

Sawyer spoke slowly, "This is the situation now. My family in Harbor City is in a mess right now. They're all waiting for me to come up with a solution, but the situation is really difficult, so everyone please give me some ideas."

Kennedy snorted coldly and said, "I don't even need to guess to know that this had to have been done by Jasper, that little punk. He has the power and ability to do this, and he also has a motive for it.

"How would the others dare to do such a big thing? Plus, this is also something unending with the Atticus Family, which is no less than seeking vengeance.

Moreover, even if others had the ability to do this, they would not start such a war with the Atticus Family."

Half-the-Harbor Langdon sighed in exhaustion, "No, this is not man-made."

As soon as these words were spoken, Kennedy was taken aback. Sawyer, Fabian, and Kayden all looked over at him.

Kayden was the only one who seemed to holding a thought in his mind.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon did not keep them on tenterhooks either. He continued, "Whether it's man-made or not, we can't investigate now. We can only say that this is an accident."

"Do you mean I should seek insurance compensation?" Sawyer asked.

After glancing at Sawyer, Half-the-Harbor Langdon answered, "The value of 4 million tons of cargo is astronomical. In addition to this, it is now impossible to fulfill the previous supply contracts, so a breach of contract is also inevitable.

"Therefore, you can't avoid paying for the breach. In this case, how to stop the loss is the first thing we need to consider.

"As for whether or not Jasper did it, does it even matter? Even if it wasn't him, do you think we can shake hands with Jasper and ask for peace? If it was him, we still have to fight Jasper to the end. Hence, it really doesn't matter anymore."

"Still, all seven ships caught fire "Still, all seven sh

ght fire

consecutively and I'm sure the insurance company is not a fool. They won't pay for it," Fabian said.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon said indifferently, "So the most critical point in this matter is this. Of course, the

insurar company does not want to pay this sky-high compensation, but now all seven ships have sunk into the sea. There's no evidence even if they want to investigate. As long as there is no evidence to prove that it was man-made, then they must pay.

"The three of us have each mobilized contacts and resources to carry out businesses related to this matter. The most important thing at the moment is that we can't be thrown into confusion. If we do, then we will suffer, and our enemies will have the time of their lives."

In an isolated fishing village in Filopo.

Conrad looked at the people standing in front of him with a smile on his face. Then, he said, "You have done a good job and I am very satisfied."

Although the bodies of these people were still intact, they looked extremely worn down, as if they were under tremendous mental pressure.

The leader of the group cautiously said, "Mr. Monty, since the matter has been settled, then about the things you promised us..."

"Don't worry, I won't cheat you. I never treat people who do things well for me unfairly."

Conrad waved his hand. Then, a lone bodyguard walked out from among the several other bodyguards behind him. He opened the suitcase in his hand and pushed it in front of the group.

Inside that black suitcase was a box full of US dollar bills.

"It's all cash totaling 2 million US Dollars. They are not new banknotes, and they are non-sequential so you can use them without worries."

Those people looked at the box of banknotes in front of them with scorching eyes and they all gulped. Their eyes were overflowing with greed.

Why did they risk their lives to do that?

It was all for these colorful little darlings.

Since they had succeeded now, no amount of fear could suppress the joy of seeing these little darlings at this moment.

“Okay, since our transaction has been completed, then I should also go now. You can take the money to wherever you want to go and do whatever you want to do. No one will care about you. You are free now.”

## Life at the Top Chapter 1959

After Conrad finished talking, he got up lazily and walked towards the door of the room.

“Mr. Monty.”

The person in the lead spoke suddenly.

Conrad turned around and looked at him with a smile and asked, “Is there anything else?”

The person asked nervously, “Won’t the Atticus Family and the Boyles look into this?”

“I have no idea.”

Conrad shrugged and said lightly.

The expressions of a group of people changed suddenly.

They were working for the Atticus Family or the Boyles, so naturally, they knew the power of these two giants. How would they live if the two families decided to pursue this matter with them?

“Mr. Monty, that’s not what you said before, you said it would be fine,” the leader said anxiously.

Conrad was surprised. "Are you a child? The two of them have lost billions in cargo and hundreds of millions in ships, do you think they will just forget it? I was just saying it for the sake of it."

The leader said angrily, "But why didn't you tell us this clearly before?"

"You could get 2 million dollars just by starting a fire. If there's no risk to this, do you think such a good thing would fall onto your laps?"

The smile on Conrad's face slowly disappeared and he said flatly, "So if I were you, I would quickly divide the money and run as far as I can. Why waste time with me here?"

After speaking, Conrad left.

When Conrad and his bodyguards left, the group of people in the room looked at each other.

In the end, everyone rushed to the box of

banknotes.

Despite their inner fears and worries, the deed had been done so there was no point

worrying about it anymore. It would be better to take the money and go have the

time of their lives.

At this moment, Conrad dialed Jasper's number after he walked out of the fishing village and was walking on the embankment along the coast.

"It's done. The finishing touches have

also been handled."

"How is the crew?" Jasper asked.

"Don't worry, those are all the Boyles employees. The Boyles had prepared twice as many as the regular reserves on the boat, and we also had people standing by. Even if they fell into the water, they would be salvaged. This time there is only loss of property and no loss of life."

Conrad's news made Jasper very happy.



Jasper was saved a lot of worries and effort in having a helper who had such a strong ability, sufficient means, most importantly, knew what he wanted.

“In addition to this, I have prepared the video evidence that should be left behind. When the time is right, we will send it to

the insurance company and then they will

naturally refuse to pay the compensation.” “Very good, thank you very much.

“Since the deed is done, then come back as soon as possible.”

“Okay.” Conrad agreed before hanging up.

After putting down the phone, Jasper glanced coldly at the news channel of Harbor City on the computer screen.

As expected, it was all about the fire

surrounding the Atticus Family’s rubber

goods on the high seas.

These reporters were using words that would send the world into chaos. What was even more disgusting was that there were indeed some well-informed and skilled reporters. Not only did they describe the whole thing vividly, but more importantly, the subsequent impacts of this incident were also analyzed perfectly.

After roughly scanning through the news, Jasper closed all his tabs.

Although the methods were a little dirty, Jasper did not regret using such means to deal with the Atticus Family.

When they decided to use more despicable means to deal with Wendy, they should have expected to encounter Jasper’s unscrupulous, crazy revenge.

Moreover, this was just the beginning.

After dismissing the chaotic thoughts in his head, Jasper recomposed himself and walked to the command room.

Soon, the United States stock market

would open.

Jake replaced Baz as he appeared next to

Jasper.

“This is the first time the United States stock market is opening after the weekend break. Last Friday, the United States subprime market closed at 1230 points, there was a decline of 1899 points throughout the week. The entire situation has festered and it’s already beyond redemption.

“Especially after the Layman Investment Bank officially declared bankruptcy, the entire financial crisis came to its climax. Now, no one wants to continue investing in the subprime market and this place has become a ruin.

“On Friday, the Dow Jones and Nasdaq closed at 26760 points and 21119 points respectively with an overall decline of 30 %. The financial crisis is still ongoing and the overall situation in the United States is not optimistic.

“But according to our analysis, this wave of trillions of dollars of evaporation has also allowed the United States financial market to cleanse themselves, which means that their financial market will soon bottom out.

“After all, the United States is still the world’s number one economic power. They have the most patents and the most powerful companies in the world, so once the financial market drops to a certain limit, it will be very difficult to fall again. Now, it has already approached this threshold.”

Jasper thought for a while and said, “Ignore the subprime market for now and

let's wait for the settlement date to come. Then, we will cash out and leave the market. How much profit is attributable to us?"

Jake's face immediately became excited and said, "We have invested 80 billion US Dollars of principal in the subprime market. This time, if the settlement is completed, then all short orders will be settled at the market price and the profit attributable to us will be as high as 210 billion US Dollars. In addition to our principal, we can withdraw 290 billion US Dollars."

"Finally, a piece of good news."

Jasper breathed a sigh of relief and said, "This 210 billion US Dollars of profit will be the largest single profitable financial transaction in human history. Since this money was looted from the United States' vault, I'm afraid it won't be so easy to cash out."

"Mr. Laine, are you worried that the United States will play dumb about this?" Jake asked.

"Never overestimate how shameless the enemy can be, especially when your enemy is a group of capitalists. They are very likely to do just about anything."

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and said, "The subprime market is a small, high-risk financial market. If the United States is so shameless and decides to delete all the files and clear all records, then we will lose out badly."

"They won't do that, right? Are they not afraid of causing protests from all investors around the world? If so, who will continue to play in their market?" Jake frowned.

"They should be hesitating, otherwise, there is no reason to delay the settlement date this time.

"At the opening today, let's give our enemies huge insurance and use the empty orders that are about to be settled in the subprime market as collateral. Then, we will try our best to short the top 50 listed companies in the United States."

## **Life at the Top Chapter 1960**

What were the people in the United States

most afraid of now?

Their biggest fear thing was that Jasper would make a wild profit of 210 billion US Dollars in the subprime market and then leave with this profit that was enough to cause a global sensation.

It was like Jasper was a player on the gaming table of someone from the United States. No matter how many chips Jasper won at the gaming table, as long as Jasper was still seated at the table and the game was not over, this matter was not conclusive.

However, if Jasper stood up and walked away with his chips, then it would be all over.

Once such a thing happened, the United States, as the world's largest economic power and the country that laid down modern economic laws, would be left humiliated.

This was not merely about the 210 billion US Dollar. The United States, as the global economic hegemon, would not allow this kind of humiliation to happen in front of everyone.

So, Jasper did not intend to provoke the United States on this. He would not stimulate its already sensitive and famished nerves that were equivalent to a forty-year-old widow.

After all, if the United States decided to throw everything away and act like a hooligan, then Jasper would be the one who would suffer.

Hence, Jasper's choice was to use a mortgage to exchange the profits won on the subprime market without losing out of n the financial stock market, which would allow him to continue playing this game.

It was like Jasper had won a big ticket in Baccarat, and as the dealer, the United States already had a very unpleasant expression on its face but still held back their anger and did not flip the table on him. Now, Jasper did not leave, but instead, he just used his winning chips to play Blackjack, so the United States was still cool with this.

Although the two sides did not have any communication and negotiation, or rather, they did not even have any basic

communication, Jasper, as the biggest player, and the United States, as the dealer, still maintained a certain tacit agreement in front of the basic rules.

Therefore, as per Jasper's instructions, the process of Jake entrusting the legal team in the United States to go through the mortgage procedures went smoothly. Even the United States functional agency, which had always been known for its inefficiency, hurriedly handled the application from JW Foundation.

Both parties were like old men and women who already had countless affairs. With just one look, they managed to finish all the procedures without saying a word.

Half an hour after the opening, all the procedures were done.

JW Foundation was like a greedy and hungry lion. It jumped from the financial stock market to the subprime market, and after killing everything in its way and overturning the entire subprime market, it returned with generous spoils.

They were shorting and they were shorting in huge amounts!

When JW Foundation began to short the top 50 listed companies in the United States, the stock market was full of grief.

"The Dow Jones Index fell by 759 points and is currently encountering a support level of 26001 points. The Nasdaq Index fell by 1119 points and encountered an integer mark of 20000 points. The rebound sentiment in the two markets is serious. With the support of strong support points, our resistance to the short selling is very high."

Standing in front of Jasper, Jake said with a worried face, "The rebound we estimated before has begun to take place. The current position should

be the market's defensive point. It will be very difficult if you want to continue to attack. Mr. Laine, do you want to hold it on now?"

Gazing at the constantly refreshing data stream on the screen in front of him, Jasper said with a serious expression, " Abandon shorting listed banking companies such as Morgan, and settle all

our accounts on them. Focus on dealing with technology companies such as Apple, Amazon, Oracle, Weresoft, and stocks from internet companies."

"The funds are still not enough."

Jasper sighed.

The financial market of the United States was too strong and too big. It was like a vast ocean, so even if Jasper held more than 300 billion US Dollars of capital on hand, his opponent was the United States financial market with such a deep and powerful foundation. Thus, it would still be difficult even with the help of the power gained from the financial crisis.

Needless to say, they would have been daydreaming if they wanted to attack the two stock exchange centers in the United States at the same time with the little money they obtained without the blessing of the financial crisis.

Jake opened his mouth and wanted to say something when he heard what Jasper said, but upon seeing Jasper's serious expression, he swallowed his words before turning to get to work.

JW Foundation's performance on the first trading day of the reopening of the United States was strong. Even if it switched from an overall umbrella attack to a direct peer-to-peer attack on technology and Internet giants, it still put the entire Nasdaq and the Dow Jones market under tremendous pressure.

However, the actions of JW Foundation still exposed some information, and this information allowed some people and funds to spot excellent opportunities.

When Jasper noticed that while he was suppressing the stocks of technology and Internet companies that someone was secretly buying stocks at a low price, he

knew these people had discovered his intentions.

He could not underestimate the people of the world.

Furthermore, Jasper could tell that there were definitely his old friends among them.

The man who was regarded as the god of stock.

Also, under the premise of the financial crisis, the stock value of the financial market and those high-quality companies were generally lower than their actual value. If the man who was good at making long-term investments and was as stable as an old dog did not do anything, then it would be strange.

“Mr. Laine...”

As soon as Jake came in, Jasper said, “I know. Just let them do whatever they want.

“These people are crocodiles wandering in the international capital market and they will appear wherever there is the smell of blood.

“In the United States financial market, most of the valuable listed companies now have their stock prices critically lower than their actual price. Will these guys miss out on this opportunity to make a fortune?

“Whether it is our follow-up suppression or the self-rescue measures of these companies in the future, after the financial crisis, these listed companies would inevitably be the first batch to restore the high-quality characteristics of their stock prices and allow their holders to make a fortune. Unfortunately, we can’t do anything to them at this moment.”

“But we’re shorting and they’re buying, which is equivalent to standing on the opposite side of us!” Jake said, feeling a little pissed.

“We’re not kids playing house. They will naturally pounce if there are benefits. It doesn’t matter if they’re buying or shorting, it’s all for profit. Now that there will be profit if they’re buying, then, of course, they will buy. This has nothing to do with standpoint, only profit. Plus, we don’t even need to investigate it. The background of international hot money is too complicated and confusing, so there is no way to find out more.

“Continue to go short. Today is the first trading day, so it will have a great guiding effect on the market. Today’s record will determine the confidence of the entire market over the next week, so we have to break them down. Even we have to buy these stocks, let alone this hot money.”