

## **At The Top 691**

### **Life at The Top**

#### **Chapter 691**

“F\*cking hell! You ignorant and stupid f\*cker. Who the f\*ck do you think you are, hmm? The country has more than 100 cities like Reed City, but you think you’re the sh\*t?”

“You think that just because people in Reed City call you ‘Young Master’ that you’re suddenly some trust-fund baby? F\*cking bullsh\*t! It’s ignorant b\*stards like you who don’t know sh\*t who has tarnished the reputation of all trust-fund babies!”

Henry swung the baton as he spoke, the act now looking like a form of art in his hands. The baton knocked on Ned again and again, and after a couple of hits, Ned had lost even the strength to make a sound. He lay on the floor and twitched, seemingly half a breath away from death.

“That’s enough, Henry.” Jasper stopped the man.

Henry might actually kill Ned in his fit of rage if he kept attacking.

Jasper did not care if Ned died, but he would not take revenge on someone as pointless as Ned. The main targets were the Adkins and Coine families supporting Ned. Killing Ned now would only further complicate this already complicated situation.

Henry heard Jasper and passed the baton back to the bodyguard with a pant.

limply on the ground. “Drag this pile of flesh out to the corridor. We’re at the hospital anyway, so just leave him

came over and bent down to grab a leg each before

such practiced ease that it was proof this was not the first time they had helped Henry do such

dragged away, Henry came to Jasper’s bed and chuckled. “You weren’t being nice this time. You know how

landed in

alright. Or this

master knows?”

hiding it from him. But my dad knows, “ Henry replied with

to tell you to screw them over. Do whatever you want and f\*ck them up. Not for

this. The Law family has had to deal with this in too many places when we wanted to invest in those locations. Absolutely disgusting behavior. My dad has decided that he’ll make quite a few calls to Swallow Capital this

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“You must be joking, Mr. Powers. I just woke up. I don’t even know what has happened yet.”

Jasper knew that he could not blame Mr. Powers for what had happened. He was just angry about the fact that he had almost lost his life here in Reed City.

“I’m not here just to visit you, Mr. Laine. I was given a mission.”

Mr. Powers pulled out his phone and dialed a number before turning to Jasper. “The chief wishes to speak to you.”

Jasper’s heart skipped a beat. This ‘chief’ Mr. Powers spoke of must certainly be referring to the chief of Reed City’s government.

“Could everyone else please leave the room with me?” Mr. Powers requested politely.

Seeing Jasper nod, everyone left the room with Mr. Powers, leaving Jasper and one more person in the room.

...

An hour later.

out to Wendy and the rest who were

and Henry came in

talk about?” Wendy asked

and talked a bit about the follow-up process, just so we both get a general idea of

allowed to interfere with the investment and no one is allowed to disrupt the peace in government

“Should’ve done

has its own rules, this goes for them too.” Jasper shook his head but did not dwell on

end

...

found out that

strong footing in Reed City was that Grandpa Coine

doing business in Reed City for years and never once left the city, he had quite a few

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Marcus paled. Fear and unease overwhelmed his chest as he paced around the room, complaining, “I thought they said that Jasper has woken up? That means he’s fine, no? So why won’t he just move on and leave us alone?”

LIVE

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“This isn’t just a conflict between us and Jasper anymore. Our situation has become a case study in meetings and the higher-ups need to give investors a sign of a good investing environment. To them, people like us have become an eyesore that must be removed,” Len spoke weakly and sighed deeply.

“Who does Jasper think he is? He’s hardly worth us becoming a topic of discussion with the higher-ups,” Marcus spoke disbelievingly.

Just then, the doors were slammed open and a bunch of uniformed officers entered.

“Who are you? What are you doing?! Do you even know where this is? Tell me what your leader’s name is! Who gave you the right to barge into my home?”

Startled, Marcus stared at the group of intruders and shouted fiercely.

However, these men no longer spoke courteously like they usually did and were being very formal.

“Marcus Coine, you’re suspected of defrauding state-owned assets. We’re here to bring you in for investigation.”

that, two officers stepped over and surrounded

he fought back while shouting at Len, “Dad! Save

and do nothing as they brought his son

a cold tone, “Mr. Coine, you have the right to remain silent.

of tax evasion from Fortune Co., Ltd. As its former

the unease within him and spoke,

regulations, you’re not allowed to make any contact

talk to your lawyer. Any communication with the outside world

your father, Old Mr.

world go dark and as though a huge weight was pressing over his chest. It felt like the world was

The only difference being that Ned

was paraplegia caused by an injury in the spine, meaning that he could only live the rest of his life in a wheelchair or on the hospital bed. There was not much of a difference whether he spent

...

Adkins and

Reed

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No longer confined to bed rest, Jasper got off the bed and respectfully invited the old man to take a seat.

“Please have a seat, Mr. Coine. Moving is still a little difficult for me and this place really isn’t appropriate, so I’ll skip out on asking you if you’d like some coffee this time.”

Jasper smiled. “Next time, then. I promise I’ll invite you to a cup of hot coffee next time, Mr. Coine.”

Peter smiled gently and waved him off. “Don’t worry about it. I’m not used to drinking coffee anyway. Alcohol, on the other hand, is always a good choice. But I’ve grown old and my body can’t take that anymore, so I’ve quit it.”

Jasper nodded. “That’s good, then. Seniors like you, Mr. Coine, are important people to us. It’s good to see you taking care of yourself.”

Peter was surprised by Jasper’s attitude. “I thought that our meeting would be an unhappy one, but I like you a lot, young man. Most importantly, I can tell that everything you’re saying and doing now comes from your heart—it’s genuine respect.”

Jasper spoke sternly, “It is truly what I think, after all. People like you are old heroes, Mr. Coine. Your generation is the reason why we can live such great lives. Your heroic achievements are things anyone of Somer descent should never forget.”

“Very good. Thank you for remembering our hard work,” Peter smiled softly and spoke.

At that, Peter pulled up his sleeve and showed a deep knife scar as well as a few bullet wounds. He explained, “These are from three different battles. See this scar? It was from a bayonet that had pierced right into the bone. These few other bullet wounds were also from the enemy troops. I have more wounds on me, but I’ll spare you the sight.”

Jasper looked at his own tightly wrapped shoulder and smiled. “Looks like I’m just weak, then.”

Peter waved him off and spoke slowly, “People grow old and their thoughts change as well. Look at me and the tough life I’ve lived. Despite the enemies’ bayonets and bullets, I lived to 80 only to send my children off instead of the other way around.”

Jasper remained silent.

“Mr. Laine...”

Coine. Just call

the point. Seeing that I’m asking you, could you at least leave the Coine family a living

the death penalty. I can’t be

this is key. A word from you and they’ll be out in a year or two. I may be old, but

Mr. Coine and spoke, "Logically speaking, Mr. Coine, considering your identity, such a request is in no way overboard. But I also heard that you didn't stop the prosecution

stopping them? They did this to themselves. Who knows how many wrongdoings they've committed with my name

lightly. "I respect you as an old hero, Mr. Coine, but your heroic achievements should not be used to forgive the mistakes of your descendants. Mistakes should be stopped and corrected once

heroes as well, but they've done their part to

is resentment between me and them, and I must seek revenge. Think of it this way. If I had lost too much blood the other day and

Coine fell silent at Jasper's

it for your sake. I have nothing against Len Coine, so as long as he pays up the tax he has

Jasper. "If that's the case,

it's

then rejected Jasper sending him out and

his head as he watched Peter slowly walk out of the hospital and get into

'Is Peter pitiful?

not

distasteful

just happens to be

treating the cause instead of the symptoms. Jasper did not like leaving himself with future

would have at least three to five years waiting for him. By the

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Jasper took the Law family's private plane back to Nauritus City.

"I've been thinking of getting ourselves a private plane as well once my cash flow isn't as tight anymore."

Jasper turned to tell Wendy as he sat in the comfortable interior of the private plane's compartment.

Wendy pursed her lips and smiled. "I heard that it costs two to three million a year just to maintain a private plane. That's a waste of money."

Jasper shrugged. "A normal car needs maintenance too, but you wouldn't choose not to buy a car just because you have to maintain it, right? It comes with much more convenience that outweighs the cost, and we have to think of the benefits it brings as well. It's the same with a private plane. It's safer, more

comfortable, and more convenient—very much worth that few million Somer Dollars worth of maintenance.”

Sitting in front of them, Henry turned his head excitedly and asked, “How about you get me one too while you’re at it? Kayden is the only rich kid in Harbor City with a private plane and the rest of us are very envious.”

“This isn’t yours?” Jasper was surprised.

dad would be so generous.” Henry scoffed

I ask. He only had someone fly this plane over for me because he heard that you got hurt. The only other time I get to sit in this plane is when

you a plane.” Jasper attacked him mercilessly, saying, “You’d definitely have those ridiculous parties up in the sky if you

then? You’ll be the first

year, though. I’ve invested in too many projects

of Waterhoof Tower would cost him at least 16 billion, and the patented MP3 player technology as

was most likely going to cost him quite

since many things required

at Nauritus City safely. Henry had many things to handle now that construction of the amusement park project was coming to an end, so he went to the construction

Wendy

Schuler,”

and well, Dawson finally let out a sigh of relief and clapped Jasper’s shoulder. “Good.

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After Dawson left, Jasper turned to hug Wendy. Smiling, he spoke, “Thank you.”

“For what?” Wendy tilted her head and blinked confusedly.

“Thank you for caring about me,” Jasper spoke as if he could not be any clearer.

“Who else is going to care about you if not me? Just promise you’ll be more careful next time. Those people are willing to do just anything for their own interests,” Wendy reminded.

Jasper nodded. “You’re right. What happened this time was a lesson to myself as well.

“They say good men know better than to stand where danger strikes. And while I wouldn’t call myself a good man, I’m terrified of dying. Reed City is a small place, but I suppose the fact that it’s small means that there’s more negligence with the law there. They’ve had a very smooth sailing history of doing business, so I got careless.”

Wendy spoke gently, "There are no predicting accidents. I don't ask for much, I don't even need all these riches. All I want is for you and Dad to be alive and well. That's enough for me."

on our journey here, we've met great allies like the Law family as well as rivals of different calibers like more enemies than friends. After all, the growth of a new family means the redistribution of interests people who'd come at us first will undoubtedly be these enemies of ours. So for your finished

time, dinner

the dining table, Jasper and Dawson chatted casually and the topic quickly

become a name that'll spread across the land." Despite his age, Dawson could not help but feel

Jasper, being the people involved, were the only ones aware of how

the country's development plan for the next 20 years and poured the information he knew into the Southface River Project. The goal of it was to loudly broadcast JW Real Estates' name

also use this opportunity to build the foundation for the country's first private real

Estates is much more important than profits. We never planned on earning much with the Southface River Project. It'd be great if we can even earn our money's worth

most living districts under JW Real Estates as they are. They'll

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The following day, Jasper sat in his Bentley that he had greatly missed and arrived at the provincial Research Institute of Sciences.

While Southeast Province had contributed a lot to scientific research, the small run-down building before him revealed a very real issue.

The country was in dire need of economic development, so most of the money would go into construction or investment. Thus, it resulted in a grave decrease in investments in scientific research.

After instructing Julian to wait for him in the car, Jasper entered the run-down building that seemed to have three or four decades' worth of history.

Following the address Dawson had given him, Jasper arrived outside an office and knocked on the door.

"Come in." A man's raspy voice sounded from inside the office.

Jasper walked in and saw a man in his 50s wearing a white lab coat. He was tinkering with a chip behind his office desk.

What was supposed to be a clean lab coat was now dirty, and the man's hair that looked like a bird's nest greatly aged his appearance.

The man paid Jasper no attention once he entered. Instead, Jasper found him murmuring something as if he was trying to solve a hard problem—all while fiddling with the chip in his hand.

Jasper did not rush him, opting to wait patiently by the side.

Jasper took in the decor of the office. It was simple and very messy. Equipment could be found all over the place and most of them were rather old. It was evident that they had not been keeping up with the times.

the room were the certificates and awards that covered the better half of the wall. Those were all

and saw Jasper. Only then did he put the chip down, speaking slightly apologetically, “Sorry,

it. You must

replied, “I am. You must be the

after seeing how Elbert had

knocked his forehead with his palm and

can I help you?”

and spoke, “I’ve come to invite

my research in peace. I

were completely different. Businessmen were willing to do anything for the sake of profits. His research that he had spent

your mind that no matter how capable a researcher

did not seem to be affected by Elbert’s attitude, and he debated back in the calmest tone with a truth that

few times

for several projects, and the amount was already the lowest possible amount needed after going through multiple budget cuts. Still, a year after

than there was supply. After splitting the funds

take a look at this, Professor McGee.” Jasper then reached out for

Upon opening it, Elbert found himself deeply entranced by the treasure in his hands.

how Elbert’s eyes shone as though he was a parched man finding water, Jasper smiled softly. He knew that

...

in the Research Institute of

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On Jasper's end, he had brought out enough bargaining chips to pique Elbert's interest and surprise him immensely.

"Mr. Laine, this is the most advanced MP3 player design document in the world. Where did you get it?"

Elbert asked Jasper excitedly in the Southeast Province Research Institute of Sciences.

Jasper smiled. "Obviously through legal means. I bought it from the original creator, Damond Golding. Does the technology look difficult?"

Elbert smiled confidently. "I know about Damond. He's a very talented technician, but I'm not horrible either. With this document, I can most certainly copy the MP3 player."

"No. A simple copy isn't enough." Jasper shook his head.

"Why would I ask you for help if all I wanted was a complete copy with no technical expertise, Professor McGee? I'd be able to do that with a few research students with Masters in scientific research. What I want is an improved and upgraded version."

brows deeply at Jasper's words and replied curtly, "You don't know anything about technology, Mr. Laine. A mature piece of patented technology is like

at the stack of technological papers. "I can tell you that if I make the slightest

just want to add a screen?"

a moment, and his brows furrowed as

of changing anything. I'll just have to leave a spot on the circuit board to attach the screen and rewrite the

"Would

Elbert hesitated.

agree to be JW Electronics' chief technological officer, a status on par with the CFO, you'll be paid two million a year

Elbert looked conflicted.

receive at least 50 million research funds from the company every year. Of course, any patent rights of your research will belong to the company, but you and your team will have a right to 10%

to his feet and

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Elbert spoke elatedly, "That's wonderful. I'll contact my friends right away and report to you in the shortest time possible."

Jasper smiled and got up. "Very well, then. I shall await your and your team's arrival."

"I have a small request." Elbert pointed at the document and asked, "Could you leave the documents with me? I still want to do some research and there are a few points worth borrowing from."

Jasper replied, "Of course. Although, we're a little short on time so I'd prefer if you made improving the MP3 player your current priority, Professor. There'll be a lot of time in the future for you to slowly research what you wish."

"Of course!" Elbert laughed aloud as he was in a great mood. He could tell that Jasper was very different from other businessmen; he was not money-hungry like the others.

After agreeing with Elbert, Jasper got up and left. There was still a lot he had to do so he could not stay in Elbert's office any longer.

The following few days were spent communicating with Chad, who was in Reed City, about the construction progress and the equipment installation in the factory over there.

City's government, the factory was

than a week, the first batch of three 25,000 square foot factories

up the process, Jasper and Chad had decided to first complete construction of the first batch of factories, consisting of three factory buildings, and leave the other factories as well as the production district to be constructed

three factories were completed, equipment installation and

their technical training under the skilled workers and

when he heard Chad's report

already contacted Elbert and his team has already completed the key research for the upgraded design of

domestically manufactured MP3

here in Southeast Province. It's likely that they've successfully created a sample, so they've begun advertising through all large television

that mean we've lost the element of surprise, Mr. Laine?" Chad

We've got a unique advantage when it comes to advertising. So long as our product is on the market, no one will be able to compete against us in terms of advertisements. The only thing we need is enough goods and an upgrade in the product's technology when

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"You must've been very busy lately, Mr. Monty. And yet you've taken the time to find out how I've been as of late. I'm flattered, truly."

Leaning against the sofa, Jasper replied. He knew that the call was from Conrad right when the man spoke.

Conrad chuckled on the other end of the line. "Looks like you've been attentive to my situation as well, then?"

"Not too different, are we? Though in comparison to the people you sent to follow me, I'd say my attention is hardly worth mentioning."

Conrad harrumphed at Jasper's words and spoke, "I heard that you took a trip to Coreana to buy the patent for MP3 players?"

"Didn't you buy the patent before I could, Mr. Monty? Why would you ask if you already knew?" Jasper spoke calmly with no hint of displeasure in his tone.

Conrad chuckled. "Since you already know that I'm the one with the patented technology, then why would you still dare to manufacture MP3 players in your factory in Reed City? You're a brave man."

Jasper replied calmly, "You've misunderstood, Mr. Monty. What my factory in Reed City manufactures are merely small trinkets that you would never be interested in, Mr. Monty.

"Why, Mr. Monty? Are you worried about something?" Jasper asked intently.

Conrad's expression darkened as he replied calmly, "Let's not beat around the bush, Jasper. We have history between us, and this is far from the end of it. You wanted the patent rights to the MP3 player, so I decided to fight you for it and be one step ahead of you.

"Initially, I had just planned to pose an inconvenience to you. But I've realized that the MP3 player could be a very promising product in the country's market. I've got to thank you for your guidance, or I'd never have found such a suitable way to make profits in such a short time.

only one allowed to manufacture the MP3 player in the country now, so I suggest you be a little smarter and not think of little tricks. Or I'll make

about it first, I still stole it from

as having not earned anything from the aluminum company incident before. Now that I think about it, you were indirectly the one who gave me that money, weren't you, Mr.

"You!"

had only ever lost once in his life yet this one loss had become a nightmare he could never escape

think

"Haha!"

spoke coldly, "We've got a long road ahead of us. So what if you win once? The one with the last word is the true winner, Jasper. You've already lost once, what makes you think you can

but you'll have no way of getting it. All you can

whether that's good or bad money, that's not for you to decide! I'll decide and you'll take what I

hung up

had the upper hand, Conrad could not seem to lift his

the new MP3 player sample from his table. Looking at the silver coating, Conrad asked

lines have already been installed. It

mood

with business clients who've been requesting it but remember to raise the bar. We're the country's first domestic brand for MP3

Mr. Monty. What should we name this MP3 player of ours? And how should we

"Its name..."