

## Life at the Top Chapter 2071 - 2073

“You!” Rio’s eyes narrowed and he was about to explode with anger.

Then, Dio spoke slowly from one side, “Dean, I advise you to give up your seat. Haven’t you noticed that the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is about to become a mess? Everyone’s business has been sluggish recently and someone needs to come forward and take charge of the overall situation! And you, who don’t have as much experience as us, naturally do not have this ability. Therefore, it is the best choice for you to give up your position.”

“Only in this way will you not let down Old Master Hurlbutt and Haddock Chamber of Commerce!”

Dio was not as overbearing as Rio, but every sentence he said devastatingly criticized Dean.

Dean was silent for a few seconds. He admitted that in terms of management, he was indeed not good enough. He was miles away from the benchmark, especially compared with his grandfather Gale.

Since the passing of Old Master Hurlbutt, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce had changed a lot. Many members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce who were in various industries had suffered blows and huge losses.

“Yes, the current situation of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is indeed not very optimistic, and someone needs to come forward and preside over the overall situation. But this person can only be me, and is definitely not you!”  
Dean smiled lightly.

“Don’t think I don’t know what you guys are up to. Don’t you just want to snatch away my rights and use the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to make more money? To put it bluntly, you are not doing this for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, but for yourself! You are parasites in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce!”

Rio slammed his hand down on the table and stood up as soon as Dean finished speaking.

However, judging from his posture, it was evident that Dean’s words struck his weak point. It

was not a good feeling to have your true intentions exposed.

“Who gave you the courage to speak to me like that?”

Rio took a step forward. The prestige and pressure he was exuding was suffocating. After

many years of fighting in the business world, Rio looked prestigious even when he was not

angry, let alone when he was furious.

“I did,” At this moment, an even more prestigious voice came from the guest room.

“It’s you! J-Jasper, why are you here?” When Rio saw Jasper, he was stunned.

Even though he had some level of authority in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, and he

could be unrestrained in front of Dean, he did not dare to act rashly when he was in front of

Jasper. Back then, when Jasper and the Haddock Chamber of Commerce were fighting

hand to hand, the entire organization was not Jasper’s rival.

Rio was just one person, and he was only in the lumber industry in Haddock Chamber of

Commerce, so who was he compared to Jasper?

They were worlds apart if his business were to be compared to Jasper’s huge commercial

empire.

Thus, when he saw Jasper, Rio's attitude changed immediately. At this moment, Rio and his gang finally understood that the reason why Dean could be so stubborn was that Jasper was backing him.

"Mr. Laine, this is just a misunderstanding. If there's nothing else, that will be all for today.

We'll be leaving first."

Rio did not want to interact with Jasper too much. He was acting without justification when he came here anyway. After all, the current president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, Dean, was an heir whom Gale elected personally, and it was as orthodox as it came.

"Wait..." At this moment, Jasper's domineering voice sounded again.

Rio and his gang were slightly stunned, and they could only sigh silently about how unfortunate they were.

"Didn't you come here to discuss something with Dean? Go on then, I won't disturb you guys."

After he said that, Jasper turned around and went back to the guest room.

'Continue? Won't disturb?'

Rio and the gang were stunned. They all knew that although Jasper was saying it so casually and it sounded seemingly uncaring, in reality, this sentence meant everything.

Jasper, on the surface, said he would not disturb them, but he was already supporting Dean.

They were all old foxes who had been in the business world for many years. If they could not

tell what Jasper was doing, all those years of being in the business world would have been in vain.

“Sit down and let’s continue talking. Weren’t you saying that you want me to give up my position to you just now?” Dean said with a smile.

“Dean, don’t think that you can have this position just because you have Jasper’s backing.”

“Listen here, only the members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce can resolve matters within the Chamber of Commerce. At the end of the day, Jasper cannot represent the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. If you simply rely on him, you will only attract more dissatisfaction from the elders of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce!”

“Hmph, Jasper can only protect you for a while, but do you think he can protect you for the rest of your life?”

“You just wait and see!”

As soon as Rio said that, he left quickly with his gang.

After the three of them left, Dean looked toward the guest room.

It turned out that Jasper had been staring at them from the door of the guest room.

“Sigh, Mr. Laine, I’ve let you down. I’m nothing compared to those old foxes. I can’t hold them down at all,” Dean sighed.

However, Jasper smiled in relief, “You did a pretty good job.

Those old guys are old foxes who are good at plotting and scheming in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

Understandably, you don’t have as much experience as them so you’re helpless against them.”

Jasper patted Dean's shoulder. He could see himself in Dean. Back then, Jasper also had to face this kind of ordeal. Dean sighed and he looked helpless. He had the ability, but right now, it was limited and it was nothing compared to those old foxes in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

Right now, Dean had also lost confidence.

When Jasper saw Dean being so dispirited, he smiled faintly.

"Relax, don't overthink. You have to know that since Old Master Hurlbutt trusted you with

this position, he must have his reasons. Even if you don't trust yourself, you trust Old Master

Hurlbutt's judgment, right?"

Looking back on Gale's life, he had a unique vision, and every decision he made was

carefully considered.

Upon hearing this, Dean raised his head slightly. "Mr. Laine, please rest assured, I won't be

knocked down so easily and I'll make them pay!"

Jasper nodded slightly. "Remember, you are the only one who can defeat yourself. This is

also my creed."

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However, this incident was not as simple as it seemed. That was because the head of

Haddock Chamber of Commerce had way too much authority.

The hidden benefits he

received were simply unimaginable!

"Rio Potter and the others won't stop here. That's why you must be careful at all times. Don't

allow for anything that they can use against you," Jasper said thoughtfully with narrowed

eyes.

“I know. I’ll keep your advice in mind, President Laine.”  
“Alright; That’s about all for today. I’ll return to Nauritus City first. Contact me anytime you encounter any trouble that you can’t handle on your own.”  
Jasper left after speaking. He would help Dean and the Haddock Chamber of Commerce as much as he could. Gale had told him to do so while he was still alive, and Jasper would not forget that.

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At the same time, in a villa within Swallow Capital. Rio and the others were gathered. They were discussing a counterattack.  
“I didn’t expect Jasper Laine to be there. Otherwise, we would definitely have been able to force Dean to give up on his position today!”  
Dio nodded silently after hearing what he said. There was a complicated expression on his face. “Yes, I can only say that it was beyond my expectations. Jasper is way too powerful right now. We can’t afford to offend him.”  
Jethro, who was standing by the side, asked in a low voice, “Rio, what should our next step be? We can’t give up just like this, right?”  
“I don’t know what to do for now. Dio is right. We can’t compete against Jasper,” Rio sighed.  
“Jasper’s presence at the venue today is a clear sign that he’s on Dean’s side. We can only wait till Jasper leaves Swallow Capital. There will definitely be a way around this.”

Dio and Jethro immediately agreed after hearing what he said. They were sly wolves that had survived in the market for a few decades. Anyone at their

level understood what Rio meant. All three of them understood the fact that they could not offend Jasper right now. They could only finish what they intended to do after Jasper left.

Once they completed the deal, it would be too late and Jasper would not be able to change the outcome either.

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The next morning, Dean sent Jasper away at the airport. He then received a text before he could even sit down after arriving home. Dean smiled after reading the contents of the text message.

Jasper had just left. Could these people not wait for a second longer?

In the past, Haddock Chamber of Commerce often organized group conferences as well.

Everyone could discuss business, collaborations, and so on during these events. Gale had

been the one leading most of the gatherings. To phrase it nicely, they would be holding a

conference for company members. However, today's gala was obviously a set-up. Although

Dean did not want to attend the meeting, he had no choice but to do so due to his identity.

After sending a text to Jasper, Dean got up and headed to the venue of the gala, Red Star Hotel.

Meanwhile, the entire hall of Red Star Hotel had been booked for the event. The female

ushers stood in a row before the door and greeted the bosses of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce courteously.

Naturally, not everyone could make it since the members of the Haddock Chamber of

Commerce were spread all over the country. However, those with free time and those who stayed in Swallow Capital all managed to make it. After half an hour, more than forty people made it to the event. The majority of these forty people were all on the side of Rio and the others. "Everyone, I'd first like to thank all of you for making it here today. Today is an event where old friends like us get to gather for a chat," Rio smiled as he greeted all the guests.

As soon as he finished speaking, the voice of an old man rang out. "Rio, just get straight to the point. I heard that you were the one who suggested holding today's conference. What do you intend to do?"

Rio was slightly stunned after hearing his words. Immediately after, he noticed that Dean had arrived in the hall of the hotel as well. He laughed and brought up the main topic straight away.

"Alright, I know that everyone's time is extremely precious. I won't keep up the suspense anymore."

"All of you know that a lot of conflicts have risen within the Haddock Chamber of Commerce after Old Master Hurlbutt passed away some time ago. This has caused a lot of problems."

"Dean should be the one taking the lead to resolve these conflicts and problems. It's just a pity that he can't do so for the time being. That's why I thought about this. Shouldn't Dean have given up on his position?!"

Rio did not waste time with any nonsense and got straight to the point immediately. He fixed a heated gaze on Dean, who had just arrived at the hotel.

The old man let out a heavy sigh after hearing what he said. "You bastard! Rio, since when have you had the final say in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce?!" The old man's voice was firm and powerful despite his old age.

"Mr. Shamus, you're old. I won't recommend you to involve yourself in the issues of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce." Rio narrowed his eyes and looked at the old man.

This old man's name was Shawn Shamus. He had been working under Gale in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce all along. He was close friends with Gale as well. However, he did not show himself frequently and had always kept a low profile. When Gale passed away, Shawn had visited his funeral as well. He stood outside the door and mourned him silently for a total of three minutes. He then left quietly. Nobody knew about any of this.

Gale had recommended Dean as the next leader of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

Therefore, Shawn was beyond angered after hearing what Rio had said.

"Rio, don't think that I don't know what you're up to. Gale hasn't been gone for long, yet you're already thinking of taking over?"

Shawn gripped his cane and thumped it against the floor harshly. A hole appeared on the delicate wooden floor due to the cane's impact!

"Mr. Shamus, have you lost your mind after getting old? I'm doing this for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. Why are you making it sound like I'm trying to take over the

company? Besides, shouldn't the leader of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce be someone equipped with great capabilities?"

Rio smiled in distaste as his gaze landed on Dean.

Dean clenched his hands into fists after hearing what he said.

Given his experience, he was truly considerably lacking as compared to everyone else.

However, not only was Rio denying Dean's abilities as a leader, he was also denying Gale's decision at the same time!

This was extremely disrespectful!

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"Stop it!"

"It was Gale's choice to let Dean take up the position as the head of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. How much has Gale contributed to the group when he was alive? Aren't you afraid that karma will hit you in the face if you dare say that Gale has chosen the wrong person?!"

Shawn let out a deep breath after speaking. He was old now. He did not wish to earn a fortune. He only wanted the members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to be united so that all of them could run this organization well. Besides, Gale was to be credited for everything that the Haddock Chamber of Commerce had achieved thus far. As Gale's close friend back when he was still alive, he would not allow anyone to cause trouble.

"Stop making noise!" Rio was evidently impatient.

Everyone in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was scattered now that Gale was gone.

Everything was now out of order. He could only gain control by suppressing everyone with absolute strength.

“Dean, why don’t we get down to business? Let me ask you this one last time. Are you going to give up on your position or not? Even if you don’t give up on your position, we can carryout a vote to select a new candidate as the leader of the group. What do you think are the odds that you’d win?”

“You!”

This was a blatant threat!

Dean did not expect Rio to go to such crazy lengths over this position!

“I’ll give you a minute’s time to consider this.” Rio smiled and raised his hand to look at his watch.

“You have 58 more seconds.”

Plenty of people were giving Dean “advice” by the side.

“Dean, you’d better give up your position.”

“Your abilities can’t compare to that of Rio’s. If you continue taking up this position, you’ll only delay the development of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce!”

“Yes, you aren’t suitable for this position. There’s no need for you to keep holding onto it.”

Everyone who spoke up were all on Rio’s side. At this moment, Dean’s heart wavered.

Sometimes, one’s will would crumble under extreme pressure. Suddenly, Dean felt like he caught sight of Old Master Hurlbutt...

“I...”

At this moment, Dean really wanted to give up on his position and just let things be...

However, just then, a figure slowly strode into the hall.

It was Jasper Laine!

He did not say a single word, but Rio and the others all lowered their heads guiltily as soon as he cast a single glance at them. The atmosphere within the hall instantly dampened.

Dean was about to give up on his position. Why was Jasper here? Should he not be back in Nauritus City?

“Jasper Laine, you’re in no place to be involved in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce internal affairs, right?” Rio’s voice no longer sounded as confident as it did just now.

“I didn’t say that I’d be involving myself in your affairs,” Jasper said with a faint smile.

There was a nonchalant expression on his face.

Rio let out a sigh of relief after hearing what he said. However, in the very next moment, Jasper laughed out softly.

“I can’t involve myself in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s affairs, but I’ll definitely involve myself in my friend’s affairs.”

‘Friend?’

Everyone was stunned. They all knew who was the friend that Jasper was referring to. That was right. It was Dean!

Jasper never went around telling everyone who his friends were. However, he came here just to tell everyone in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce that Dean was his man. Nobody could touch him!

Rio’s expression darkened as he said, “Jasper Laine, I won’t touch Dean, but you shouldn’t think of controlling what goes on in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce either! You don’t get a say in whether Dean decides to give up on his position or not. I don’t get a say either!”

“The employees of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce will have a vote. Those who agree that Dean should give up on his position, raise your hands!” As soon as he finished speaking, Rio was the first to raise his hand. Dio was the second to do so. Jethro glanced at both of them. He then looked at Jasper as well. He raised his hand slowly after hesitating for a few seconds. Rio had unleashed a clever move. He tried to make everyone raise their hands to force Dean to give up on his position. Half of the people within this hall was on his side. As long as these people raised their hands, he could call for a selection of a new leader for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce even if Dean was not willing to give up on his position. Unexpectedly, nobody except the three of them raised their hands even after a few seconds! “What are you guys doing? Raise your hands to show your stance!” Rio glanced at the people on his side. However, those people intentionally avoided making eye contact with him. They all pretended to be lost in thought! “Stop calling them out. They won’t dare to raise their hands,” Jasper said slowly as he laughed mockingly. “Cowards! You’re all a bunch of cowards!” Rio shouted out in anger. “Mr. Leon, Mr. Weiss, and the few of you! Didn’t you agree to help me out today?” “Say something!” Rio roared as he pointed at a few people. However, the few people that he pointed at all sat in place quietly. They did not say a single word...

Everyone knew how to weigh the pros against the cons of the situation. It definitely was not a good thing if they offended Jasper in Somerland. Just then, Jethro lowered his raised hand as well. "Jethro?!" Rio's eyes widened as he roared out loud.

Jethro was not in a good mood either. He felt extremely hesitant right now. He went to Dean's place with Rio and Dio yesterday where they had all met Jasper. He was aware that Jasper knew that he was on Rio's side. However, he was now afraid. He was terrified that Jasper would seek revenge against him. Just then, Jethro made a bold decision... "I've decided to quit the Haddock Chamber of Commerce from today onwards!"

His decision to quit the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was definitely the most shocking thing to everyone within the hall. That was because the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was extremely reputable within the business world. One could obtain first-hand news and extra resources within the group. It would be immensely helpful for those operating businesses.

At the same time, it was almost impossible for outsiders to join the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. One would no longer be able to join the group again after they quit!

Meanwhile, Jethro had just firmly told everyone that he would quit the Haddock Chamber of Commerce!

From this alone, it was evident just how much pressure Jasper had put him under with just these few words alone!

Jethro decided to quit the Haddock Chamber of Commerce after clear reasoning. There was no other way for him to cut ties with Rio. He was hoping to just survive by quitting the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, and at the same time, he was telling Jasper that he had cut ties with Rio. He no longer had anything to do with the Haddock Chamber of Commerce anymore.