

Life at the Top Chapter 676

Jasper was carefree as well and took a seat on the chair with the name 'JW Electronics' written behind it. He took a sip of the hot coffee a staff member brought over.

By then, Chad had arrived as well.

Seeing Chad, Jasper suddenly spoke, "Mr. Wright, I heard that Reed City used to be making losses every year until you arrived. You managed to turn that loss into profit and have become quite the taxpayer here in Reed City now, haven't you?"

Chad waved him off and smiled. "That's nothing. It's just a small achievement, incomparable to the work you've done at such a young age, Mr, Laine."

Chad was not being humble, for there really was not another person within the country who could compare to Jasper's achievements.

The man was an entrepreneur who made tens of billions in a year.

How could anyone compare?

Yet Jasper merely spoke, "I beg to disagree. I know that the biggest problem with your industries here is with the people. It's too complex with people belonging to different groups and whatnot. They transferred you here so that you could save the situation because the person before you beat up his subordinate and he ended up in the ICU, correct?"

Those were all jokes and rumors that had spread in Reed City. While there were exaggerated bits, they were not complete lies.

Chad smiled. "It's all in the past now. It wasn't that severe when it happened."

“You came here to save the situation, yet you managed to solve a problem no one could resolve. I think that speaks volumes of your strength, Mr. Wright.”

Finally hearing the intent tone in Jasper’s words, Chad prodded. “You seem to have different intentions in mind, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “My investing company is in need of a Director of Human Resources. They’ll mainly be in charge of internal management and human resources.

“I think that you’re very suited for the role, seeing as how you managed to give order to a state business that was riddled with loopholes and turned losses into profits.”

Chad’s expression shifted.

He was still considered a middle class man within the system. While there were few chances for promotions, he was technically not someone’s employee. As such, he was unwilling to have to work under anyone, even if it was Jasper.

Realizing that Chad wanted to reject him, Jasper interrupted, “Don’t be so quick to reject me, Mr. Wright. There’s only so far you can go while working for Reed City State Funds Co., Ltd. Maybe you’d get to take another half-step forward, but you’ll still be confined within Reed City.

“My investing company currently has business involving financial investments, venture capital and angel funds, the real estate industry, the electronic equipment manufacturing industry, the entertainment industry, and the internet industry. It’s a company now, but it’s only a matter of time before I expand it into a group, and finally, a consortium.

“Won’t you be interested in walking out of Reed City and into the entire country before your eyes, Mr. Wright? Exploring the world and its benefits?”

Clapping Chad on the shoulder, Jasper smiled at the shine in the man's eyes. "As for benefits and salary, it'll be ten times what you earn now once you start. Perhaps even 100 times that in the future. As a member of the company's core leaders, you'll even be paid option dividends.

"Frankly speaking, instead of me asking you to work for me, I'd like to think of this as a chance for you to change your life."

Chad flushed, but he forced down his desire with rationality. Smiling bitterly, he spoke, "You really are a professional negotiator, Mr. Laine."

Jasper chuckled. "You don't have to give me a reply now. Take your time and think about it. I'll be staying here in Reed City for another few days. I hope that you'll leave with me when the time comes."

Chad nodded. He was about to speak when the meeting room doors were pushed open.

They heard the man before they could see him.

"Hahaha. What a crowd, is the outsider here yet? We've got to take good care of someone who's visiting our Reed City. It'd be a shame if we scared him to death."

Life at the Top Chapter 677

Marcus strutted into the room arrogantly with a heavily tanned man next to him who was named Ned.

The two entered the room and their eyes immediately fell on Jasper.

Seeing how calm Jasper looked while sitting, Marcus snickered and walked over to him. Marcus raised his hand to knock on the table before Jasper as he spoke,

“I heard that you paid a big amount just to have this bidding meeting here with me, Mr. Laine? Is there even a point to this?”

“If I want you to have it, it’ll easily be yours. But if I don’t want you to have it, you can spend as much money as you want and all you’ll be getting is trash.”

Jasper looked at Marcus and spoke, “Oh? Now I’m curious how exactly you consider 1,500 acres of land trash, Mr. Coine.”

Ned scoffed beside him. “Are you actually stupid or are you just pretending to be stupid, outsider?”

“Without Mr. Coine giving the red light, it doesn’t matter if you’ve bought it or not. There’ll be people troubling you every day and you’ll have no other choice but to leave it empty in the end.”

“Oh right, let me introduce myself. I’m Ned, the owner of Ned’s Pawn Shop. If you think that you can’t take it anymore and want to pawn the land off, I promise I’ll give you a good price. Haha.”

Ned was tall and broad, and his loud laughs resonated around the room deafeningly.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly. “Could you laugh softer? You’re a little noisy.”

Ned glared at Jasper fiercely. “Did you just say that I’m noisy? Do you want to die?”

At that moment, Julian, who had been standing behind Jasper all this while, stepped forward. From his stance, it was evident that he would forcefully hold down the 190cm-tall Ned if he even showed a sign of starting a fight.

Ned scoffed. “What’s this? You think because you have a bodyguard following you around that it makes you better than all of us? How dare you pick a fight with me?”

Seeing how the scene was beginning to get out of hand, Chad quickly stood up and smiled apologetically. "Mr. Adkins, Mr. Coine, please calm down. This is the city hall's meeting room, after all. The bid will begin soon. It'll look bad on all of us if someone were to get hurt now."

Marcus gave a carefree smile and replied, "Fine. So you're not completely stupid, Wright. I'll let him go since you asked."

With that, Marcus raised his hand to point at Jasper and spoke slowly, "You wanted this bid, so you have no one to blame when you regret it later. You're not the first to fight me for something in Reed City, so let's just take a look at who's more capable, hmm?"

With that, Marcus patted Ned and turned to the designated seats of the representatives from Reed City State Funds Co., Ltd.

Ned stared at Jasper threateningly and grinned wretchedly. He used his hand and gestured the slicing of his throat before he followed Marcus.

After all this trouble, it was finally 8:00 a.m.

Chad was the host of the bid, but he could not take the stage since Mr. Powers had not returned from reporting to the higher-ups.

News from Mr. Powers would relay the stance the city government was taking and therefore, how the bid would end. That was why Chad did not dare to start the bid when he still did not know the city government's intentions.

Thankfully, Mr. Powers did not make him wait too long for he hastily returned around five minutes past eight.

He first turned to Chad. "It's time, Mr. Wright. Please begin the bid."

Chad knew that this was Mr. Powers trying to usher him away so that he would not hear the conversation between him and Jasper.

Life at the Top Chapter 678

Chad did not mind. He knew that most of the time, knowing too much would only turn out troublesome, especially since he was not a formidable person.

Thankful, Chad quickly excused himself and walked over to the podium.

Chad then began to give an unnecessary opening speech to introduce the plot of land for formality's sake.

Meanwhile, Mr. Powers and Jasper began to chat privately between themselves below.

"Mr. Laine, the higher-ups state that as long as what you spoke of was the truth, then we're willing to provide the best discounts for you," Mr. Powers relayed.

Jasper was not surprised. It was a large investment, one every city in the country needed. Reed City's stance on the matter was rather satisfactory.

"What are the specifics?" Jasper asked.

"The tax payable for your business in Reed City for the first five years would be free for the first two, then for the following three, there'll be a 50% discount. Tax for the next five years after that will also be halved. Tax will only be paid in full after the ten-year mark. In return, Mr. Laine, you are required to employ at least 4,000 local workers," Mr. Powers explained.

"No problem. There's no way I'd look for workers from elsewhere. This is a very logical request," Jasper replied.

The duo's discussion had a great start and Mr. Powers smiled as he continued to speak, "The city government will be in charge of the traffic and road work around

your electronic equipment factory. The city government also promises at least three public transport routes to your factory.

“In the future, should Reed City begin constructing railway lines, the city government promises that your electronics factory will be our first target to consider.”

Jasper nodded expressionlessly. Pointing at Chad, he smiled. “Then comes the most important question. What about his plot of land?”

Mr. Powers’ expression turned stern. He knew that the conversation now involved the main benefit.

The current situation was that Jasper wanted the plot of land for his factory, while the city government also needed Jasper’s 600 to 700 million investment as well as occupational quotas. It was a win-win situation.

However, the issue now was that Marcus and his friends wanted to make Jasper lose money, and Jasper refused to let that happen.

Therefore, Marcus and his friends’ existence was already affecting the city government’s plan and Reed City’s development.

After a quick moment of thought, Mr. Powers clenched his jaw as he thought back to what the higher-ups had told him and he replied, “To be frank with you, Mr. Laine, the city government is on your side. After all, there’s a big problem with Fortune Co., Ltd’s internal system. We’ve actually been investigating them in secret.”

“None of that matters to me. I’m just a businessman, but Marcus seems unwilling to leave me alone. I planned to buy this plot of land with 200 million but because of them, I’m going to end up paying at least 400 to 500 million for it. Does this seem cost-effective to you at all?” Jasper spoke calmly.

In face of Jasper who was unwilling to concede, Mr. Powers felt both frustrated and exasperated. Yet such was the current situation, and finding ways to resolve this was difficult.

Not to mention that Jasper's request was indeed very rational and reasonable. The city government's dignity was on the line if anyone found out about this.

"No matter what happens at the bid today, the city government will only take 200 million from you to transfer the property to your name." Mr. Powers promised on behalf of the city government.

Jasper smiled calmly but was not surprised. Instead, he asked meaningfully, "Would the city government be interested in watching a performance, then?"

At that, Mr. Powers looked confused and shocked.

Life at the Top Chapter 679

"What are they murmuring about?"

Ned asked curiously and glared at Jasper on the other side of the meeting room. He was currently engaged in a conversation with Mr. Powers.

Marcus, who was watching the scene, forced the unease down within him and spoke aggressively, "How would I know?"

"What if they're discussing how to deal with us?" Ned suddenly asked.

Marcus' expression darkened as he growled. "Can you shut up? Why would the city government join forces with Jasper to work against us?"

Ned had a weird look on his face as he spoke. “I refuse to believe that you haven’t heard the rumors, Mr. Coine. The city government this term has already been displeased with us for a very long time. If not for the fact that both our grandfathers are alive, they’d have done something to us long ago.”

“Your grandfather hasn’t been feeling very well lately, right? While the number of people aware of this isn’t a lot, it’s not a few either.”

Marcus’ expression darkened at Ned’s words. “My grandfather is just a little sick. He’ll get better in no time. These people wouldn’t dare to attack me at such a time.”

“That doesn’t mean we don’t need to be careful around them. Look at how close Powers is with Jasper. You can’t expect me to believe that they’re not plotting together,” Ned spoke.

Marcus scoffed. “We’ll deal with it when the time comes. We’ll know if there’s anything going between them once the bid is over. Something is definitely wrong if the city government is unwilling to let us bid, or you’re just overthinking this.”

...

“Without further ado, let’s begin the bidding ceremony. We’ll be using an open-bid method this time and the four companies present are free to call out your prices as you wish. The one with the highest bid owns the land.

“We’ll be bidding on a 1,500-acre plot of industrial land by Brac County. With a starting price of 150 million, every following bid is to have an increment of five million. Please begin.”

The moment Chad finished speaking, the owners of the two other companies that came to join the bidding raised their hands.

They called for 150 million and 160 million respectively.

After that, the two representatives had done their part and now sat at the side to watch the scene unfold.

They were not disappointed. Right after the call for 160 million, Marcus knocked on the table and easily called out, "250 million."

Marcus had increased the price by 90 million in one go, exceeding Jasper and the city government's agreed-upon 200 million.

It was a simple and direct taunt.

Marcus looked at Jasper after calling out the price and snickered. "You're a wealthy man from outside Reed City who has come to invest. Even though we locals only have so much money, it's only right we put up a fight."

Without looking up at all, Jasper called his price calmly.

"600 million."

The room fell silent at such a value.

Even though there were only ten people in the meeting room altogether, clear gasps could still be heard.

"Oh!"

No one had expected Jasper to call out 600 million right off the bat.

This was 600 million, not 600 bucks.

The owners of the two real estate companies gulped.

They suddenly realized that Jasper was not picking a fight with Marcus baselessly. Jasper was a capable man.

If anything, their companies were considered large in Reed City. They were renowned wealthy men in the city as well.

However, taking 600 million out was beyond their abilities—unless they chose to sell everything they owned.

‘But who would sell everything they owned just for an industrial plot of land that cost 600 million?’

‘Only crazy people would do that.’

This spoke volumes of how far beyond their imagination Jasper’s wealth was.

Marcus’ expression darkened.

He knew that Jasper would call a price higher than his, but he had not expected 600 million right at the beginning.

Life at the Top Chapter 680

In comparison to this 600 million, his 250 million seemed like an embarrassing figure now.

He had made a fool of himself.

“F*ck!” Marcus cursed internally.

“Fight him, Mr. Coine! If that brat is so confident, then we’ll make him pay more. I’d like to see how much he can afford.” Ned was a cruel man as he urged beside Marcus.

Marcus nodded and shouted without hesitation, "800 million!"

Another gasp.

This time, everyone's gazes fell on Marcus.

Marcus' unease had now turned into pride.

"What are you being so arrogant about? Do you think you're the only rich one here? As if I'd be afraid to compete with you money-wise," Marcus sneered at Jasper.

Jasper remained calm as a smile appeared at the corner of his lips.

"Is that so? Only the future will tell, then."

Then, Jasper called out stubbornly, unwilling to back down, "900 million."

From 250 million to 600 million and then to 800 million, and now, Jasper had added another 100 million to the cost.

"He's nervous, Mr. Coine." Ned acted as if he was already victorious. "And here I wondered how capable this brat was. Turns out he's just a nobody."

Marcus scoffed. "Very well, then. We'll wring him dry."

"950 million!"

Marcus played well, assuming that Jasper's limit was one billion.

There was no way he would spend so much money for a plot of land, so Marcus decided that he would raise the price to one billion, which was Jasper's limit, before he retreated.

By doing so, Jasper would end up paying 800 million more for a 200 million plot of land.

Marcus was extremely pleased with himself.

Marcus could not help but smile at the thought of Jasper calling out one billion only to realize that Marcus would not be calling out a higher price. Oh, how delightful Jasper's expression would be then!

He looked at Jasper disdainfully and provokingly, thinking that victory was in his hands.

Yet... Jasper ignored him.

Jasper showed no sign of calling for a higher price.

Marcus began to feel frantic.

At that moment, Chad had already been waiting for a while and stated, "950 million from Fortune Co., Ltd, is there anyone willing to pay a higher price? 950 million going once!"

Jasper still showed no sign of calling out.

Marcus' smile slowly vanished.

"950 million going twice. Is there no higher bid?"

Chad's voice sounded again.

Marcus was overwhelmed with the desire to kill Chad. 'Can you f*cking talk slower?!'

However, Jasper still remained num. Marcus could not hold back anymore and turned to Jasper, saying, "What's this? Are you shy, Mr. Laine? Not that big of a deal are you now, seeing as you're shocked by just 950 million?"

In face of Marcus' horrible attempt to provoke him, Jasper merely reached for the coffee cup and took a sip. Under Mr. Powers' stunned gaze, Jasper, who was beside him, spoke calmly, "If you like this plot of land so much, Mr. Powers, then I have no other choice but to give it to you. 950 million, huh? Tsk tsk, what a large amount you're willing to pay. As expected of Reed City's young master."

At that, Marcus' expression changed drastically while Ned paled beside him as well.

"950 million, calling thrice! Sold! Congratulations, Fortune Co., Ltd, the plot of land is now yours."

Following the sound of Chad's gavel, Marcus also felt it hammer onto his heart.

The entire meeting room was in an uproar.