

Life at the Top Chapter 1991

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“World Financial Center?”

Jasper was stunned for a moment when he heard her.

He had almost forgotten about the World Financial Center.

All it took was one look at his expression and Wendy immediately knew what he was thinking.

“We invested a few billion into that center! You can’t possibly have forgotten about it, can you?!” Wendy huffed at Jasper in exasperation.

“I would never.”

Jasper did not know whether to laugh or feel embarrassed as he quickly explained, “It’s just that it’s been a while since I had to worry about it, so I was shocked to hear that its construction has been finished.”

“Construction for the center’s structure had already been completed two months back, and the building already passed its acceptance testing and had its official topping-out ceremony last month. They’ve been carrying out internal renovation these days, and at this current rate of progress, we should be able to officially use the building soon,” Wendy replied begrudgingly.

Jasper’s gaze lit up. “That’s good, then. Hopefully, it’ll be done by the time we’ve reshuffled the company so we can move the headquarters to the World Financial Center.”

Wendy spoke up, “Actually, there’s been a few hotels and large-scale groups who came to ask us about our lot selling plans a long time ago. Many companies seem inclined to purchase one of the center’s levels for use.

“But I rejected them temporarily since the center’s construction hadn’t been completed at that time and I assumed that you wouldn’t want to discuss things like that so soon. Now that construction of the World Financial Center is finished, I don’t think we can drag this matter on any longer.”

“Have the marketing and operations

department discuss the terms with these companies then. I'm not planning to sell

any of the lots, but they can choose to sign a long-term lease. Choose only one brand of hotel, and have the departments decide the rest themselves," Jasper stated.

JW Capital's World Financial Center was currently the tallest skyscraper in the world. It was a landmark within the country, and it would certainly remain as the tallest skyscraper and landmark in Waterhoof city for another 20 years. Not to mention that the Center was built on an extremely attractive plot of land. There was no way Jasper would sell such a treasure no matter how much others offered to pay, and he did not need to worry about lacking tenants for rent.

With the economic development of the country, ownership over this property would only appreciate and rent would only increase. In less than twenty years, Jasper would earn enough rent to compensate for the building's costs and would be making a huge profit from the center.

Even elementary school children would know how to make such an easy decision.

Wendy nodded in acknowledgment.

Dawson was just about to leave for the company by the time they returned home.

"You're back," Dawson stated as he stood by the car and watched the two alight the car.

"Are you going to work, Dad? Just leave the business to your employees, don't overwork yourself," Wendy approached him to say.

Dawson waved her off with a smile. "I already experienced the retired life some time ago, but relaxing didn't quite sit right with me. I feel better having something to do."

"Alright. You've just returned, so go rest first. I'll get going.'

Watching Dawson get in the car and leave, Jasper leaned over to whisper in Wendy's ear, "How about we find a partner for your dad?"

Wendy jumped in a start and glared at Jasper, huffing irritably, "What kind of nonsense is that?"

Jasper shrugged and replied, "Don't you feel that your dad's too lonely? I don't think loneliness is good for an elder's overall wellbeing. ʘ ʘ"

"Stop with that nonsense. As if he'd agree to that," Wendy rebutted.

"You're about to get married, and yet you're against the idea of a step-mom?" Jasper joked.

Wendy bit her lip and harrumphed at Jasper. "Who said I was getting married? I'm not getting married to anyone! I'm spending my life with my dad!"

"Even more reason for me to find a partner for your dad, then. That way I'll have his daughter all to myself." Jasper laughed aloud.

Despite this being a joke, Jasper still made a mental note of it.

Should he have the chance, he would find a partner for his father-in-law to grow old with. Having someone next to you was always better than being alone.

While Wendy would surely stay by his side forever, the care of a daughter and son-in-law would never be as attentive as a romantic partner.

However, Dawson was not just any random person. Ignoring his relationship with JW Capital, Schuler Corporations itself was a monumental business worth a few billion in the market. With the development of the economy, the rise in the domestic supermarket industry, and JW's help, Schuler Corporations might just become an enterprise worth tens of billions in the future.

Jasper and Wendy had JW, so they did not care much for such a huge corporation. Dawson himself cared less, as he had told them long ago that Schuler Corporations would belong to them one day.

In truth, Schuler Corporations was currently loaning JW a huge amount of money. As long as Jasper asked, he could take as much cash as he wanted.

Considering this, there was no way Jasper would allow a random stranger to come in and risk destroying the current harmonious relationship.

Thus, Jasper decided he would bear the thought in mind and bide his time.

Jasper had originally planned to spend more time with Wendy before returning to the company, but an emergency call from Jake disrupted his plans.

Jasper did not have time for a warm farewell before he got into the car and made his way to the command center.

Jake walked over to greet him when he arrived. As they walked toward the command center, Jasper inquired, "What's the current situation?"

"Harbor Stocks are plummeting!"

Jake took a deep breath and tried his best to control the frantic waves of panic. He followed closely after Jasper and reported, "Harbor Stocks started diving the moment the market opened. We're facing huge pressure from the shorts and there was no warning for this attack at all. The oppression is huge, and it started the moment the market opened.

"Harbor Stocks did not have any time to react at all. They dropped by 800 points right off the bat, and it's on the way to break the records from the last stock crisis."

Jasper suddenly stopped walking and turned to ask Jake, "Can Harbor Stock Market itself not counterattack at all?"

Jake smiled wryly and replied, "The desire to fight back is high, but... there just aren't enough funds for that. The true leading funds have already dried out. All that's left are small funds fighting for themselves."

"It'll be difficult for them to save themselves, let alone rescue the market. The entire market has been put in disarray. Had the Harbor government not reacted quickly and transferred funds to rescue the market, Harbor Stocks would have become the laughing stock of the world by now."

Jasper did not need to think too hard to know who was behind this attack on Harbor Stocks.

He had to admit, though, that Soros had hit him where it hurt.

Jasper was extremely upset.

Domestic class A shares and futures market had the country's government and the business federation watching over it, ready to resist any attacks. It may be difficult, but the government and federation should still be able to maintain balance in the domestic shares and markets. Many people would agree that Soros had made a smart decision by attacking Harbor Stocks and break this stalemate.

"Some people are not to be underestimated." Jasper sighed.

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Arriving at the command center, Jasper had the data projected on the large screen. His brows remained furrowed the moment he saw the horrifying drop of the Harbor Stock Market index.

“All transaction quantities have shrunk. Now, it’s just retail investors trying to flee. The shorts are continuing to hammer the market and there’s no one who dares to stand forth and rescue the market. That’s why the transaction quantities are so small, and the market index keeps crashing.”

Jake said cautiously beside Jasper, “Mr. Laine, if this keeps going, Harbor Stocks will be broken by the end of today. This will result in a huge loss on Harbor Stock’s economy.”

Jasper asked grimly, “How much loss do Harbor Stocks have to suffer to affect Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate?”

“Thanks to your previous support, Harbor Stocks market index has been maintaining at around 9200 points these days. After dropping 800 points when the market opened, we’re left with 8400 points. According to my analysis, the moment the market index drops below 8000 points, there will be a huge fluctuation in Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate.”

Jasper frowned, his expression extremely heavy.

“Harbor Stocks and Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate are closely connected. The moment Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate fluctuates, Harbor City’s economy will surely suffer a great blow as well. By then, the country’s government will have no choice but to stabilize Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate with foreign exchange.”

“If that happens, pressure will be shifted to Somer Dollar’s exchange rate. What a way to kill two birds with one stone,” Jasper muttered to himself.

“That’s what our analysis team predicted as well,” Jake said.

“We’re defending the market,” Jasper said.

Jake immediately replied, “Mr. Laine, the moment we transfer funds into Harbor Stocks to defend the market, our domestic funds will be the ones put under great pressure. This will continue unless we think of a way to pull our funds out of the United States.”

"That's impossible. The United States Government will not let us take our funds out at such a time," Jasper shook his head and replied.

"Mr. Laine, you must be rational now. It won't be easy defending the market, and what if this is a trap Quantum Funds set for us? What if he's waiting for us to transfer our funds to Harbor Stocks, so he can attack domestic class A shares?"

Jasper replied, "That's just speculation, we don't know for sure. This is Soros' true motive. We don't have enough funds, so it'll be extremely difficult for us to defend one market."

"We'll be put in a precarious position if we face attacks from both ends. If we choose to defend Harbor Stocks, we won't be able to defend domestic class A shares. If we choose to defend domestic class A shares, then Harbor Stocks will be doomed."

Jake did not speak anymore. His role was to inform Jasper of the advantages and disadvantages of the situation. Jasper was still the one who would make the final decision.

At this moment, Jasper's phone suddenly

rang.

Jasper looked down to read the number and told Jake, "Let me think for a moment, wait for me outside."

After Jake walked out, Jasper accepted the

call.

"It's me, Old Master Law."

Astonishingly, this call was from Old

Master Law far away in Harbor City.

In comparison to Jasper's heavy tone, Old Master Law sounded extremely relaxed. "Hey, Jasper. Have you had breakfast?"

Jasper was speechless. Now was hardly the time for such trivial questions.

However, Jasper did not dare to act out of line before Old Master Law. He replied respectfully, "I ate something on the way."

Are you well, Old Master Law?"

"I'm very well."

Old Master Law seemed to be in a good mood.

"We already know of what happened today, so I'm calling you just to tell you something. It's nothing much."

"Please do, Old Master Law. I'm listening," Jasper replied courteously.

"You are not the same Jasper you used to be. Back then, there was only so many people and things you can influence. But now, every single move you make must be made with the larger picture in mind. Your influence has grown into something extremely powerful."

"Therefore, in regards to Harbor Stocks, you cannot give me or the other rich families of Harbor City special treatment

for the help that we have provided you before. Let go when you have to and never hold on to what you cannot.

"If Harbor Stocks loses today, it's the money of the people here we're losing. But if you lose, then it's the mainland's entire financial market that's being lost. You and I, we cannot betray of our race."

Old Master Law had only said one thing,

but it felt like he had spoken a lot.

Jasper listened carefully, his emotions

crashing like waves against his heart.

"Old Master Law, Harbor Stocks will be doomed if I do nothing. Harbor City will lose at least 15 years of its economic development. I will also be a traitor to Harbor City."

The old master replied liberally, "Even if Harbor City loses 15 years of its economic development, it's still Harbor City. As long as the people are still here, the city will not fall. But the mainland cannot afford to lose even 1 year of its economic development. How big do you think Harbor City is? How many people do you think we have? Compared with the mainland, what are we?"

"Jasper, this is a simple decision. You should know how to make it."

Jasper clenched his jaw and replied, "But this might cause your whole life's hard work to go to waste."

"Haha, this is where you're wrong."

Old Master Law replied. "I've spent billions on charity my whole life. Anything I owe society, I think I've already repaid. Not to mention that I still have an overseas trust fund. No matter what happens, my descendants will still be able to live comfortably for a few generations with the money from this fund."

"As an elder, I have already done my best and there is nothing more for me to lament about. It doesn't matter if these businesses can continue or are forced to come to an end, nothing is more important than the mainland's market at this moment."

"These are my, and the members of Harbor City's highest class', intentions.

"If someone has to sacrifice something, then let it be us old folks."

Jasper remained frozen in place until the call ended.

He clenched his fist indignantly.

Old Master Law's intentions were clear. He did not want Jasper to get involved in Harbor Stocks, as that would result in a void in the mainland's class A shares-one that would give Soros the perfect opportunity to attack.

Harbor City was willing to sacrifice itself to overcome Soros' plan.

Jasper lifted his head numbly. Harbor Stocks continued to plummet at an impressive rate. There was no stopping this fiery red force!

At the same time, Harbor Stocks' Hansel Index was at 8189 points.

There were only 189 points left until it broke through 8000.

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Sitting on the chair in the command center, Jasper truly felt lost.

He had never felt like this before no matter how complicated the problems he faced in the past were.

He suddenly remembered a sentence that circulated the internet from before he was reincarnated.

Peace and comfort have never existed. Someone else is just carrying your burdens for you.

Jasper used to think that he was miles away from being one of those big heroes of the country, as he had never seen himself as someone capable of giving everything for the country and its people.

He was more inclined to believe that he was just an ordinary person. Someone who was a little selfish and did what benefited himself the most. He was willing to contribute to society and his race, but only as long as it did not clash with his personal gains.

At this moment, however, Jasper suddenly realized how narrow-minded he had been in comparison to the older generation like Old Master Law who had lived through the war.

Now that he was personally involved in this issue, Jasper was well aware of how difficult it must have been for Old Master Law and the others to make this decision.

It had only been 1 hour since the market opened.

This meant that they had only realized what was going to happen 1 hour ago, had evaluated and made a decision about a future situation, then came to a consensus.

Jasper knew he could not show such courage.

He knew he did not have what it took to do something so selfless.

This was the reason why such courage and selflessness had hit Jasper so hard.

His mind and heart were a mess.

Harbor Stocks' plummeting would not slow just because of someone's emotions.

Far away in New York, United States, Soros stared at the screen where his forces tirelessly attacked Harbor Stocks with his arms crossed. He could not help but ask, "Rogers, what do you think Jasper will do?"

Rogers replied calmly, "He has no other choice."

"So what do you think he would do? Will he

ignore what is happening, or will he

rush in to save Harbor Stocks?"

Soros continued excitedly, "Putting myself in his shoes, the best option would be to give up on Harbor Stocks in the face of such an attack."

"After all, once Harbor Stocks crashes, the mainland government will use Somer Dollars to guarantee Harbor Dollar's exchange rate. Jasper won't suffer any losses, and no one will fault him for not helping. However, if he enters Harbor Stocks, he is to take responsibility if he fails to defend the market, and he'll have to be responsible if the mainland's class A shares market crashes."

"So..."

Soros narrowed his eyes and spoke

indifferently, "No matter what angle Jasper's coming from, his best option is to do nothing."

Rogers asked, "Is there a possibility that the mainland government will directly interfere?"

"There is."

Soros replied straightforwardly and with certainty.

"But that requires time, and the mainland government will also face the same

question. Do they protect the mainland, or

protect Harbor City?"

"You must know that this isn't the Terra Financial Crisis a few years ago. During that financial crisis, our main targets were other small countries in Terra. Mainland Somerland had closed itself off with their economic

policies, making them an impossible target, so they could easily help the Harbor Government survive the financial crisis.”

“But the mainland government is now facing no less pressure than the Harbor Government did back then.”

Soros’ gaze glowed brightly as he looked to the East. With a relaxed and pleased tone, he said calmly, “So right now, we’ll just have to wait and see what decision they’re going to make. Whether it’s a smart one or a stupid one, everything is set once you make a move—there is no time for regret... I’m looking forward to seeing what they’re going to do.”

“Mr. Laine, Harbor Stock Market is at

8159 points. They can’t hold on much longer.”

Jake reminded softly once he approached Jasper.

Jasper nodded. His gaze remained pinned on the screen, but he did not say a word.

Jake opened his mouth, but decided against saying anything at the last minute, opting to leave and close the door behind him.

At the same time, members of the team outside looked up and stared at Jake walk out of Jasper’s command room. Seeing Jake shake his head, everyone sighed inexplicably, whether out of relief or disappointment. Then they looked down and continued to work.

Jake was waiting for Jasper to make a decision.

The team was waiting for Jasper to make a decision.

Soros and Quantum Funds were waiting for Jasper to make a decision.

The whole world outside was waiting for

Jasper to make a decision.

In the United Kingdom, in a class in the Royal Business Academy’s School of Modern Economics, a professor with unrivaled academic standing in the international economics community was currently watching a live stream to catch any of Harbor Stock’s changes with his students.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, there has been no signs of any changes with Harbor Stocks as it continues to plummet. Have you any thoughts about this?”

The old professor pushed the pair of glasses up his nose and asked with a bright smile.

“Harbor Stocks no longer has any funds to fight back. Without an external source of funding, it will only be a matter of time before the market crashes. In fact, it’s already starting to crash.”

This was the answer from most of the students in class.

The old professor nodded and asked, “Any other thoughts?”

“The plummeting of Harbor Stocks will directly affect Harbor City’s economy and thus result in a fluctuation of Harbor Dollar’s exchange rate. This is not good news for Somerland, who is urgently trying to raise its global economic status.

“Be it from a political or economic standpoint, Somerland must make an extremely strenuous decision during this difficult time. One that will cost a hefty price no matter what the decision is.”

This was the reply from the best student in the class.

The old professor’s smile deepened. At the same time, a voice drifted over from the corner of the class.

“Professor, I think what happens to Harbor Stocks will greatly impact the outcome of this financial war. From the crashing of the United States Stock Market to this counterattack launched on mainland Somerland’s stock market, and to the breaking of the stalemate between J W Foundations and Quantum Funds.”

The old professor was stunned for a moment, and everyone turned to look at the person who spoke up.

Only to find that it was a slightly rigid and slim glasses-wearing man from the east.

“And I am sure that Harbor Stocks will be the last battleground that decides a victor between Jasper and Soros.

“The victory of this war will directly impact the financial situation of both the United States and Somerland. Considering the immense influence of both countries, it is very likely that any changes will radiate outward and affect the global financial situation. In other words, we are currently witnessing history.”