

Life at the Top Chapter 796

The market reacted almost immediately once they knew of Sena's statement.

Sena's share prices had another burst once the statement was released and stabilized at 110 US dollars. It was likely for it to keep rising and its trend was steep!

At the same time, in the president's office of Nasdaq Exchange Center.

Franklin and Paulson were chatting. The duo had yet to find out about Sena's statement, so they did not realize that Sena's share prices had suddenly spiked.

Paulson still did not believe that Sena would surpass 120 US dollars per share, for the dot-com industry's economy had yet to recover after its bubble popped. To exceed such a price was an impossible feat!

"You've been sitting here all day, old friend. It seems like Sena's share prices really won't be able to exceed 120 US dollars as you predicted."

As the president of Nasdaq Exchange Center, Franklin had seen way too many hyped or insignificant shares go public and privatize.

Franklin had more experience in share securities than Paulson and perhaps even more authority when it came to theory, or he could not have assumed the position as president of one of the world's six biggest exchange centers.

Paulson smiled softly and pointed at his brain. "That's because I have a fundamental understanding of the financial market and dot-com industry as a whole."

“I agree that Sena is an outstanding company, and if it had gone public before the dot-com bubble popped, I’m sure a company with its results can easily amount to 180 US dollars. But the industry is no longer the same.

“The limits of its share prices isn’t the business, but the market’s ceiling.”

Franklin sighed regretfully. “I agree. As you said, the market’s environment is what’s limiting it. It’s a shame, considering how boundless Sena’s potential is as an enterprise.”

Paulson laughed aloud and spoke, “Let this be a lesson taught to the young Somer businessman. He’s an extraordinary man, but he has yet to see through Wall Street’s financial market. In many cases, a company’s determined share price is hardly a representation of the enterprise’s results and future.

“There’s nothing wrong with a few more obstacles for the youths.

“There’s still another hour before its first transactional day ends. Will you truly fire Celine if Sena doesn’t manage to exceed 120 US dollars? You should know that doing so would create a rift between you and this Somer businessman. Your relationship would take a horrible turn,” Franklin spoke.

Paulson shrugged. “The world needs the United States and the United States needs Wall Street. As the largest investment bank in the world, the last thing Colossal lacks are partnerships. I’m sure he’ll know what to do if he’s a qualified businessman.

“Perhaps he’s already considering admitting his loss to me.

“As for Celine, she’s indeed the daughter of an old friend of mine. I won’t fire her because of this, but I will have to teach her a lesson.

“I need them to know that many things in this world aren’t in their control. After all, there are still people like us who are more experienced and more authorized. We can’t possibly let them get away being so full of themselves.”

Paulson had just finished speaking when someone hastily knocked on the door.

“Come in,” Franklin spoke calmly.

Jameson entered the room quickly and greeted the two old men, “Hello, President Paulson, Mr. Franklin.”

Seeing his own subordinate enter the room, Paulson frowned slightly and asked, “I thought you were supposed to be by Jasper’s side, Jameson? What are you doing here?”

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Jameson reported with a strange expression on his face, “President Paulson, I just received reliable news that Sena has given an official statement about preparing to repurchase 300 million Somer Dollars worth of Sena’s shares. They claim that it’s to ensure the interests of their shareholders.”

Paulson gasped at that. “What?!”

Even Franklin was stunned.

Jameson quickly continued, “The news caught us off guard and Jasper didn’t tell us anything before he made the decision... Perhaps he did tell the general manager of the Terra regional branch, Celine, but she did not report it to us.”

“He has the right to make any decisions he wants when it comes to Sena. After all, Colossal Investments are just providing service and a partnership. You aren’t Jasper’s superior, so there’s no need for him to report everything to you.”

Franklin looked at Paulson intently and smiled. “Looks like you miscalculated today, old friend.”

“This little Easterner brat. Where’s all this bravery coming from? Does he not fear that doing so will induce panic and cause the upward trend to crash?”

Paulson spoke angrily, feeling humiliated. Then, he opened the computer and pulled out Sena’s share chart.

Franklin came over to take a look as well. After taking a glance, he laughed aloud. “Looks like the Goddess of Luck is standing in the east today.”

Sena’s share price was at a whopping 121 US dollars.

From the trade volume, it seemed that the upward trend was still going strong and would not stop even when the trading day came to an end.

“This little brat!” Paulson spat out the words with his jaw set, only to suddenly break into laughter.

Paulson turned to Franklin as he laughed and spoke, “How long has it been since we last saw someone like this? The last person who dared make such a thrilling move must’ve been Winston Benett, that old fella.”

Franklin nodded in deep agreement. “To some degree, those two are the same kind of people.

“They take risks that the world believes to be unnecessary, only for them to receive a reward that greatly outweighs their risks. Not to mention that they know the moment they make their decisions that they’ll win.”

Franklin sighed in awe, slightly saddened about the end of a hero’s era but relieved to know that a new hero had arisen to take their place. “The world does indeed belong to the youths. Perhaps we’re really growing old.”

Paulson looked at Sena’s share prices quietly and closed his eyes. He began to think back on Jasper’s actions since Sena went public.

First was the advertisement and paving of the path for the shares before Sena went public. This was so all investors in the United States knew that this was a very outstanding share that had broken many of the dot-com industry's records.

Thanks to that, Sena's share prices then doubled from its issued price in a very short amount of time after going public.

Following that was William troubling him, but instead of panicking, Jasper countered it with his own contacts.

This caused the first surge in prices.

Then came Winston Benett's tacit help, leading to the second surge.

However, this current move of Sena releasing its statement was one of extreme determination and ambition. This move truly proved how intelligent Jasper was and Paulson could not help but be impressed.

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The analog clock ticked slowly on the display until the second hand finally rested on the number 12.

It was currently 3:30 p.m. in New York and Nasdaq Exchange was officially over for the day.

Following the end of the trading day, a loud cheer resonated throughout the exchange center.

A red flag with five stars on it appeared on the electronic display again, and below it were Nasdaq Exchange Center's and Sena's logos.

Everyone was cheering about the miracle they had seen today.

They had watched as Sena's share leaped from its issued price of 25 US dollars and grew almost five times in just six hours to 122 US dollars when the market closed!

At this moment, the host of the financial radio channel spoke excitedly, "You heard it right, Somerland's Sena has once again made history. Reality has proven to every one of us that as long as you are capable enough, you can create true miracles here in the United States!

"The share has grown five times its price in just one day. This means that thousands of people have become millionaires and more thanks to Sena's shares in just six hours!

"According to the latest news and a reliable source, eight people from Sena's managerial ranks have net worths of a few millions, four are worth a few tens of millions, and one is worth hundreds of millions thanks to such phenomenal success!

"This is a great moment for Nasdaq and Sena! Sena has proven to us today that despite enduring a pop in the dot-com bubble, the industry is still filled with potential and it's still a viable direction for the world to further develop. Perhaps all of us could ask ourselves if we've been looking at the dot-com industry with a biased gaze."

Jasper could not hear the host's intonated speech anymore for he was currently surrounded by Jack and the rest.

If everyone was not restraining themselves, they would be throwing Jasper into the air to celebrate by now.

"Have fun relaxing in New York for the next couple of days, everyone. Understand the charm of this international financial center."

Jasper spoke with a smile to the group of people who had gazes filled with excitement and admiration.

At that moment, it was as if Jasper was glowing.

The man shone brighter than anyone, and a simple small smile from the man was so charismatic that it could leave people feeling intoxicated.

“All your expenses will be paid by the company, except for shopping. After all, you guys have just made a lot of money.”

Jasper’s joke pushed the atmosphere to its climax.

Meanwhile, Henry was long gone.

The man was shaking vigorously from excitement upon realizing that he had earned 50 million from this. He immediately went to contact an aircraft manufacturer and decided to spend his money on buying a private plane.

Celine took a step back from the crowd and watched quietly as the group of elites were in a frenzy. These men in suits all resembled excited little children who had just gotten an award.

At this moment, the deepest feelings of a person were exposed out in the open.

Yet no one would mock them. If anything, there was only envy.

As the harbinger of this all, Jasper was surrounded by people but there was no sign of any excitement on his face at all. The man was still very much composed.

He stood there with a charming and confident smile on his face as always. It almost seemed like nothing could shake him out of his calm state of mind.

Celine really wanted to open Jasper's brain up sometimes, just so she could take a look at what he was hiding inside. 'How is he so calm no matter what happens?

'It's almost as if nothing in the world is worth his excitement.

'Or perhaps... he has a different goal in mind?'

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The possibility suddenly came to Celine.

For ordinary people, or perhaps for Sena's senior executives who were already at the peak of their careers, this achievement was tantamount to great success.

Yet to Jasper, this might just be one small step toward his final goal.

If that was the case, then it made sense why the man was barely excited at all. He still had a long road ahead of him; his future was somewhere much higher and much further.

"What are you thinking about?"

Jasper's words suddenly snapped Celine back from her wayward thoughts.

Upon returning to reality, Celine saw Jasper's smile right in front of her.

"You," Celine teased Jasper instinctively.

"I thought as much," Jasper replied, and it was obvious he was in a good mood.

The two shared a look before they broke out into laughter.

“Come on, let’s go look for your superior, Paulson,” Jasper spoke.

Celine knew what Jasper wanted to do, but she showed no fear at all and immediately followed Jasper to the exchange center’s elevator. She knew that Paulson had stayed in Franklin’s office the entire day in the exchange center instead of returning to Colossal.”

“Hey, how much did you earn today?” Celine asked nosily when they got in the elevator.

While everyone was calculating their profits, Jasper had also done some rough calculations in his mind.

Sena had risen from 25 US dollars to the current 122 US dollars, which meant profit was five times whatever he initially put in.

According to the rise in price today, Jasper then calculated his profit according to his percentage of shares. The amount came up to an overall profit of around six billion Somer Dollars.

Considering how much it had cost him to acquire Sena back then, he had made big profits today.

However, there was no way Jasper could liquidize all his shares, for Sena was currently his golden goose. For a man who was not even willing to let go of his full authority, Jasper was definitely not going to sell the company.

As such, this six billion was merely an income in his book of accounts. If Jasper did not want his control over Sena to waiver, he most likely would only be able to liquidize around two billion.

He had already invested five billion in the skyscraper’s construction, so it would not be too much of an issue to support operations in all his companies with a reserve fund of two billion.

Not to mention that the electronics company was making a daily net profit of one million and Elbert's team was currently researching how to manufacture an even cheaper MP4.

The MP4 was now being sold in other countries and had a rich product lining. According to Jasper's conservative estimation, he was making a daily profit of at least three million.

Coupled with United Legends, another cash cow, JW Capital and its subsidiaries should be able to operate self-sufficiently.

Jasper had indeed reaped many rewards from Sena going public. The problem of his tight cash flow had been resolved and most importantly, he had opened the doors to doing business in Wall Street.

As to what Jasper wanted to do with that, well, he would decide when the time came.

"Probably a small profit of a few billion," Jasper spoke with a beam.

"Sena's market price has exceeded tens of billions of Somer Dollars. It's one of the largest enterprises in Somerland, part of the Ten Billion Club. Companies like Sena are considered huge even over here in the west and I'm sure you, as the founder, have earned much more than just profits that could be written in your books of accounts." Celine was a professional for a reason and managed to identify the true benefit of it all.

Jasper looked at the president's office in front of them and spoke calmly, "We've arrived. We can talk about that later."

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This was the second time Jasper saw Franklin and Paulson in Nasdaq Exchange Center.

The two of them reacted to his arrival very differently.

Franklin's gaze was filled with curiosity and admiration, while Paulson had a tense and expressionless look on his face.

"President Paulson, it seems like I've won our bet."

Jasper went straight to the point as he was not in the mood to deal with Paulson's temper and the fact that the man thought he was better because he was older and more experienced.

Paulson nodded. "Correct. Sena's share price is valued at 122 US dollars currently, so you've indeed won."

"And our agreement?" Jasper asked.

"I'll keep my end of the promise. I'll hold a meeting with the board of directors tomorrow and fully support Celine in assuming the position of the president of the Terra regional branch, as well as cancel all reviews on her," Paulson replied curtly.

Jasper was very pleased.

Meanwhile, Celine, who was standing beside them, was stunned.

She knew of Jasper and Paulson's bet, but she had no idea that Jasper's condition was her promotion.

President of the Terra regional branch. This was a position she had worked hard for years but could never assume, yet this man had so quietly dealt with it for her!

Celine felt a strong urge as she glanced at Jasper who was beside her.

She wanted to rush over and just pounce on the man!

The urge was tremendous despite it only just appearing and it was almost impossible to suppress.

Celine flushed and her eyes grew moist, almost as though tears were about to fall.

Jasper paid no attention to the change in Celine's expression.

"Laine, I have to admit that I've underestimated you," Paulson suddenly said.

Jasper smiled softly and replied unaffectedly, "You have your own views, President Paulson, just as I have my own beliefs. No one in this world, including the two of us, can claim that our decision will definitely be the right one. All we can do is try our best to make fewer mistakes and make better decisions."

A smile finally graced Paulson's features as he spoke, "The more I talk to you, Laine, the more I admire you. To be honest, I don't feel as though I'm talking to a young man in his early 20s when I talk to you. You're experienced and mature. I can't help but feel like I'm talking to a friend."

"It's my pleasure," Jasper replied, neither overly humble nor arrogant.

Paulson smiled and continued, "To be honest, I've been thinking about it... If possible, I'd like to invest in your company."

Jasper frowned slightly but still chuckled. “Sena is already a company listed on Nasdaq. You’re welcome to invest in us any time, President Paulson.”

Seeing how Jasper was deliberately acting clueless, Paulson cursed internally at the man’s craftiness.

He decided to ask directly, “I mean I hope to invest in your other companies.

“You should know that Colossal Investments is currently the largest investment bank in the industry. We wish to partner with every promising company and I can promise that no matter how many shares we own, Colossal will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of your business.”

Jasper sighed internally at Paulson’s proposal.

As expected, the issue that concerned him the most ended up happening anyway.

With his outstanding capabilities and the fact that his subsidiaries were growing larger and stronger, it was only natural that they would attract attention from other capitalists.

In truth, Colossal’s investment was something more than 90% of the world’s start-up companies wished for.

After all, such an investment would give the company a surge in cash flow in a short amount of time, and it could also rapidly increase the company’s competitive ability thanks to its relationship with Colossal Investments.

For example, if Colossal Investments was one of Sena’s shareholders, Sena could easily enter the United States share market and gain market share of the web portal and gaming markets.

However, Jasper did not want these things.

With the memory of the following 19 years, Jasper was not afraid that he would be unable to enter the market. He knew better than everyone where the world's future was headed.

“Sorry, but Celine has suggested something similar to me before and my response hasn't changed. I don't plan to accept any investments.”

Paulson did not look too happy about Jasper's direct rejection.

He felt that Jasper was not respecting him at all by putting him in a difficult spot.

“Won't you consider it again?” Paulson asked persistently.

Jasper shook his head firmly and replied, “Perhaps Colossal and I could have future partnerships, but it certainly won't be now and it definitely won't be through investing in one of my companies.”

The atmosphere in the office thickened, and the office fell into silence.

Franklin watched quietly and mirthfully like an old witty fox.

Celine did not say anything either and merely looked at Jasper with admiration. ‘He's too manly.

‘He's so different from the average man.

‘What do I do? The urge to pounce and eat him alive is growing stronger. I don't think I can hold it back any longer.’

Paulson looked at the man before him silently. Jasper's jet black hair, warm skin tone, and dark brown eyes—all of this made Paulson think that Jasper was different from the other people he had been in contact with before.

For example, no one had ever rejected him so unyieldingly... Or at least, others had always done it indirectly to preserve his dignity. Yet Jasper did not.

Jasper seemed to be stating his firm stance resolutely, that he would not allow anyone to meddle with his company.

Paulson was now faced with a choice, either to be Jasper's friend or his enemy.

With Paulson's status and temper, the latter was something he did not even need to consider.

After all, no matter how outstanding Jasper was, he was still too weak and too young in comparison to Colossal.

This was something Jasper knew very well.

That did not mean he was afraid.

Ownership and complete control over his properties were Jasper's bottom line. If he could not keep that, then there was no point in his reincarnation at all.

The stronger the force in front of him, the more he could not give in.

If he gave in once, then the other party would only force him to give in again and again until there was nothing left of him.

After some time, Paulson suddenly smiled.

He reached out and took the initiative to shake Jasper's hand. "Capital is free, as is a person's desires. While it is a shame, I respect your decision and will protect your right to make a free choice. I hope we'll still have a chance for further partnership in the future."

The atmosphere in the office loosened with Paulson's smile and words.

The smile hanging on the corner of Franklin's lips grew as well.

He knew that this witty and young Easterner had won again. He had forced his old friend to compromise after so many years.

Jasper smiled as well as he reached out to firmly shake Paulson's hand. "I'm sure we'll have the chance."