

# Life at the Top Chapter 1056

The three members of the council looked at each other. No one knew what happened.

There were bucketloads of stories about Jasper and their chamber of commerce and there were only stories of grudge and no grace.

They thought this meeting would be a collision that was as huge as a meteor crash. However, they did not think that the president would get cold feet before the meeting even started.

Not only that, but Jasper also had a modest and amiable look on his face. It seemed that he wanted to dispel bygone enmity.

Everyone in the room was experienced in the business world and none of them exposed their thoughts easily. So, everyone planned to wait and see.

“Since everyone’s here, let’s start the meeting,” Norman said with a calm look on his face.

After he said that, Norman realized something awkward.

Jasper was sitting on the seat of honor and only the person with the highest position would be sitting in that seat during meetings.

Normally, Norman would be sitting there.

However, Jasper sat down directly and left him at one side.

This made Norman feel extremely awkward.

“Mr. Laine, you’re in the wrong seat.”

One of the members of the council was Norman’s die-hard supporter. After confirming that Jasper would be representing Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch to attend the Asset Forum Conference, he communicated with Norman, so he said this bluntly.

“Oh? Where should I sit then?” Jasper asked.

“You’re just the vice president and you dare to sit in the seat of honor? Get down and sit in the seat below that,” this member of the council said boldly and confidently.

“You’re young so I remind you out of kindness. This is a very solemn and proper setting, not those unregistered companies that you’re operating illegally without following the rules.

“Maybe you can sit wherever you want over there but don’t be confused with your identity and position over here. You’ll suffer a disadvantage if you do.”

This member of the council was pleased with himself because he felt that he found a perfect excuse to embarrass Jasper.

After berating Jasper, he saw Jasper looking at him with a half-smile on his face. He could not contain this anymore.

“Why are you looking at me like that? Am I wrong?”

“You’re right.”

Jasper said insipidly, “You said you’ll make me clear of my identity and position, and I did. I am the vice president and you’re just a member of the council. So even if I get a group of people to lie down and go to sleep in this meeting room, aside from Mr. Gardner, do you think you have the qualification to question me?”

“So, am I the one who’s not clear of my identity and status, or are you the one who’s not clear of yours?”

That member of the council’s face flushed immediately after hearing what Jasper said. He looked at Jasper in anger and said sinisterly, “What do you mean by that?”

“Literally,” Jasper said unenthusiastically.

“Alright, that’s enough.” Norman waved his hand and had a good-natured look on his face.

“It’s just a seat, right? I’ll just sit here.”

After Norman said that, he found a seat beneath Jasper and sat down.

“Mr. Gardner, what are you doing?” When that member of the council saw Norman backing down after he charged and broke through enemy lines for him, he was slightly lost for words.

“Alright, Mr. Heron. It’s just a seat. It doesn’t mean anything.” It was clear that Norman did not want to say much when he waved his hand and said that.

Mr. Heron chuckled coldly and sat back down. He said, “Right, it’s just a seat. I’ll let you feel pleased with yourself for a while. You’re just like a dog I keep as a pet. It won’t become human even if I put a suit on him.

“A dog will always be a dog.”

After he said that, the people around the meeting table were smiling. They were starting to look at Jasper with sarcasm and ridicule in their eyes.

As the members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, they would be siding with Norman naturally.

Plus, they even saw their president bowing to Jasper when they entered this room. Even though they did not know what happened, Jasper’s wild image was imprinted in their heads.

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They were glad when they saw Jasper getting put in his place.

“Alright.”

Norman cleared his throat and came out to maintain the peace.

He looked at Jasper and said, “Mr. Laine proposed to host this meeting. So, Mr. Laine, what do you want to talk to us about?”

Jasper said calmly, "A few simple things."

After he said that, Jasper looked at Lisa and said, "I wonder what position Miss Lisa Gardner holds in this chamber of commerce."

After he said this, the three members of the council looked at Norman at the same time. Meanwhile, Norman looked as if he was caught unprepared. He did not expect Jasper to ask this question at all.

"What's wrong? Is it a very difficult question?" Jasper asked.

Norman frowned. Even though this was not a huge matter, he was genuinely scared that Jasper would cause trouble to him from some unexpected angles.

After pondering, Norman braced himself and said, "She's my secretary."

Norman was just saying this without thinking the matter through. However, it would not be a strange thing for a president like him to have a secretary. So he figured Jasper would not push this matter further.

After smiling at him, Jasper said, "So, Mr. Gardner, you like to ask the people you're close to work with you?"

"Mr. Laine, is this related to our meeting today?" Norman asked, feeling infuriated.

"Yeah, we're very busy. If there's nothing significant, we should end this meeting and not waste any time," Mr. Heron said with a dark face.

"If I mentioned it, it's relevant to the meeting naturally."

Jasper said calmly, "Firstly, I made myself clear at the start of this meeting. I asked people who have a position that's higher than the rank of councilmen to participate, and since Lisa is just a secretary to the president, why is she here?"

"So, Miss Gardner, please leave."

Jasper's words caused Lisa's face to be filled with shame.

She had never been kicked out like this in her whole life.

“Jasper, are you doing all of this to humiliate me?” Lisa shrieked.

Jasper said calmly, “I’m just doing things according to the rule. Is there anyone who opposes my decision? You can tell me.”

The three members of the council were silent.

On the surface, it was completely reasonable that Jasper wanted to kick Lisa out. Nothing could be said about this.

After taking a deep breath, Norman said in a deep voice, “Lisa, you should go out.”

Lisa bit her lips and looked at Jasper in rancor. She said frigidly, “I want to see how long you can stay so savage.”

After she said that, Lisa made to leave.

“Wait.”

Jasper stopped her at this moment.

Lisa stood on her ground and smirked at Jasper. “You’re the one who asked me to leave and you’re the one who asked me to wait. What do you want?”

“I asked you to leave because you’re not qualified to take part in this meeting and I asked you to stay because what I’m about to say is directly related to you.”

“In other words, you are now an interrogee who needs to answer my question, understand?”

After Jasper said that, he did not look at Lisa’s expression. He turned his head to look at Norman and the other members of the council. He said, “Everyone, you all know that I’m going to represent the chamber of commerce to attend the Asset Forum Conference. The businesspeople from Haddock and the businesspeople from Teo are completely incompatible. However, in order to embarrass me, someone joined forces with the people from the Teo Chamber of Commerce to steal our business secret.”

“If you guys don’t give me an explanation for this today, okay, Old Master Hurlbutt will have to find someone better qualified than.”

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Jasper’s words flashed across the hearts of Norman and the three members of the council like a clap of thunder.

They looked at each other and saw that everyone had the same look of confusion on their faces. Then, they looked at Lisa at the same time spontaneously.

At this moment, Lisa’s face was as white as a piece of paper.

She finally understood what Jasper was planning.

Jasper wanted to cause trouble and conflict between Norman and Lisa inside the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

The rivals were coming right into their faces and the upper management was colluding with the rivals. If word about this got out, how big of a commotion would be caused inside the Haddock Chamber of Commerce?

After realizing what was going on, Lisa looked at Jasper with extreme rancor and screamed, “Jasper, are you trying to eradicate me?”

When Jasper heard this, he did not have the slightest interest to answer her. He turned his head to look at Norman.

The expression on Norman’s face was also very interesting since he had already known about this.

He stared straight at Jasper and gritted his teeth. He was so mad that he was shaking.

Back then, he accepted a compromise to give Jasper the false illusion that he had admitted defeat.

Because Mr. Atticus said he would need more time to plan this.

Norman knew Jasper would come to him and cause trouble for him. He had already thought this through, so he would endure everything Jasper said or did.

That was why Norman gritted his teeth and endured Lisa's trick of injuring herself to gain the enemy's confidence and also the conflict that happened because of the seat.

He felt that his victory was going to come.

However, Jasper was turning the tables now.

He could not keep pretending anymore.

Because if word about this got into Gale's ears, he would be the first one to die.

When that happened, Norman would not have a place to hide in the world.

"Mr. Gardner, what's going on?"

"What's wrong? Are you not going to say anything, Mr. Gardner?" Jasper asked calmly.

After taking a deep breath and clenching his fists, Norman said in a deep voice, "I think there are some misunderstandings here."

"Misunderstandings?"

Jasper chuckled lightly and looked at Norman before saying, "If this is a misunderstanding, then are the rumors about my construction site ruining the vibe and almost costing someone their life misunderstandings as well?"

After Jasper said this, Norman's face became tense even though he was prepared for Jasper to bring this up.

Norman felt as if Jasper's gaze on him was piercing and it was preventing him from hiding from Jasper.

"I don't understand what you mean. What does your construction site have to do with me?" Norman asked while bracing himself.

Jasper chuckled lightly and stood up to walk in front of Norman. He bent down to look straight at Norman's face and said, "He's a young man in his twenties and his parents suffered harshly to raise him into the man he is now. When it's time for him to finally start making money to pay back his parents, you caused him to become disabled for life and lost his ability to work because of your grudges with me.

"Do you still have a conscience?"

The corners of Norman's eyes twitched and he lifted his head to look into Jasper's eyes. He said through gritted teeth, "I told you I don't know what you're talking about and this has nothing to do with the chamber of commerce. Hence, there's no need to talk about that right now."

"Jasper, don't go too far!"

Mr. Heron stood up and pointed at Jasper before saying angrily, "I think you've been domineering for way too long. Don't forget where you are. You're just a vice president so who are you to question the president?"

"Do you think you're qualified to speak now?" Jasper turned his head to look at Mr. Heron coldly as he said that.



Mr. Heron widened his eyes and said in anger, "I am a member of the council so how am I not qualified to speak?"

"A member of the council? What a huge boast." Jasper chuckled lightly and took out his phone to call Gale.

The call was answered immediately after.

Jasper said calmly after putting Gale on loudspeaker, "Old Master Hurlbutt, you said as long as I represent the Waterhoof City Branch to attend the Asset Forum Conference, then I will have absolute power in the branch, am I right?"

"Yes."

Gale answered without hesitation over the other end of the phone.

"What about firing one of the members of the council?" Jasper asked.

This time, Gale was silent for a while. "I told you you have enough power."

"Thank you, Old Master Hurlbutt," said Jasper.

"As long as you get things done."

After Gale finished saying that, he hung up the phone immediately.

The two of them were conversing through the wireless phone so Gale who was in Suesville would not be able to see the interesting expressions of Norman and the three members of the council in the meeting room.

Especially Mr. Heron. He went mad immediately.

Who was Gale Hurlbutt? He was the lifetime honorary president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and he was the one who brought the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to a great height of development.

He was the spiritual leader of all businesspeople from Haddock all over the country.

As one of the normal members of the council in the Waterhoof City Branch, perhaps Mr. Heron did manage to interact with the current president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce in the country, however, he would never get the chance to interact with a top-notch big shot like Gale.

However, he knew that the voice from the phone was from the person he needed to look up to, Gale Hurlbutt.

Even if the old master had backed down from his position, no one would question his prestige in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

Since Gale supported Jasper, then he would be finished!

When he thought about this, Mr. Heron said to Norman with a pale face, "Mr. Gardner, y-you have to help me!"

The chamber of commerce was just an organization that was not consolidated, so any one of those members had their own property and business, and naturally, Mr. Heron was the same.

However, to a person like Mr. Heron, being a member of the council in the chamber of commerce, was very beneficial for his business.

At least, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was in every industry, so if he mentioned his position in the chamber of commerce, it would help him greatly in all kinds of business deals.

However, if he was fired and his dismissal was approved by Old Master Hurlbutt, everyone in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce would avoid him like he was a venomous snake.

When Norman heard this, he felt his scalp getting numb.

He knew Gale supported Jasper but he did not think that he was so supportive.

No matter what, Mr. Heron was a member of the council in the Waterhoof City branch and he was serious about his job. However, Gale did not even ask for his consultation before agreeing to let Jasper fire Mr. Heron.

What did that mean?

It meant that if it was necessary, Jasper could just kick him out of the chamber of commerce.

Norman was already helpless so how would he have the mood to care about Mr. Heron's cries for help? He lifted his head to say to Jasper in a deep voice, "Jasper, don't push us so far! What on earth do you want?"

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"I'm pushing you too far?"

Jasper looked at Norman and asked coldly, "Am I the one pushing you too far, or are you the one who's forcing me to do this?"

Norman gritted his teeth and said frigidly, "Don't you just want an explanation? Alright, I'll give you an explanation!"

As he said that, Norman announced loudly, "From now on, I'm going to take a long break because of personal reasons. During this period, I won't care about anything that's happening in the chamber of commerce. Mr. Laine will be responsible for everything from now on."

After he said this, Mr. Heron, who initially hoped that Norman could save him, collapsed on his seat. He wanted to cry but no tears were coming out.

Meanwhile, the other two members of the council had a change of expression on their faces.

"Mr. Gardner, you don't have to do this. Please reconsider!" One of the members of the council implored him.

Compared to the more assertive Jasper, it was evident that they were more willing to listen to Norman's orders.

Everything else aside, everyone knew that Jasper would not focus his attention on the chamber of commerce. Plus, if Jasper had the absolute authority of the chamber of commerce, they would suffer in the future.

"No need. I've decided," Norman took a deep breath and said in a deep voice.

After he said that, Norman stared at Jasper with rancor and asked, "Is this enough?"

"Jasper, I won't care about anything that's going to happen next. Our grudge ends here. I hope you can shape up."

After Norman said that, he left with Lisa.

Jasper never stopped them. He just watched the two of their figures disappear from the meeting room.

After the door was closed, Jasper looked at Mr. Heron and said insipidly, "Mr. Heron, this will be the last time I call your name. From now on, you're no longer a member of the Waterhoof City branch. Please leave."

Mr. Heron's expression changed. He gritted his teeth and stood up to look at Jasper with resentment. He said, "Alright, you're ballsy. Just wait. I want to see when you're going to die!"

After he said that, Mr. Heron turned his head and left.

After Mr. Heron left, the huge meeting room was left with the three of them.

Jasper looked at the two members of the council who looked apprehensive and said, "Do you think I want to replace Norman?"

Of course, no one would answer Jasper. The two of them pretended they did not hear him and did not make a sound.

"Actually, I am not the least bit interested in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

Jasper patted the back of the chair and said ruminatively.

"I don't care if you believe me or not, but that's what I'm going to say. You don't have to worry that I'll take action against you guys. The relationship I have with the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was just a promise I made with Old Master Hurlbutt. After I'm done, I'll leave."

"Since Norman doesn't want to bother anymore, you two should do as you see fit for the daily operations of the chamber of commerce. You don't have to care or worry about the Asset Forum Conference as well. I'll take care of it and you just have to send me the workflow and that's it."

"After that, we won't have any interactions anymore."

After Jasper said that, the two members of the council looked at each other and they were confused.

They thought this would be a vigorous battle for authority, yet they did not expect Jasper to act like this when he was in power and still be able to let this go easily. Was he really going to split the power of the president between the two of them so easily?

The two members of the commerce looked at Jasper in disbelief after they were given a free lunch.

One of the braver members mustered the courage and asked, "Mr. Laine, may I ask why you did so much but not want the power of the president?"

"Self-defense," Jasper said unenthusiastically.

The two members of the council did not believe what Jasper said at all.

After Jasper entered the door, he had been so assertive. He had Mr. Heron and Norman in the palm of his hands and now he said he was just doing that for self-defense?

The two of them just assumed that Jasper did not want to say much, so they did not ask.

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"That sly animal!"

Lisa cursed with bitter resentment once she got into the car.

Norman closed his eyes and leaned against the seat of the car. He said softly, "I've been so careful and he still managed to get information that can be used against me. Jasper is so hard to deal with."

Lisa clenched her fists tightly and said with bitterness, "We can't just let this matter go."

"Lisa, what you did today was too impulsive," Norman said after he opened his eyes to look at his daughter.

Lisa lowered her head upon hearing that. She replied, "I know that, dad. I didn't think this through and I didn't expect to run into Jasper so coincidentally."

"This is not a matter of coincidence. You need to risk too much for this, but even if it's successful, the return is too little. So, you're still too impulsive no matter how you think about this. You shouldn't have done that," Norman said while shaking his head.

"I just don't want Jasper to be so comfortable," Lisa said with bitter resentment.

"Lisa, you still didn't realize one thing," Norman said.

When Lisa looked at him suspiciously, Norman continued with a slight bitterness, "This is not about our grudge with Jasper anymore the moment Mr. Atticus contacted us. Instead, it's a battle between Mr. Atticus and Jasper."

"The two of us are just Mr. Atticus' chess pieces at most, do you understand?"

Lisa answered nonchalantly after she heard that, "This is not important. I don't care if we're chess pieces or not, I just want Jasper dead."

"No, this is very important."

Norman emphasized his words. "We will only change how we think as long as we know our positions."

"To Mr. Atticus, we're chess pieces. So, we shall behave like good chess pieces. From now on, we won't do anything unless Mr. Atticus tells us to."

Lisa said angrily, “Dad, we don’t even know what Mr. Atticus is planning to do. Today, Jasper used this opportunity to kick you out of the chamber of commerce. What if he takes one step further in the future? Should we just watch him do that?”

“We’ll just cause a little trouble for him so that he won’t be able to take action against us in the time being,” Norman gritted his teeth and said.

“I’m sure that Dudley person will not let this go after suffering a disadvantage. You should go to him and fan the flames so that he’ll go find Jasper for trouble.”

“The Asset Forum Conference is starting as well and Dudley’s father is not a person that’s easy to deal with, plus he’s extremely protective of his family members so Jasper will be so troubled when that happens.”

Upon hearing that, Lisa’s eyes lit up and she said, “Dad, I’ll listen to what you say!”

“Remember, you can’t show up in the foreground anymore. Just let Dudley, that brainless son of a rich man, look for Jasper. You can just hide behind him and watch.”

“Okay!”

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After dismissing the two members of the council, Jasper walked out of the meeting room.

Initially, he wanted to go back to the hotel but when he walked past the reception, someone called out to him.

“Um, M-Mr. Laine.”



Jasper turned his head to look at the receptionist with a smile. The receptionist's face was red and she looked nervous. Hence, Jasper said, "Hello, can I help you?"

When the receptionist saw how polite and conservative Jasper was, the woman was slightly disappointed. She reapplied her makeup lightly and delicately while Jasper was in the meeting.

After all, the politer he was with her, the more it showed that her beauty was nothing to Jasper.

She sighed in her heart and mustered up the courage to say, "Just now, I saw Mr. Heron barge out of the meeting room looking furious. He was also on the phone but I didn't hear much, I only heard him saying that he'll find someone to teach you a lesson, Mr. Laine."

Jasper was lost for words when he heard that. Then, he smiled at her and said, "Thank you for telling me."

The receptionist added, "Mr. Laine, you have to be careful. Among the three members of the council, Mr. Heron is a local in Waterhoof City. He's in the entertainment industry, as in bars and arcades."

"You should know that he has a lot of thugs under him since he's in this industry. That's why the other two members of the council won't provoke him usually."

When he saw the receptionist's nervous face, Jasper knew that she was very stressed and scared when she said this.

Jasper nodded and said warmly, "Alright, I understand. I'll look out for that."

The receptionist watched as Jasper left. In the end, she did not muster up the courage to ask him for his phone number. So, she could only sigh in misery and sat back down. She was wondering when Mr. Laine would come to the chamber of commerce next time.

After Jasper came out of the chamber of commerce, he went back to the hotel.

It was already afternoon when he got back to the hotel. So, he decided to have lunch with Julian in the hotel to get by. However, when he went back to his hotel room, he saw Sean coming over to find him coincidentally.

"Mr. Laine, I was looking for you," Sean said.

“What’s going on?”

Jasper opened the door of the room and asked Sean to sit anywhere he liked. When he saw that Sean was still a little dispirited, he opened the mini-fridge and took out a can of coffee to throw it to him. He laughed and said, “Sean, are you suffering because you’re old? You still haven’t recovered from that all-nighter?”

Sean chuckled bitterly and opened the can of coffee to take a sip. He said, “I’m already in my forties so of course, I can’t compare with a strong young man like you.”

“However, my foundation is still fine. Back when I was in the military, I was the parade guard of our company.”

Jasper sat opposite Sean and said, “You have to watch the real estate company, especially the branch in Waterhoof City. There’s been a major personnel transfer recently and there will be people who are unhappy with this. You should confront them as you see fit.”

“After all, we still need employees for the work. We can’t have all of them quit because something happened.”

“I got it. I will supervise and urge for the completion of this.” Sean nodded.

“Right, Mr. Laine, the reason I’m here is to talk to you about the naming.”

“The base of the skyscraper is already finished. According to the rules stated in the document, we have to report to the Waterhoof City’s government about our progress. Also, we have to start preparing for the name registration of our trademark.”

“Mr. Laine, do you need me to ask the planning department to provide you with a few names or...”

Jasper remembered the name Wendy proposed back then and said, “No need. I already have a name. Let’s call it World Financial Center.”