

## **At The Top 571**

### **Life at The Top**

#### **Chapter 571**

In addition to that, “United Legends” was an online game that achieved unparalleled success within the country. Many innovative businessmen were transformed into millionaires through this game, which centered on players facing one another on the battlefield.

It was a game that was unique even within the global market.

“After the year-end holidays, I’ll make arrangements for you to head over to Coreana. You will find our profit point there. I’ll discuss the specific details with you then.”

Jasper chuckled as he decided to maintain the suspense.

He trusted Jack, but this was a matter that involved might lead to untold profits. Thus, Jasper was not willing to tell anyone about it in advance. Furthermore, there was no point in doing so either.

At that moment, nobody in the entire world would be as confident as Jasper was regarding the domestic gaming industry.

Although Jack was not clear about the entire situation, he knew that Jasper never bragged about anything without proper proof to back up his claims.

Jasper had proved countless times that he would fulfill every promise he made, regardless of how unbelievable they seemed at the time.

Therefore, Jack was extremely excited about this as well.

he was under a considerable amount of pressure as well. He had been waiting for an opportunity to rise to

Now that the opportunity to do so had finally arisen, he was beyond excited.

“Alright. I’ll leave first. I’m returning to my hometown with my family later for the year-end holidays. We’ll see each other next year then, Mr. Laine,” Jack said with a smile spread across his face as he got up.

coat and handed it to Jack. “This is your year-end bonus,” he said with a smile. Jack was stunned. “Hasn’t the end-of-year bonus been issued some time ago? What’s this, Mr.

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Although both of them had changed a lot, Jasper and Penelope could still recognize each other at first glance.

Penelope froze on the spot. She returned to her senses after a few seconds, then lowered her head and prepared to run away.

Right then, the boss of the hotdog stall managed to catch up with her.

He grabbed ahold of the collar of Penelope's shirt and scolded her angrily. "F\*ck, it's been three days. You've stolen the hotdogs from my stall for three consecutive days. Even if you want to steal, don't just steal from my stall alone. Do you really think that I'm that easily bullied?"

"I'll teach you a lesson today so you won't dare to ever steal from me again!"

After saying this, the boss, who had a tall and burly physique, raised his hand to hit Penelope across the face.

"Wait a minute," Jasper voiced out, causing the man to stop in his tracks.

The boss turned around to look at Jasper suspiciously. He toned down the ferocious expression on his face after noticing Jasper's immaculate dressing and outstanding aura. He frowned and asked, "What's wrong? I'm teaching a thief a lesson here. What does it have to do with you?"

Jasper pulled out a hundred-dollar bill from his pocket and said, "Since you said that she stole from you, I'll pay on her behalf. Don't hold a grudge against her anymore. It's almost Christmas, and you're out here trying to run a business. Don't bring bad luck upon yourself."

"Heh! It's a deal!"

a good person today. However, this is too much. I don't have enough change

said. He glanced at Penelope, who was leaning away from him as she stood by the side. She had her head lowered and did not dare to look

"That's even better!"

"You were lucky this

enough. You've taken the money, and I've given you some extra as

widely at him, then turned around

have you become like this?" Jasper asked Penelope, who was trembling with her head lowered, after the boss of the

her head hang low. It was as if by doing so, she was hoping that Jasper would not be able to recognize her. "I don't

attempted

there!"

stiffened, standing glued to the

about your mother? Do they know that you're living

to look at Jasper, a despondent smile spread across her dirt-smudged face. "My mother has Alzheimer's. She's now bed-ridden as she can't move anymore. My brother committed a

his past life, Calvin Hunt, Penelope's brother, did not go

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The aura surrounding Jasper at that moment was already beyond what Penelope could fathom. However, she could tell that Jasper's outfit was an expensive one. The man's every move and even the simplest glance was filled with the prestige and aura of somebody of high-society.

In comparison, Penelope felt like a speck of dust in the mud while Jasper was a prince that towered over her.

There was nothing to compare between the two.

No one could possibly imagine that they had been a couple talking about wedding plans just a year ago.

Penelope shuddered slightly, but she did not know if she was shaking with resentment or regret.

Jasper lamented at the sight of Penelope, now as despondent as a beggar on the streets.

There were definitely no more romantic feelings between them.

Yet, the hatred he harbored for her seemed to have faded as well.

Jasper had once imagined that he would feel very proud as he stood before Penelope after he had finally made a name before himself. He wondered how it would feel to mock Penelope for looking down at him in the beginning, only to end up losing such a gem of a man.

even as all this was finally happening, Jasper did not feel even the slightest

marveled at how fast

"Take it."

of cash appeared before

came to total of around one to two thousand

on me now. Go get nice clothes for you and your mom, and use the rest for Christmas presents.

Regardless,

friend of mine. He got promoted from Faith County, so he should still have a few contacts here and there. I could contact him when I get back to ask if he could assign you some

well. Study hard and pass the test. The ICBS has an internal test before hiring

him, Jasper replied, "Then find

placed the money in Penelope's hands and

then looked up, only to

joy of Christmas. Penelope watched as Jasper's figure vanished before she suddenly mustered the courage she did not even know she had to run after

"Wait!"

seeing Penelope panting hard from the

be so deluded to think that we'd

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Jasper's and Penelope's meeting was pure coincidence.

As far as Jasper was concerned, helping Penelope was at most, a final farewell to his previous life and his past.

After all, Jasper was not a heartless person.

While the two had not shared a very happy past, Penelope was, if anything, still the woman who had been by Jasper's side the longest.

Now that they each had their own lives to live, the least Jasper could do was bid that era of his life farewell.

Yet, Jasper had never expected Penelope to bring him such an important message.

'Called Terence or something?

'Who else but Terence Laine, then?'

Naturally, the people Jasper first thought of when he heard Penelope's words would be the two brothers, Terence and Darrel Laine.

Taking a trip down memory lane, Jasper recalled Terence had never shown himself again after leaving the meal in a huff yesterday. Meanwhile, Darrel had been staying in Tefa City the entire time.

returning home, Jasper called Julian

poke around Shangri-La Hotel to see if Terence's come back or not. If he did, I need

Jasper's instructions, Julian nodded and immediately went to

"Hold on."

Jasper called Julian back.

anyone find out about your investigation," Jasper

and

little more than an hour later, Julian returned as night had

found what you wanted to know, Jasper. Terence returned around midnight yesterday. There's a record of

was with his brother Darrel. The two of them bought something then returned to the hotel. After this, the two brothers,

asked, "Where did Terence go yesterday?"

the provincial capital after he left the

replied expressionlessly, "Alright,

left, Jasper sat alone in

Terence had gone to the provincial capital

to meet this so-called

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Dawson replied, "Alright then. Remember to call me if you need any help."

Jasper nodded. "I will."

Putting the phone down, Jasper's expression darkened slightly.

A false positive was better than a false negative. Jasper never had the habit of getting comfortable, so he would always be somewhat cautious and keep his guards up.

The news from Penelope coupled with the results of his investigation from multiple places had solidified such a case.

'Terence himself has ulterior motives as well as someone mysterious backing him up.

'In order to do this, Terence even tried to pull Darrel into his plans.

'But the fact that Terence has to persuade Darrel means that the latter either has no idea of what's happening or hasn't completely joined their side.

'So who's this mysterious mastermind behind it all?'

time for dinner,

voice sounded from downstairs, breaking Jasper's train

hummed in acknowledgment and walked out of his study. He decided that he would

target to keep

would only be a matter

...

time in a

a

replied, "You're the one being stubborn here, Darrel. What's so good about Jasper

I still need his support

being charitable to you. Don't you want to make your own

Jasper's giving you. You just need to nod your head and agree! You'll get even more benefits after all of this is over, so why are you

just an empty promise. Plus, do you know how this will sound like to our relatives if news gets out? Do you

on the ground and replied, "Don't give me bullsh\*t talk about our relatives, Darrel. Don't you see? All these relatives do is look down on people, they don't care what happens to you at all. All they care about is whether you're broke or rich. If you're the latter, then they'll praise you every day and everything you do

outstanding people in society. Our familial conditions are better than Jasper's no matter how you look at it. Before this, no one even looked at Jasper

a genius Jasper is and how much more outstanding he is. I'm tired of all of this, but this is reality. This is

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Regardless of the sinister schemes being plotted, time continued to pass with each day.

It was New Year's Eve now, and the new year would soon arrive.

Jasper did not go anywhere that day, opting to stay home with his parents instead.

However, that did not mean he had nothing to do. He was making calls to Old Master Law and the like to relay New Year's Eve greetings.

Etiquettes should not be forgotten.

As for Gale Hurlbutt, Jasper had also called to greet him.

He had accepted Gale's conditions two days ago.

This meant that he would assume the role of vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce Waterhoof branch after New Year's when work officially started again.

The news was still kept under wraps and there was only a handful who knew of it. Yet that did not stop Jasper and Gale's relationship from growing closer.

most important

to deal with the long phone

apart, they seemed to have a very tacit

he spent more than an hour calling Wendy before

he had to, Jasper then received calls from

for each other's good health and prosperity in the new

all necessary conversations. One would not gain anything if they spoke too much, but not speaking enough would easily offend

up to realize that it was

marked the beginning of

was surprised to find that it had begun to

rare in the southeast and it had been a few

Jasper now was

you know any responsible female martial artists

replying, "I do have a martial artist friend who has just become a martial arts instructor. Do you want to

when there isn't anyone with

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As if sensing Charlie's nerves, Dawson smiled. "You don't have to be too polite. While this is the first time we're meeting, we're going to be a family very soon. You're older than me, so I'll just treat you as my brother and call you Charlie. You can do the same as well."

Seeing how easy-going such a wealthy man like Dawson was, Charlie immediately took a liking to the man and chuckled. "Then I'll just call you Dawson, since I'm older than you."

"There we go. This must be my sister-in-law, then?" Dawson turned to smile at Sally and greeted her.

Seeing how their parents were speaking cheerfully with one another, both Jasper and Wendy exhaled a sigh of relief.

"You look beautiful today," Jasper told Wendy with a chuckle.

Wendy was donned in a pink faux-fur coat today with a scarf around her fair neck. Her choice of clothing had only made Wendy look more bright and playful.

Wendy chuckled. "You look very handsome today as well."

The two families entered the villa with smiles on their faces, and Charlie gave Jasper a look to prompt the other to bring out a large box. Jasper then handed it to Dawson. "Uncle Schuler, my parents didn't know what gift to get since it's their first time coming over. Please enjoy this small offering of ours."

Dawson was stunned. "It's enough that you're here, what's with all this gift-giving?"

goods, Dad. Some 200-year-old wild ginseng," Wendy told

expression changed. "200 years old?"

a stalk of wild ginseng that would unfurl to a length of more than one meter long. It looked like is too much,"

were the one who told me not to be  
and accepted

Lunch went by joyfully.

had drunk some alcohol, so the two went to their own rooms to

was just planning to bring his girlfriend out on a

greetings, Jasper accepted it only to hear Sean's frantic tone echo through the speakers

site... Something has happened

he replied with a heavy tone, "What are you so panicked about? Tell me what happened

expression turned

to calm down. When he spoke again, it was with an exceptionally grim tone, "I've just received news  
that a fire broke out at the site half an hour ago. Firefighters are still trying to extinguish the

doing? How many times have I told them that it's New Year's and while I understand everyone is trying  
to meet deadlines, we have to be careful! How could a fire break out at such a stage?

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Flames and smoke engulfed the construction site on the South Bank of the Southface river, attracting  
the attention of countless people.

Long before he had even arrived, Jasper could already see how the fire brightened up half the sky as  
smoke burst into the air. The smell of burning materials permeated the air kilometers away from the  
scene.

"It's not a small fire this time, Jasper. From what the looks of it, I'd say it's pretty severe," Julian spoke  
grimly to Jasper.

Jasper took a deep breath and replied calmly, "It's alright. It's not a loss if it can be fixed with money."

The large Bentley arrived outside the construction site and was held back by the caution tape the  
firefighters had put up.

Jasper did not explain himself to the firefighters as he got out of the car and walked toward the site.

Jasper and Julian were currently around 700 to 800 meters away from the site, but despite the distance,  
Jasper could still feel the burning heat from the scene. That spoke levels about how severe this fire was  
and that it was rapidly spreading.

"Mister... Mr. Laine!"

pant. Sean's meticulous suit was now in an embarrassing state with traces of soot all over. The man was  
drenched in sweat, and



the site with

me that from what they can see, the fire

fires started almost at the same time, so that explains why the fire is so unrelenting. The firefighters suspect arson,

wait. The most important thing now is to contain the

and wiped the sweat from his forehead.

to Jasper and

attitude and replied, "I'm the person

pointed at the construction site that was still in flames. "What kind of safety measures are you using here? It's really difficult to contain a fire like this. You're going to have to take

and he was about to chide the captain when Jasper waved at Sean to

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Jasper then turned to Sean. "Mr. Tucker, on behalf of JW Real Estates, please donate one million Somer Dollars in cash and three firetrucks to the fire department that's putting the fire out after all of this is over."

Sean shouted reflexively, "Understood, Mr. Laine!"

The captain gave Jasper an intent look. "I've seen my fair share of rich men, but you're the most unique out of all of them. I'm certain now that this fire has nothing to do with you."

The captain then quickly ran back to instruct his team in putting the fire out.

Jasper and Sean stood by the entrance of the site and stared grimly as the red flames devoured the place.

From time to time, there would be severely injured workers carried out by firefighters. Each time he saw this scene, Jasper's expression grew darker.

"Mr. Tucker," Jasper called out.

Laine?" Sean moved toward

office that every employee above the managerial level and those in charge of the site's safety measures are to have all their remaining holidays canceled.

to team up to take care of the workers harmed in

injured worker is to be compensated by the insurance company they signed their contracts with and money that

insurance companies is enough. We've bought them enough employment injury insurance, and it's going to cost

turned to Sean coldly. "Tens of millions is nothing to me, but to

not even dare to look into Jasper's frosty eyes. Shuddering, he quickly replied, "I understand, Mr. Laine. I'll get to

...

several kilometers away in a high-rise where he watched the fire brighten the sky

time." Zayden laughed loudly as he turned

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This fire became earth-shattering news that wracked through all of the Southeast Province. It had also taken 47 million out of Jasper's pockets.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Schuler, the fire has burned 40 million Somer Dollars worth of our building materials and facilities in total. There's also an invisible loss of seven million for rebuilding and adding new facilities as well as compensations for the workers' injuries.

"Moreover, while no lives are lost, there are 16 severely injured workers. Among them, five are permanently crippled and three were severely burnt as well. These people will have to live the rest of their lives in a hospital bed.

"After the relevant compensations and deducting the insurance, we still have to pay six million excluding the cost for the other mildly injured workers. Including them, it will amount to around 11 million Somer Dollars."

It was in the middle of the night when Jasper and Dawson listened grimly to Sean's report in JW Real Estates' office.

Jasper initially did not intend to worry Dawson, but with how huge the issue was, it was only right that Dawson knew what was happening. Otherwise, any more mistakes would only result in greater losses.

"Do you mean our financial loss has amounted to around 60 million?" Jasper concluded calmly.

Sean replied in embarrassment, "These are all direct losses. We still haven't considered the indirect losses. We won't be able to start work for at least another week, so the halt in progress and the loss of past progress will amount to around another 30 million."

Bang!

slammed the lighter heavily against

to look

Sean. "You've worked hard today. You still have work tomorrow, so go home first

he was shown the biggest mercy, Sean frantically  
gone, there were only Jasper and Dawson in the  
something wrong about this fire, Jasper,” Dawson exhaled a breath of smoke and  
sofa and rubbed his temple, muttering, “Yeah, there really is something wrong. It’s too coincidental  
to whoever was behind this. One fire and we’ve lost 100 million just like  
anger burned in Dawson’s gaze as he spoke, “I’ve never made such a big loss since I started working.  
What a sinister scheme. This is a capable opponent we’re dealing with... Do you have an idea who this  
his head. “There’s no evidence at all. Whoever was behind this is very meticulous. Not to mention with a  
fire this big, any evidence would’ve  
can to sniff out the person behind this, and I’ll deal with the public and  
“That’s probably  
in the  
the following