

Life at the Top Chapter 771

Someone like this resembled the standard antagonist depicted in novels.

However, he was a winner in real life.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Todd. I’ve been hearing about you for a long time now,” Jasper smiled and extended his hand.

It was now Todd’s turn to be surprised. “Oh?” He asked.

Jameson, who was standing beside them, had a curious look on his face as well.

“I really enjoy watching movies. I remember that there was a movie that had been shot in your family’s hotel, and you made a cameo in it as well,” Jasper said.

This was a small snippet that not much people knew about even in future years. However, it was something that genuinely existed.

Todd burst out into laughter and said, “Mr. Laine, not many people know about this. However, you are right. I did have a cameo role, but I didn’t expect you to notice it.”

“I’m really observant toward details,” Jasper said jokingly with a shrug.

Todd’s appearance caused complicated emotions to rise up within Jasper.

After all, Todd was considered one of the most prominent figures that Jasper had met after his reincarnation. In the future, he would be someone that had the ability to directly affect global situations.

Nevertheless, Jasper did not pay too much heed this.

Ultimately, Todd's future had nothing much to do with him.

In any case, the most he could do right now was to use this opportunity to get acquainted with him and leave a good impression on him.

That was all that he could do.

Jasper had no intention of participating in the United States' future political arena. One could drown if they walked into deep waters.

As one of the top real estate developers in the United States, Todd's conversation with Jasper attracted the attention of almost all the American guests.

"Mr. Laine, I've heard about what you've gone through as well. I think that Sena is a great investment opportunity," Todd said.

Jasper smiled and replied, "Of course.

"Sena is the first domestic Internet company from Somerland to be listed on the Nasdaq after the Internet bubble burst. Its performance will largely affect the confidence of the other domestic Internet companies within Somerland as well.

"You must know that Somerland has reformed and opened up, therefore its rise was only a matter of time. In light of this, I can confidently say that Sena has great potential, both subjectively and objectively."

"As far as Sena is concerned, it is the first Internet company that has truly achieved profitability instead of having to survive through capital injections from investors.

“Not only does it own Somerland’s top-ranking website portal right now, but it also operates the world’s second-largest online game. For a company like that, I really can’t think of any way it would make a loss.”

Plenty of people showed contemplative expressions after listening to what Jasper had said.

Todd smiled and said, “I believe your vision. Jameson, does Sena have any pre-IPO shares available for purchase?”

“My apologies, Mr. Todd. The pre-IPO shares have all been bought when Mr. Laine was back in Somerland,” Jameson said in a somber tone.

Everyone’s expressions changed immediately.

No matter how good a company was or how favorable it was to the public, it was unlikely for its shares to possess such huge demand before the IPO.

After all, this was a form of investment that was no different from gambling.

However, Sena had managed to sell out their pre-IPO quota a long time ago. The demand for its share seemed to far exceed its supply.

Noticing the regretful look in Todd’s gaze, Jasper chuckled and made a suggestion without thinking twice. “If you’re really interested in purchasing the shares, I can provide you with a special pre-IPO allocation of 10 million US dollars, Mr. Todd,” he said.

To Jasper, this was equivalent to sending money straight to Todd’s doorstep.

However, if he could manage to win Todd’s favor with a mere amount of 10 million US dollars, it would benefit him greatly.

“That would be excellent,” Todd said. His gaze warmed as he stared at Jasper and replied, “I will definitely be there on the day of Sena’s listing.”

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“Let’s toast to the successful listing of Sena tomorrow!”

Jameson was good at creating a celebratory atmosphere. In other words, he was extremely aware about some of the social norms of the upper-class in the United States.

Therefore, his behaviors and actions were all catered to please the people within these circles.

Everyone immediately reciprocated to his cues and prompts.

After all, with Jasper’s solid track record and Todd’s favoritism, most of them now wished to get their hands on some of Sena’s pre-IPO allocation.

Jasper was not stingy about this either.

He generously allocated another 10 million US dollars to each and every person that was present at the banquet.

10 million US dollars was not a small sum of money to Jasper, but he did not have to worry about earning money when he was on Wall Street. This was an important investment to forge more amicable connections.

Although a total quota of 10 million US dollars did not sound like a lot, everyone knew that the share price would spike once Sena got listed. If they invested a

total of a million US dollars right now, it was likely that it would soon rise to 5 or even 8 million US dollars not too long after.

Nobody would reject the opportunity to earn easy money.

These elites of Wall Street, who were close associates of Colossal Investments, showed a high amount of admiration for Jasper due to his sensible way of handling things.

The banquet then officially commenced, at which point everyone sought an opportunity to talk to Jasper. During the entire process, Jasper received a lot of business cards.

His 10 million US dollar investment had started to show its efficacy almost instantly.

Meanwhile, Jack and the others had started mingling around as well. They began making toasts with the elites from Wall Street.

Although these elites did not have much individual power on their own, the widespread effects brought about by their favor toward Sena were clear.

Jack and the others were beyond delighted to get acquainted with these elites.

Besides, Jack had once been a prestigious professional manager from Weresoft. He wouldn't be out of place at a time like this.

In addition to the Wall Street elites that had been invited to this banquet, some senior leaders from Colossal Investments had attended the event as well.

The vice-president and two directors were at the banquet right now.

It was an event that was of a considerable scale.

Everyone treated Jasper with a high degree of friendliness and kindness except for one person.

William.

Standing by the corner, William watched Jasper skillfully weave his way through the crowd with a heavy gaze. He had a stiff expression on his face due to his overwhelming jealousy.

Initially, he had intended to embarrass Jasper. He had even made a pact with a few of the elites whom he was close to, and they had planned to humiliate Jasper when the banquet commenced.

However, Jasper had easily resolved the incident at the entrance. The elites whom he was close to had long forgotten their agreement—they were currently thinking about the benefits that the pre-IPO allocation that they had just received would bring to them in the future.

“F*cking b*stard, what a group of short-sighted country bumpkins!” William cursed under his breath harshly.

“Hey hey hey, come over here.”

Just as William was consumed by infuriation, the voice of a young man rang out.

It had been a long time since someone addressed him with a simple “hey”. William turned around and stared at the man with an icy gaze.

The man had despicable facial features that were characteristic of Somerland, and he seemed to be around Jasper’s age.

William identified this person’s name from the name list of Jasper’s accompanying executives. This man was Henry Law.

He heard that he was from the wealthy second generation in Somerland.

William's lips curved in disdain.

What kind of wealthy second generation could come out from a backward country like Somerland?

He had to be a country bumpkin that did not even know how to drink coffee, but thought that he was a nobleman just because he possessed a small amount of money.

"I'm calling you. Why are you daydreaming?"

Henry frowned in distaste. Were the hotel attendants in New York all so stuck-up? He did not seem to pay their guests any heed although he was clearly calling out to him.

Clad in a business suit, William did not engage in conversation with anyone or eat anything; He simply stood stiffly by the corner. Therefore, Henry had mistaken him as a hotel attendant.

"What is it?" William asked, suppressing the blazing fury within him.

"Go and get me a cocktail. Occasions like these are really boring," Henry said in an idle tone.

William finally got a grasp of the situation at hand. Did Henry Law mistake him for a hotel attendant?

Rage surged through him immediately as he pinned a frigid gaze upon Henry and asked, "Don't you have legs? What do you take me for?"

Henry frowned. He was growing impatient.

“Do you want a tip?” Henry asked. He then pulled out a bill from his pocket and threw it at William. “Sure, today is my brother-in-law’s special day. I’d rather not hold a grudge against you. I’ve given you the tip. Go get me a cocktail at once,” he said.

“...”

William stared at the ten-dollar bill in his hands. He felt like entire being, from his body to his soul, was being greatly humiliated at that moment.

“I’m not a hotel attendant!” William said stonily while gritting his teeth.

“Why are you standing here if you aren’t a hotel attendant?” Henry asked as he stared straight at him with an odd glance. He frowned again. “Do you think that the tip is inadequate?” He asked.

His words caused William to burst out in a fit of anger. He stared at Henry impassively and said, “Take your damn money back, you f*cking Somerland monkey.”

Who was Henry Law?

As one of the top members of the wealthy second generation, others had to thank him for his mercy if he chose to spare them.

William’s indolent attitude already triggered Henry’s temper. If this occasion was not important to Jasper, Henry would have slapped him in the face right there and then.

As soon as William insulted him, an overcast expression formed on Henry’s face.

Henry, who preferred actions over words, picked up a piece of cake from the platter of food on the banquet table and smashed it into William’s face without saying a single word.

William did not expect Henry to spring into action straight away. He was taken aback by swift movements.

Right then, Henry, who was overwhelmed with fury, kicked him right in the stomach.

Although Henry was not a martial arts master like Julian, he was pretty close. He had learnt a few moves from him, and also went to the gym quite frequently. Therefore, it was impossible for William to stand up against him.

William shouted out loud as Henry kicked him. He then fell down and sprawled onto the ground.

The loud ruckus immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Unlike in Somerland, the elites from Wall Street crowded around the scene and started watching them excitedly instead of showing fear or disgust when they caught sight of a physical scuffle.

Jasper made his way over as well.

"What's wrong?" He asked.

Henry grinned widely at Jasper and said, "This idiot called me a Somerland monkey, so I wanted to create some entertainment for your banquet."

Henry thought that Jasper would stop him, but he nodded instead. He glanced at William and said, "Do whatever you want, but don't kill him."

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With Jasper giving him the green light, Henry was instantly elated.

However, seeing as the rest of the guests had also been attracted by the commotion and had surrounded them, there was no way Henry could run over and deliver a few more kicks to William now.

As expected, a Vice President from Colossal Investments' Headquarters soon walked over.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, I believe that there must've been some sort of misunderstanding."

The Vice President smiled wryly. He was infuriated by William's foolish actions, but he had no other choice than to clean up his mess after him.

Others may not know who Henry was, but he sure did.

Thus, he knew that it was going to result in huge trouble the moment William, that imbecile, insulted Henry.

To some degree, the Vice President would much rather William have insulted Jasper instead of Henry.

Jasper looked at the Vice President calmly and spoke in a meaningful tone, "I see. So, the Vice President believes that William's verbal attack and racist remarks to my partner were merely a misunderstanding, correct?"

In the United States, racial discrimination was a huge issue that was broadcasted loudly.

Hence, right after Jasper spoke, the expressions of the black people in the hall, as well as the white Vice President changed.

The black people looked at William distastefully, causing the Vice President to feel the urge to kick William twice more.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, please believe me when I say that Colossal Investments will not allow any racist behavior or opinions. I’m sure Mr. William had accidentally misspoken.”

With that, the Vice President turned to look at William who had cake all over his face and was wearing an embarrassed and painful expression. “What are you waiting for? Apologize now!”

William suppressed the burning anger within him. He did not understand why he had to apologize when he was the one who had gotten hit.

However, under the Vice President’s demanding gaze, William bit his tongue. He knew apologizing was the only way to resolve this issue peacefully.

Apologizing to Henry was fine, he would treat it as an insignificant attack on his dignity.

However, he would much rather die than apologize to Jasper.

Rooted in place, William ignored the burning agony in his abdomen. He felt like a clown, one that everyone was currently laughing at.

All of this was Jasper’s fault!

William blamed Jasper for everything.

Taking a deep breath, William first apologized to Henry with a bow. While the latter sneered, William turned to Jasper.

“My apologies, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper took in William’s pitiful state and spoke calmly, “Now that I think about it, we’re old friends, aren’t we, Mr. William? If memory serves me right, you’ve always had something against me, haven’t you, Mr. William?”

William calmly replied, “Those are personal matters. They have nothing to do with what happened today.”

“Is that so?” Jasper chuckled, “And yet, I’ve heard that you tried to prevent Sena from going public through Colossal Investments, Mr. William.”

When he said this, all the guests’ looked intrigued.

Who would have thought that there was such a story behind today’s incident?

The Vice President’s expression changed as well and he hastily turned to Jasper, “No matter what, Mr. Laine, our partnership is going well now, isn’t it? I have faith that our partnership won’t deteriorate because of such external factors.”

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Jasper chuckled but neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement.

Capitalists were like vampires when it came to earning profits. They could shift from being an enemy to a friend for the sake of making a buck, but they were also just as likely to shift from a friend to become an enemy in the future.

That was why Jasper had kept Colossal Investments at a very specific distance from himself.

Not too far, but not too close either. Not too friendly, but also not too cold.

Essentially, they were both just using each other.

Their relationship was currently in its honeymoon phase, and Jasper wanted to make William's life difficult during this period. However, he made sure not to go too far.

"You're very right, but I do think that Colossal Investments should also reconsider whether some people are suited for their positions within the company or not. Mr. William, for example, should truly be reconsidered, considering our partnership almost ended because of him."

Jasper's words had the Vice President deep in thought as he repeatedly looked over at William.

William's eyes grew red in infuriation. He did not expect Jasper to bring up past incidents during such an event and rat on him in front of the investment company's senior executives.

Seeing how the situation was turning against him, William let go of all his inhibitions and fought back.

"What's the point of saying all this, Jasper? You can say what you want, but it won't change the fact that Celine has taken the blame for you. Do you really think that Sena would be getting listed so easily if not for Celine?"

Jasper replied indifferently, "I think you forgot something very important here. The only reason I came to Colossal was because of my connections with Celine. I believed that both her business prowess and other strengths could help Sena go public as quickly as possible.

"That's why I came to Colossal. Not because of how powerful Colossal was, but because Celine was in Colossal. I could've gone for Merlene or Layman if all I

needed was a company that could sell Sena's shares and help Sena go public on the Nasdaq."

William scoffed. Wiping the cake off his face, he did not hold back at all. "Stop making it sound so professional. Nobody knows if you and Celine have had any secret deals behind our backs."

Jasper's expression immediately grew cold when he heard that.

Integrity was much more important in the financial industry as compared to any other.

Tens of millions passed through the industry's hands every minute, and the moment you were suspected of corruption, it would become a black mark on that person's record forever.

That person could be exceptionally talented, but they would not be valued after they were marked.

From what Jasper could see, William was merely using this chance to defame Celine.

There was no way he would let such a thing happen.

"Celine and my relationship is purely professional, and she has only discussed the partnership with me on behalf of Colossal Investments. Please provide evidence if you claim that there has been any secret deal between the two of us, or I will lodge a complaint to Colossal about your acts of defamation and exercise my right to sue you."

The appropriate solution varied depending on the circumstance. The financial industry was filled with elites, and Jasper could not counter William's verbal garbage with brute force.

Formal complaints and legal proceedings, however, were the perfect solution.

As expected, the guests all nodded at Jasper's determined words.

Even so, William scoffed at the sight of this and replied, "Colossal Investments is currently reviewing Celine. How else would you explain her disappearance over the past few days? It's because she can't come at all! The case is solid. She wouldn't be undergoing investigation if you two hadn't done anything illegal!"

As his words fell, everyone felt an immediate shift in Jasper's aura.

It was as if anger had been brewing under the man's gentle facade the entire time, and it was all exploding now.

"What did you say?!"

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William sneered at the sight of Jasper's stormy expression. "What, are you still pretending not to know anything at all?"

"Stop acting already, there's no way you wouldn't know about Celine being under review. Are you telling me that you haven't realized any abnormalities at all? Or did Celine just not tell you anything?"

Scoffing, William stared at Jasper coldly. He acted as if he had just caught a thief red-handed and was looking down at Jasper with disdain.

"If you had the guts to collude with Celine from the outside, then why don't you have the guts to admit it?"

"Though I have to say, I'm impressed. I'd like to know how you managed to get Celine to be so loyal to you. She values her career more than she values her life, and yet, she's willing to put her entire career on the line for you."

“What a shame, it’s over for her now.”

With that, William sneered at Jasper disdainfully and spoke, “Congratulations to you though, now you’re successful and famous. All the benefits go to you, and you don’t even need to take responsibility for anything.”

Jasper remained calm as he listened to William speak, his mind filling with memories of Celine’s unusual behavior as of late.

While Celine had maintained her shy and peculiar personality as always in front of him, Jasper had long felt that something was off.

Jasper did not think too much back then, for he believed what Celine had told him about her being busy helping Sena go public.

However, now that he heard William’s words, this, coupled with Celine’s unusual behavior, caused a clear idea to appear in Jasper’s mind.

“I need to see Colossal Investment’s President, Mr. Paulson, right now,” Jasper told the Vice President.

He completely ignored William, who was still speaking. That man played an insignificant role in all this, and all Jasper wanted to do now was understand what was happening. Then he would leave it to Celine to decide her fate.

The Vice President looked hesitant and replied, “According to our schedule, you and the President are set to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. I don’t know if the President is free if you wish to change the time so suddenly...”

Jasper ignored his explanation and spoke solemnly, “Mr. Vice President, I hope you understand that this meeting will affect whether Sena will continue to work with Colossal Investments or not.”

The Vice President's expression froze instantly. This was no longer something he could decide, so he quickly replied, "I'll contact the President now and schedule a meeting as soon as possible."

Then he left in a hurry.

Witnessing the scene, William could not help but sneer now that he had let go of all his inhibitions.

"You're telling me you don't know anything at all, Jasper?"

"What a stupid woman Celine is, haha. I can't believe this fool actually managed to fight against me for a couple of years. A miracle, really."

Jasper looked at William coldly. "Celine and I are innocent. You can search and investigate as much as you wish, but you're not going to find anything."

William chortled. "What a pair of partners in crime. That's what Celine said too, but how do you two explain the 20% discount in commission fee Celine gave you, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly. "That's a decision she made with her own authority. Why does anyone have to explain this?"

William scoffed. "Looks like you really don't understand. Allow me to explain, then."