

# Life at the Top Chapter 876

Fireworks shot into the sky once the ribbon was cut. The night lit up, and everyone applauded in celebration.

Jasper was in a great mood.

After all, the Southface River project was the first big project he had completed since he had arrived at Nauritus City.

As that moment, with the exception of the skyscraper in Waterhoof City, the Southface River project was the biggest, most expensive, and most effective real estate project in the province.

Jasper was very pleased now that all his hard work had borne fruit, and everything had ended well.

Walking off the stage, Jasper bumped into Lance, who had an elated expression on his face.

“How’s the situation today, Lance?”

As the new General Manager of the real estate company after Sean was promoted, Lance was only in charge of one thing today, and that was to sign contracts with clients who showed interest in shop or building lots in the Southface River project.

“It went very well, Mr. Laine! We’ve signed around 500 million worth of contracts today, with 300 million worth of contracts of intent that we’ll be able to solidify after following up on them later. 70% of the properties in the project have already been rented out as well.

“Things were especially busy when it came to the few promotional living districts we completed. The sales were downright terrifying today, and someone managed to buy almost all of them. The houses in those districts have already been sold out.”

Jasper nodded in satisfaction and replied, “Not bad. We’ll be able to sell them all at this pace.”

“Remember, we can sell residential properties, but when it comes to shops and commercial buildings, those can only be leased out. If you don’t know how to handle some of them, then turn to Sean, alright?”

Lance nodded. “Alright, Mr. Laine. I actually came to look for you because I wanted to report something else as well, something that I don’t think Mr. Tucker will be able to handle himself.”

“What is it?”

Jasper brought Lance backstage. Jasper made small talk with people on the way there as everyone greeted him, regardless of whether they knew him or not. Jasper replied to every single one of these individuals with a smile and a nod.

“Mr. Kayden’s assistant came to me with the intention of buying the three commercial buildings on the left of the Southface River Tower, beside the river.”

“These three buildings are high-quality and represent the primary assets in this project. They’re also the most valuable pieces of property after the tower itself. However, Mr. Kayden asked for them, and I didn’t dare make a decision, so I came to ask you instead, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper smiled and replied, “And here I was worried about what was wrong. If he wants it, then sell it to him!”

“But remember to give him a run for his money. The Langdon family is very rich, and the father-son duo are rumored to be able to buy out half of Harbor City. After all, that’s why they’re called Half-the-Harbor Langdons.”

“The fact that he wants to buy into the Southface River projects means that he’s acknowledged the value of the property. There’s no reason for us to keep all the benefits to ourselves—it’s only fair that we share. Having said that, it doesn’t mean we can’t wring his wallet a little.

“Price is no obstacle for people like him when it comes to something they’re interested in, understand?”

After hearing Jasper say this, Lance nodded in enlightenment and chuckled, “You’re so smart, Mr. Laine. I know what to do now.”

“Stop your flattery.”

Jasper chided with a smile. Seeing Ted, the man in charge of Easy Media, jog over, he continued, “Alright then, go ahead.”

After Lance left. Ted stopped before Jasper with a large smile on his face. “So, Mr. Laine, how’s the Gala tonight?”

Jasper nodded. “Not bad.”

Seeing Ted’s prideful expression, Jasper had no choice but to rain on his parade, “The fireworks show was a rip-off of Advent Entertainment Group’s idea during the Olympic Banquet in Swallow Capital. Can’t you guys come up with something new?”

Ted smiled awkwardly and spoke, “We were short on time and we didn’t have that many good ideas...”

“So, why did you seek me out? I still have a bunch of other people to entertain. Tell me quickly so I can deal with it now,” Jasper said this as he entered a small room and took off his suit jacket in exchange for a looser top.

Ted went straight to the point and replied, “Mr. Laine, do you still remember the woman who goes by the name Scarlet Yates?”

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Jasper thought back to the pretty actress he had met when he first took over Michael’s Gladness Movies before it became Advent Entertainment Group.

‘She’s looking for me through Ted?’

‘Does she want fame?’

‘More resources?’

These were nothing new in the entertainment industry.

Jasper furrowed his brows as this was not good news.

“I do.” Jasper nodded.

Ted was a smart man, and from the slight change in Jasper’s face, he could tell that Jasper was unhappy about this. Ted’s eyes shifted as he silently regretted agreeing to help Scarlet and began thinking about how best to frame the issue.

“Just tell me, what is it?” Jasper looked at Ted and sighed.

Ted smiled wryly and replied, “It’s just that Scarlet came to look for me because she wanted to introduce a friend to you, Mr. Laine. It’s the talented Stephen Cole. You’ve heard of him right, Mr. Laine?”

‘Stephen Cole?’

It was rare for people not to recognize this top-notch master of comedy.

At the height of his career, it was said that every citizen owed that man a movie ticket since they were all pirating it online instead of watching it in cinemas.

Jasper liked Stephen Cole’s movies as well, but he could not fanboy over celebrities considering his current status. Not to mention, he was well aware that celebrities were often completely different on and off-screen.

Stephen Cole, for example, was a hilarious man in his movies, yet he was a stern and unsmiling man in private.

‘Don’t believe me?’

‘Yet that was the truth.’

‘In any case, what is Scarlet trying to do by introducing Stephen Cole to me?’

“I’ve heard of him. Bring him over quickly if she wants to introduce him, then. I have around fifteen minutes.” Jasper gave it some thought and decided that he would give this master of comedy some of his time.

After all, he had watched quite a few of Stephen Cole’s movies in both his past and present life, and, to put it kindly, he had never done watched him in a cinema.

Not to mention, this man was sort of like Jasper’s idol in his past life, and Jasper was curious about him.

There was no harm in meeting the man.

Ted joyfully acknowledged Jasper's agreement and quickly jogged out.

In no time at all, Ted managed to find Scarlet and Stephen, who were waiting anxiously in another room.

"How'd it go, Mr. Swanson?"

Scarlet asked excitedly as Ted entered through the door.

While she had seen Jasper before, Scarlet knew that her seemingly high status, countless fans, and plethora of suitors, were nothing as compared to Jasper, who was stood at the peak of the business world.

Celebrities were nothing more than playthings for bigshots like him.

Therefore, Scarlet was not confident about meeting him for the first time.

Despite this, Ted chuckled and replied, "Don't worry, there's nothing I can't do once I give you my word. Mr. Laine's agreed to meet you two, but he's busy and can only spare fifteen minutes. So come with me quickly."

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Ted spoke to Scarlet as he walked ahead, "Don't forget what you promised me either. Please introduce my artists to others in the industry so they can advance their careers."

"Of course, Mr. Swanson. Don't worry, I'll definitely do so," Scarlet whispered.

She turned to look at Stephen, who seemed rather nervous, and comforted him, “Mr. Laine agreed to meet us, which means we’re already halfway there. Don’t worry too much about it.”

Stephen forced a smile and replied, “Yeah, I hope so. Thank you.”

“We’re friends, aren’t we?” Scarlet smiled brightly.

Stephen felt his heart skip a beat at Scarlet’s beautiful smile.

There had been countless people surrounding him, calling him Steph and buddy, back when he was famous. Yet, they had all run away now that he needed help. The only one willing to forgo her image to help him was Scarlet, who he did not even talk to much.

This was a favor he would never forget.

Shortly after, Ted brought the two before Jasper.

“Mr. Laine,” Scarlet greeted cautiously.

“Hello, Mr. Laine,” Stephen greeted as well.

“Hi.” Jasper smiled and nodded. His gaze fell on Stephen first. It was a rather interesting feeling to see someone he was so familiar with in films appear before him in real life whilst acting so courteous.

In all honesty, this did wonders for his ego.

“Well, you can probably already tell that I’m a bit busy today. I don’t have much time—maybe around fifteen minutes? So let’s talk as we walk and try to be as concise as possible. Is that okay?” Jasper suggested.

Scarlet looked at Stephen.

Stephen hastily replied, "Of course, Mr. Laine. We won't waste your time."

Jasper walked toward the door as Ted quickly ran over to open the door for him like an attendant. This was hardly befitting of the president of the largest entertainment company in half of the Mainlands, but he seemed rather happy and proud to do it.

Jasper walked out first, with Scarlet following half a step behind. Stephen stood on his right as they walked.

"It's like this, Mr. Laine. I wanted to meet you, and Scar helped because I was hoping that you could invest in my company, Mr. Laine."

Stephen's first sentence told Jasper a lot.

Scar.

Invest.

Jasper remembered how some rumors surrounding Stephen and Scar had surfaced back when the two had filmed *A Somer Odyssey* in his past life. Jasper was still a normal civilian then, so he did not know whether the rumors were true, nor did he have any understanding of the lives of such high-class celebrities.

Jasper also remembered that Stephen had opened his own film company in the year 2000. However, while the films involving Stephen himself made plenty of money, the company as a whole ended up making terrible losses the first two years.

Unfortunately, there was no way a film company could survive from the revenue of just one person.

Thus, Stephen found himself in a very troublesome financial crisis back then.



This was further worsened by the fact that Stephen did not have many friends in the entertainment industry, which placed him in a difficult position. This had also been one of the reasons why Stephen had become more withdrawn.

However, after a few more years of financial difficulty, Stephen's film company began to find its footing again after the release of blockbusters like *Monastery Soccer* and *JC7*. While these films did not make immense profits, they still brought in quite a bit of revenue.

"I heard that you recently opened a film company, but it's not going very well for you," Jasper spoke.

Stephen nodded and admitted curtly, "You're right. The company is barely making ends meet."

"I've produced a few films, but they all ended up losing money. I couldn't even earn back a tenth of what making the films cost me, and I'm surviving purely on my own savings. I even got a loan from the bank with my home as collateral, but I don't know how long that'll last me."

"Why didn't you ask other entertainment companies in Harbor City to invest in yours? Why run all the way here to ask me?" Jasper asked with a smile.

As they spoke, the group of people made their way out the room and to the backstage area. More than half the people present were celebrities changing their attire before they got on stage to perform. In a space like that, one would bump shoulders with a celebrity or manager and every turn.

All the celebrities recognized Jasper as he walked over, and they all wanted to approach him.

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Some were celebrities from Harbor City, and their expressions turned curious when they saw Jasper and Stephen talking.

The entire Harbor City entertainment industry knew of Stephen's situation, but no one had expected him to ask Jasper for help.

"Frankly speaking, I've sought them out before. Most of them just rejected me on the spot in hopes that I would star in their films instead. But I want to make my own films," Stephen spoke sincerely.

"How much do you want?" Jasper asked.

"Huh?"

The question caught Stephen off guard and he was stunned speechless. He looked at Jasper in confusion.

Jasper repeated himself, "You wanted my investment, did you not? How much?"

"I... I'll need at least 10 million US Dollars, but I can give you half of my company's shares in return," Stephen mustered the courage to speak.

"Deal."

That single word shocked both Scarlet and Ted, let alone Stephen.

'Is this how rich people acted nowadays?

'They'll drop 10 million US Dollars the way ordinary people spend 1 buck?'

“Let’s do it this way. Ted, you’ll be in charge of this transaction. Easy Media will pay the money and the shares will fall under Easy Media.

“Stephen’s company will be Easy Media’s first foothold in Harbor City’s film industry to test the waters. However, keep the priority on the Mainland’s film industry. After all, the Mainland’s the bigger market—Harbor City’s is too small.” Jasper turned to Ted.

“Alright, Mr. Laine,” Ted quickly nodded.

He knew that Jasper was giving him a chance.

“Alright, then you’ll be in contact with Ted from now on,” Jasper shook Stephen’s hand and said with a smile.

“Thank you, Mr. Laine. But I have to ask Mr. Laine, aren’t you going to review my company first? What if I’m... scamming you?” Stephen asked unable to hide the curiosity bubbling within him.

He had not hoped to get anything out of a fifteen-minute talk, much less expect a deal to be completed in less than five minutes.

All that had transpired was a quick conversation with Stephen answering a handful of Jasper’s question. Yet, that was all it took to receive a 10 million US Dollar investment. Stephen wondered if this was reality or if he was merely dreaming.

“You wouldn’t.” Jasper smiled meaningfully.

“Nor do you dare.”

Stephen understood. ‘Indeed, who didn’t know about Jasper in Harbor City?’

‘So what if Jasper was a Mainlander? No one in Harbor City dared to claim that they could afford offending Jasper.

‘One would first have to look toward the Law family name and determine if they were strong enough to overpower them.’

‘Even the entertainment industry that is very discriminative to Mainlanders has no choice but to accept the new reality in Jasper entering the industry and taking a large portion of the market share. In a world like this, what can small fries like us even hope to achieve?’

“Alright, I’ll have to get going now. Please enjoy yourselves,” Jasper spoke.

He turned and coincidentally came face to face with a few celebrities from Harbor City, including A-line superstars like Superstars Kong and Lynch.

“Hello, Mr. Laine.”

Superstars stood on both sides of the aisle as they greeted him politely.

“Hello,” Jasper returned the greeting with a smile.

“Now that’s how a successful man looks,” Scarlet murmured as she stared at Jasper’s glowing figure.

“Yeah. How can an ordinary person compare with that?” Stephen smiled wryly.

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Scarlet felt rather disappointed, for she thought that Jasper would speak to her more. She had not expected that their interaction to be limited to a brief greeting

at the very start, as the man seemed to have forgotten her existence altogether just a moment later.

“Oh, right.” Jasper suddenly turned around after walking quite a distance away.

“There’s another gala tonight. Scarlet, would you be interested in coming with me as my plus one?”

When he said this, the large group of superstars and A-line celebrities all looked at Scarlet enviously.

There was indeed a ceremonial banquet happening that night, and only top-notch bigshots like the Law family would be attending. This was the type of banquet that the celebrities could only dream of joining.

While some famous celebrities had already received an invitation, it was very different going by themselves, and going as Jasper’s companion.

A few specific female celebrities set their sights on Scarlet, their gazes boring a hole into her.

“Yes, of course!”

Scarlet was temporarily stunned, feeling as if she had just won the lottery, but replied ecstatically.

“Alright, I’ll have someone pick you up later, then.” Jasper smiled and left coolly.

After he left, all the celebrities, famous and not, came over to them. A small portion of them wanted to know what Stephen and Jasper had been talking about, while the majority stepped forward to make friends with Scarlet.

This was the charm of power and wealth.

Scarlet felt her mind blur as celebrities much more famous than her who would never have previously given her the time of day now surrounded her. One single thought surfaced in her mind.

'It must be nice being rich and powerful.'

...

Thanks to the press, the already-famous project now became a household name. Following that, the ceremonial banquet involving most of Harbor City's and the Mainland's rich and famous only further spread the name of the Southface River.

More than half of the South were now aware of this place known as the Southface River.

They also came to know of a company that went by the name JW Real Estates.

Under the gaze of countless pairs of eyes, the topping-out ceremony finally came to an end.

More than sixteen television stations had come to cover it, and both Nauritus Television and Southeast Television had live-streamed the entire event. Twenty-three newspaper representatives had also come to the scene to get some questions in during the Q&A session.

Thus, a series of powerful publicity was in place to roll out that night as they planned to spread the news all over the country.

This was a decision Jasper had made with Dawson.

If JW Real Estates wanted to make a name for itself throughout the nation in the shortest possible time, then it had to have a signature project. The Southface River project was their only choice.

The Southface River project managed to meet two key criteria at once, in that it was a good fit for the country's current economical climate, and was also the type of development that modern society currently desired. Thus, it met those needs at precisely the right time and place.

Jasper had to use this project to publicize JW Real Estates, for the next opportunity would be the topping-out ceremony for the skyscraper in Waterhoof City. This would take at least another year.

Jasper could not afford to wait, as the real estate industry was beginning to develop and he did not have much time.

Wendy and Dawson were exhausted, for the two had essentially been ensuring that the ceremony ran smoothly the entire time.

Jasper, on the other hand, had been lazy as he spoke to Zachary for a few hours and then chatted a bit when the senior officials from the city and provincial government had arrived.

After the ceremony was complete, the banquet began. The father-daughter duo was exhausted so they decided to head back first, no longer bothering to entertain the guests.

Jasper was now left to host the entire event by himself.

The banquet was held in the newly constructed hotel in the Southface River Center. It had a huge banquet hall, and could easily fit hundreds of people.

With Jasper's individual attention, the banquet turned out to be extremely classy.

They got the most experienced servers from Nauritus City's largest five-star Hilton Hotel while even the team of chefs was the best that the Southeast Province had to offer.

Expenses for this alone had cost Jasper at least seven figures.

