

Life at the Top Chapter 356

The assistant chairman wore a delighted expression and dared not delay a single moment.

“However, it’s not that Kaymaroon doesn’t have any problems. We found out that they’re facing a very high risk of getting themselves involved with a huge debt.

“First of all, each of their supermarkets closes their cyclical accounts with their suppliers every six months, which is four months more than the standard compared to other businesses of the same industry. Changing the period of each cycle to half a year is still in the midst of being approved by the public. Regarding this point, because of their large sales volume and strong ability to conduct sales, all the suppliers can only go along with it.

“Every half a year, they will have to spend at least two billion for the payment. According to our investigation, it’ll be time for them to make their payment after another half a month, at most.”

Jasper tapped on the documents while listening and said, “You’re saying that currently, the assets in Kaymaroon’s account are actually not adequate to make the payments to the suppliers? Even after taking into account all of the income from all the supermarkets for this coming half a month, they’re just barely managing?”

The assistant chairman nodded and said, “Basically that’s it. Also, they got a 600 million loan from Commercial Bank, which they have three years to pay back. Beginning next year will be their last term to pay back the remaining amount which is 220 million including interest.

“According to the data from the investigation, Kaymaroon also has a very serious debt to bear from the private loans they took. The total amount of it is still under

investigation, but we can be sure it's more than 800 million, which is a very heavy burden."

"A company which has a market value of four billion turns out to have a debt of 1.4 billion, and from this amount, at least 800 million were taken from private loans with high interests. Sebastian really is one daredevil," said Jasper calmly.

"Initially, Kaymaroon was just a huge company with a strong ability to gain profits, but the main issue with the company lies with the person named Sebastian. He's a gambler. He's famous for being a brazen boss in Owl City. He goes to Owl City once a month. Each trip he makes, he either wins or loses billions of dollars."

Jasper's brow was slightly raised, and he circled the word 'gamble' on the information sheet.

"I remember he has someone backing him up back in Swallow Capital. Did you manage to look that up?" asked Jasper calmly.

Ten years ago, during the battle between Dawson and Sebastian, someone from Swallow Capital offered a helping hand to Sebastian by providing funds at the eleventh hour. Jasper would be sure to include that point in as well.

"I've looked into it."

The assistant chairman did not let Jasper down and said with a low voice, "It's mentioned on the very last page."

Jasper immediately flipped to the very last page of the document. He looked at the contents on it and an expression that no one expected to see was plastered on Jasper's face.

"The Combe family?! Hendrik Combe?!"

The assistant chairman nodded and said, “Hendrik and Sebastian have a relationship that no one is aware of. They’re brothers-in-law. Sebastian’s wife and Hendrik’s wife are siblings.

“Also, it was Sebastian’s nephew, Hector, who introduced him to Owl City. They both don’t just share a simple nephew-uncle relationship but they’re also gambling buddies. Or else, how would a brat from the village come to know about places like Owl City?”

After more than ten minutes, the assistant chairman left the hotel suite politely. After closing the door cautiously, he left the scene joyfully.

In the suite, Jasper gradually squinted his eyes and dialed Hector’s number.

After half an hour, Hector, with a perturbed look on his face, and Jacob slowly made their way to the entrance of the hotel room.

“Brother, Jasper is looking for us, but what’s the reason behind it? Haven’t we settled the grudge between us?”

“Even Erick Turner was squashed by him. I heard that it was Brad Turner who showed up in the end and paid huge compensation to Jasper. Only then was the issue resolved. I’m really scared of him now.”

Hector said with a teary face.

Jacob was calm and said, “You’re the one who he called. How am I supposed to know when you don’t even know the reason? Anyway, let’s just go in. Remember, we need to behave appropriately later. Don’t go around calling him by his name. You must greet him as Mr. Laine!”

As the brothers were talking, the sound of the hotel room door being knocked on was heard.

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Julian opened the door and the Combe siblings bowed to Julian with smiling faces.

As the second generation of a rich family, they were well aware that it was easy to meet up with the lord but the assistant beside the lord would be difficult to deal with. If they were to offend Julian, this bodyguard of Jasper's could easily speak ill of them in front of Jasper from time to time. That would be the worst case that they would be regretful of.

"Come in, Brother Laine is waiting for you guys."

Julian said it calmly and did not bother with the two of them.

Hector and Jacob dared not waste a single second and ran into the waiting area. They stood politely in front of Jasper and asked, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine."

Jasper spun around and looked at the siblings. 'I haven't seen them in a few days. They don't seem to be different but their attitudes have changed drastically.

'They suddenly have the desire to live now.'

"Are you guys so scared of me?" said Jasper playfully.

Hector smiled awkwardly and said, "To tell you the truth, Mr. Laine, we're slightly afraid."

Hector also added in a better manner, "Previously, us siblings, especially me, did not know our standings and offended you, Mr. Laine. Fortunately, Mr. Laine was generous enough to forgive us and let us off the hook. Now that we're meeting you again, we do feel a little scared."

Jasper smiled but did not doubt the sincerity of the two siblings.

“That’s right. As children of rich families, you have your targets set high up and are able to trample over others with the authority of your family background, but it’s also because of this that you’ll feel fear more than the ordinary person. You’ll even be able to see through things better.

“I have a small favor to request from you two. I believe you’ll be able to get it done properly.”

After listening to Jasper’s comments, both Hector and Jacob were delighted and sorrowful at the same time.

They were delighted because they were able to get on Jasper’s good side. Regardless of the consequences to themselves or their family, it was definitely a good thing.

At the same time, they were sorrowful because Jasper had requested them to do him a favor. ‘Regardless of how small the favor is, I don’t think it’ll truly be such a small favor?’

Given Jasper’s capability, they no longer dared to be suspicious of him.

It was just like what Jasper said. They would fear outstanding figures like Jasper more than the average person because they were very well aware of the authority possessed by the likes of Jasper. They could easily crush the Combe siblings.

Hector and his brother were feeling anxious. After hesitating for a long time, it was Jacob as the elder brother who took the lead and spoke, “Please name your order, Mr. Laine. As long it’s within our capabilities, we brothers will be sure to settle the matter for you.”

Jasper sat on the sofa and pointed to the opposite, beckoning Hector and Jacob to have a seat.

Jasper asked while looking at Hector, "Do you know how to gamble?"

Hector was dumbfounded. Subconsciously, he nodded. "I know a bit of the game."

"Do you know how to set up a gambling event?" asked Jasper.

Hector reacted to his words. Jasper wanted him to set up a gambling event to set others up.

Regarding the issue of setting others up, as long as one had spent quite some time gambling, they would come to realize it as well. 'As long as it involves gambling, there will definitely be set-ups.'

It all depended on how large the bet was and the tactics of the banker.

"I do!" Hector said ruthlessly through gritted teeth.

Jasper snapped his fingers and Julian walked over while presenting a copy of the documents. From the documents, he took out a sheet of information and threw it on the coffee table in the middle of the three people.

That sheet of information was the biodata of Sebastian with his picture on top of it.

Upon glancing at Sebastian's name and picture, Jacob and Hector's pupils immediately shrunk.

"Your uncle will be the target of the set-up this time," said Jasper calmly.

Hearing Jasper pointing out their relationship made Hector reply with a bitter smile, "Mr. Laine, I wonder what my uncle has done to offend you? Can I apologize to you on his behalf?"

Jasper raised his hand to stop Hector from talking and replied calmly, “This is not a matter of me taking offense. It’s something related to revenge, involving someone’s life. You guys can’t afford to be the middleman for this. The same goes to your dad, Hendrik Combe.”

Hearing the comment made Hector and Jacob exchange looks at each other. Both of them felt a chill crawling up their spines, all the way to the depths of their souls.

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”From what I know, the relationship between you guys is not that good, right?” said Jasper calmly.

The corners of Hector’s eyes twitched, and he said with a dry smile, “Well, we did have a huge fight two years ago, and it ended with an unpleasant outcome. But after all, as someone of the younger generation like us, to be so calculative with our own seniors seems to be rather—”

“I won’t make you guys do it without any rewards. I’ll give you 20% of shares of Jim’s business consulting company. I plan to develop that company aggressively in the future, so don’t think that the 20% of shares look trivial. Once it develops in the future, it’ll grow to be much better than those trivial products you guys make.”

Jasper raised one of his fingers, and after he was done saying, he raised a second finger.

“After you’ve settled this issue, whatever amount Sebastian loses from this set-up, you guys will take away 30% of it.”

After saying it, Jasper looked at Hector and Jacob calmly with a composed expression.

Hector and Jacob exchanged looks with each other. They could no longer reject the temptation of the huge profits.

The cash was the second reason. It was way more meaningful to them to be able to have shares in Jim's company.

'What does this even mean? It means that Jasper is willing to take us for a ride with him.'

Regardless of it being Jasper or Henry, with these two mighty beings here, Hector and Jacob would have a bright future. They would gain benefits whenever they were any leftovers from them.

"Mr. Laine, can I give my dad a call?" Hector said.

Jasper extended his arm, showing that he could leave to make the call.

Hector bowed with the utmost respect. Then, he filed out the room.

After a few minutes, Hector returned. He took in a deep breath and said to Jasper with a deep voice, "Mr. Laine, when are we going to start?"

Jasper smiled and got to his feet, saying, "The earlier the better. Also, I admire the fact that you guys know what's the right thing to do now. The Combe family will be sure to have a bright future if it's in the hands of you two."

...

After seeing the Combe siblings off, Jasper came to Dawson's room and briefly explained the entire incident.

"You've already contacted Jim?" He could not help but ask after hearing from Jasper that he had promised to give out 20% of the shares of Jim's company to the Combe siblings.

Jasper said with a smile, "Yes, I've already contacted him. Uncle Yapp is very satisfied with it. You might think that he's on the losing end because of the 20% of shares, but in the future, it'll be guaranteed as insurance in Capital City. The Combe family will never let him be on the losing end."

"You have your point. After all, you won't have the time to keep an eye on him. This plan might just work out," said Dawson while nodding his head.

Dawson praised and looked at Jasper while adding, "You're getting the hang of it. I'm relieved."

Jasper said calmly, "One should be flexible at using tactics. There are lots of methods to go against someone like Sebastian. But in order to achieve the greatest effect in the shortest amount of time, I will only have to resort to using methods that he can't see coming.

...

At another hotel, Sebastian was frantically calling his underlings in his company.

"Hurry and come up with a plan for me. I want to take over the market that belongs to that b*stard, Dawson Schuler!

"I don't care what price I need to pay! Within half a year, I want Schuler Group to go bankrupt!

"Contact all our resources. We have to crush the supply route of Schuler Group. Whichever supplier dares to supply to the supermarkets of Schuler Group will be going against Kaymaroon!"

After putting down his phone, Sebastian loosened his necktie. His face revealed a scary smile.

"Dawson Schuler, you're 100 years away from challenging me!

“Also that brat named Jasper. You two sons of b*tches, I’ll see just when you’ll come to kneel before me and plead with me!”

Coincidentally at that moment, his phone rang.

After looking at the incoming call, a smile was plastered on Sebastian’s face. His tone was extremely gentle as well. “Oh Hector, are you looking for me to head over to Owl City with you? I’m rather busy these two days.”

“Uncle, I know you’re very occupied but I’ve got a spot for a game in Swallow Capital. They’re all big bosses and they’re betting a very huge sum. I’m asking to see if you’re interested to join?”

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Sebastian’s eyes were sparkling after hearing Hector’s comment.

He had not been gambling all because of the conference and the issue of going against Dawson. He had been itching to gamble that he could barely hold it any longer.

Even though he had a serious gambling addiction, he was still considered to be quite rational.

“That doesn’t sound like a good idea with everyone there being a stranger.”

Sebastian’s tone was slightly hesitant. He was not a fool who had just entered society. He was aware that even family members would also end up arguing when it came to gambling. As such, he thought he should be more cautious when gambling with strangers.

Hector said with a smile, "Uncle, we all know each other very well. We'll be doing it at my villa on the outskirts. It's extremely safe. It's just that we lack a player. That's why I'm asking to see whether you're interested. If you're not, then forget about it."

Hearing it made the hesitancy in Sebastian's heart vanish into thin air. He quickly replied, "I'm interested!"

At seven in the evening on that day, Sebastian arrived at the villa in the car Hector had sent with one million in cash.

"Uncle, only one million? Won't you embarrass yourself here?"

Hector greeted Sebastian at the entrance of the villa. He looked at the box in his hand and said disdainfully.

Sebastian burst into laughter and said, "It's just to play for fun. I don't plan to gamble with a huge sum. I'll return once I've lost it all."

Hector chuckled and said, "Alright then. My brother is also inside. Let's go in, everyone has arrived."

Hector let out a cold smile when he saw Sebastian's back figure that was entering through the door eagerly.

Sebastian was still being cautious with Hector, and the latter noticed it. However, Hector knew best what sort of attitude Hector would have on the gambling table.

This time, he had gotten the top 'actors' in the industry to help him out with this set-up and he was fully confident in it.

Sebastian entered the villa. The gambling table was set up, and three men were sitting on the sofa chit-chatting.

There were also a few gorgeous ladies who were in charge of serving drinks.

“Allow me to introduce you. This is my uncle, the boss of Kaymaroon.”

Jacob immediately got up and said with a smile when he saw Sebastian entering.

“Uncle, this is the boss of Hayes Mining Company from the Southwest Province, Hayes Lawson. There are tens of coal mines under him. He’s truly a big boss.”

“This is the boss of an investing company, Jordan Zinn. There are two listed companies under his name.”

Hearing the introductions sent Sebastian’s heart pumping hard.

‘These two people have a net worth that’s comparable to mine.’

He then looked at the chips that they brought. Each of them was starting with five million as the minimum bet.

At that moment, Sebastian regretted bringing so little cash and felt as if he had lost his dignity.

Hayes urged with his southwest slang. “Let’s begin since everyone has arrived.”

Hector came over as well and the four of them went to sit at their respective seats.

Each of them brought their boxes, opened them, and placed them at the side of their legs. With the four boxes combined, there was a total of 150 million in betting funds. When piled up, the money was stacked into a few piles and was eye-catching.

Hector waved his hand, and a middle-aged man who looked like the dealer walked out. He was in charge of distributing the cards.

Hector leaned on the chair and giggled while saying, “The old rules. We’ll be starting with 100,000. There’s no limit to winning, and those who have lost everything will withdraw. Who wants to check the cards with the dealer?”

Jordan immediately raised his hand and said, “Young Master Combe, you’re the one organizing this gambling session, so of course, there won’t be any problem with it. There’s no need to check.”

Hector noticed that Hayes and Sebastian were not saying anything. He then said with a smile, “Old rules, we’ll change the cards after every ten rounds. Even though everyone is friends here and no one will pull any tricks on each other, but still, we have to follow the rules.”

After talking, Hector gave the dealer the signal to distribute the cards.

Jacob sat on the sofa and took his sweet time to make himself a cup of tea. He squinted his eyes and witnessed the gambling session unfold with a calm expression.

...

It was the next day and the sky was slightly bright. The villa was misty, and the floor was full of teacups and cigarette buds.

However, the four men were still very energetic.

Hayes was exasperated and shoved the cards in his hands away. He said unsatisfactorily, “What the f*ck, I’m so unlucky today! Three players losing to one player?!”

Hector and Jordan’s expressions looked awful.

Only Sebastian was laughing out loud.

At that moment, the boxes beside the three men's legs were empty except for Sebastian's. The bundles of cash could not fit in his box and were scattered all over the floor by his feet.

He had won 16 million in cash.

Sebastian did not expect himself to be this lucky. That night, he got whatever card that he desired. Even if he occasionally got fewer points, it was either his opponents had even fewer points than him, or they dared not bet with him and immediately forfeited that round.

"Oh my, I'm just lucky today. It's been a while since I've had a good time gambling." Sebastian had a delightful expression and looked refreshed.

"Well, we've lost everything. Why don't we call it a day for today?" Hector said calmly.

Jordan got up and said in an unpleasant tone, "End it, end it. I've long ago been feeling sleepy. Next time, I'll be sure to win against you!"

Sebastian also got up and smiled. He said, "You're always welcome."

As they were talking, the gambling session came to an end.

At the entrance, Hayes and Jordan's cars had already left. Hector was slightly envious as he looked at Sebastian ordering his chauffeur to move the money. He said, "Uncle, you really are lucky."

Sebastian smiled proudly and said, "Those two fools don't even know how to play. Even though I only had a few points, they still didn't have the guts to bet with me. I got lucky a few times."

"It's all because you're great at it, Uncle," Hector said with a smile.

At that moment, all of the cash was moved to the car. Sebastian got in and stretched his head out, saying to Hector, "Next time, remember to invite me."

"Sure, will do."

Hector squinted his eyes as he smiled while watching Sebastian's car drive away.

He spun around to enter the house. Jacob was already awake and having his breakfast. He had one of his legs over the other.

"Has he left already?" asked Jacob.

"Yeah."

Hector nodded and said with a cold smile, "Right now, he must be looking forward to the next gambling session."

"Even though Mr. Laine is not here, it's like he has predicted that Sebastian will have a change in mindset. His confidence in human psychology is way too creepy."

Jacob shook his head and said, "Hurry and give Mr. Laine a call. Report the current situation to him. We have to take the next step soon."

...

In the office of Easy Media, Jasper was on his phone as he threw a dart right at the bullseye. He said calmly, "If you want to fish, obviously you have to give the fish some bait. In the afternoon, I'll get someone over to deliver another 300 million."

"This 300 million..."

Jasper pulled out the dart on the red bullseye and continued calmly, "...is the hook to kill Sebastian."

After hanging up the call, Jasper spun around. Someone was already standing behind him politely.

"Mr. Laine, you ordered me to get in touch with those private loan companies who loaned to Kaymaroon. They've already given us a reply.

"As long as we can pay one million to each of the companies, they'll immediately ask Kaymaroon to pay their debts.

"The debt is theirs in the first place. We're spending money to make them ask for their debts in advance. In this world, no one will reject such a great offer, let alone these vampires who give out loans with high interest."

Jasper sat on the boss' chair and said calmly, "Give them the money. Once they receive the money, they should bear in mind what they're supposed to do!"

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On the third day, Sebastian was subconsciously looking at his phone.

There was no message on it.

He was feeling slightly frustrated.

Winning money through gambling could be addictive. Besides, the addiction was a very wonderful experience.

Ever since he won that 15 million during the previous gambling session, Sebastian had been waiting for Hector's call every day.

However, in these two days, it was as if Hector had gone missing. He had not received any news from him.

This made Sebastian anxious.

Even though he kept telling himself that it was great enough to have won 15 million and it would be best to stop now as he had earned this amount effortlessly.

However, Sebastian kept thinking that if he were to continue gambling, he would have won more.

The last time, the capital he brought was way too little, which made him scared when placing his bets. I made him unable to feel the thrill of the game.

Just as he was thinking about it, Sebastian's phone rang.

It was from Hector!

Sebastian immediately felt joyful and quickly answered the call.

"Uncle, Hayes and Jordan lost a lot of money during the last gambling session and they're not satisfied with it. They've accumulated some funds during these few days. Same old place this time, and they're saying that it's to be a revenge game. But this time, their capitals are a bit too high. They're determined to win their money back. Are you coming?"

Sebastian laughed out proudly and said, "Would I be scared of them? They're just people who have lost to me!"

...

It was still in the same villa. The gambling session had started, and the game was heating up.

It was just that this time, Sebastian was not that lucky.

It had just been an hour since the start of the gambling session and he already lost two million.

Even though it was just a small figure when compared to the 15 million he had won previously, it was still a bad start.

“Eight points, big,” the dealer said calmly. He seized all the chips from Hayes and Jordan, passing them on to Sebastian.

Seeing that he was able to win a round made Sebastian let out a sigh of relief.

With just one round, he had won 400,000.

The degree of excitement in the game could be seen.

“What the f*ck, this is ridiculous! You’re able to win this as well?” Jordan frowned and said unpleasantly.

In the previous round, he only had seven points. He barely made it but still lost the round.

Sebastian chuckled and said, “You can’t stop it when luck just decides to rush to you.”

“Better not be too full of yourself,” said Jordan with a stony look.

The gambling session continued. After three hours, Sebastian did not just win back the money he had lost previously, but he also made more than ten million.

“Today’s the day I make a fortune.” Sebastian laughed arrogantly as he managed to gobble up all the cash.

Hayes slammed the table and said through gritted teeth, “Son of a b*tch! I don’t believe I’ll continue being unlucky. Change the damn cards!”

Hector raised his eyelids and said calmly, “Mr. Lawson, you can’t do this. We’ve already agreed on the rules to change the cards every ten rounds. This is just the eighth round and you’re requesting to change the cards? Are you suspecting that I’m pulling a trick on you?”

Hayes said with his eyes reddened, “You both are uncle and nephew. How can I be sure that there are no tricks up your sleeves?”

Hector squinted his eyes and stared at Hayes, saying, “Mr. Lawson, you’d better talk with facts. If we wanted to set you up, we wouldn’t have exposed our relationship at the beginning. I let you know about it to prove that we’re innocent. You shouldn’t play if you can’t afford to lose!”

At that moment, Jordan came to take control of the situation. He said, “Please refrain from getting violent. You two, please calm down. Well, it’s unavoidable that we’ll be angry since we’re losing money during this session. Anyway, Mr. Lawson doesn’t mean it that way.”

“How about this, Young Master Combe? Just change the deck of cards. There’s no big deal about it.”

Hector snorted and said, “This will be the only exception.”

After he spoke, he ordered the dealer to open up a new deck of cards that was still sealed up.