

At The Top 871

Life at The Top

Chapter 871

"I didn't say that you did," Henry replied, stopping in front of him. He wrapped his arm around Zane's shoulder. "Why'd you even suggest that? Did you provoke me behind my back without my knowledge?" He asked in a cheery tone.

Zane, who was overcome with guilt, glanced at Jasper instinctively. However, he instantly returned to his senses and looked away from Jasper. He tried to pry off Henry's hand.

"I did not do anything to you, so let's both mind our own business. Don't cling to me like that—we're not that close to each other."

"Oh."

Henry patted Zane's face with a wide smile across his face as he continued to speak, "I haven't seen you in a few days, but it seems like your temper has improved. Why won't you let me cling to you? In the past, you didn't even dare to breathe loudly in front of me. I've just left Harbor City for a few days, and now you're acting up against me."

While Henry spoke, he cast a brief glance at Mitch Langdon, whose expression was dark and overcast. "Do you think that you can go against me because this guy is here?" He asked.

Zane stared at Mitch, silently pleading him for help.

Mitch could not bear to watch Henry bully Zane in front of him. After all, one still had to check with a dog's master before hitting a dog.

enough from you, Law. We're just here to look around.

an evil snicker. He was acting like a gangster right now. "I didn't ask you why you were here. Why are you in such a hurry to explain things to me? Are you here with an ulterior

with an idiot

patted Zane's face again and scoffed. "I'm afraid nothing good will

as he flung

away. "Oh, why are you so pissed

Do you think that you're that much better than me? What

as soon as Zane

despised

rage flashed across Henry's

spitted out as he slapped Zane across his face. "Why can't you

face with his hand and roared out in anger, "I've had enough if I force you to die, what can you do to me?"

me not to force you to do anything? Do you think that you're the main villain that everyone fails to defeat in a game? You're nobody. You're just a

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"Oh? It seems like you aren't here to celebrate then."

Jasper turned around and called out, "Julian."

"I'm here!"

Julian made his way toward Jasper.

"Kick these two people off the venue. They weren't invited."

As soon as Jasper finished giving his orders, Zane yelled out in a fit of rage. "Jasper Laine, what are you doing?!"

Mitch had an extremely unpleasant expression etched across his face as well.

He did not expect Jasper to act in such an arrogant manner and kick both of them out after exchanging just a few sentences with them.

and Zane were to get kicked out of the event like a wounded dog in front of everyone, it would be beyond humiliating for them. They would be too ashamed to even

personally invited everyone present to celebrate the completion of the Southface River project. Since both of you aren't here to celebrate,

What Jasper said made sense. Thus, he glanced at Mitch

"There's no need to use your tricks on me, Jasper Laine. Didn't you send out invitations to both our families? We're here to attend the ceremony, but you're kicking us out instead. If news about this breaks out, who will

raised his brow and said, "You're mistaken. I sent out invitations to your fathers, Mr. Bob Lancaster and Mr. Kennedy Langdon. I intended to invite both of them, but neither of your are on the guest

been on the

as he let out a disgruntled huff and said, "Since we're not welcome here, we'll

to celebrate the completion of the project, you're definitely

who were both walking away crestfallenly, to

original purpose behind coming here, there's no need to leave in such

What do you take us for? Do you think that we're your followers like Henry Law? Why should we follow you while you greet your guests? Do you think that you're that important?" He

already told you what I wanted to say. It's alright if you don't wish to come along," Jasper said. He then led Julian toward the

"Mr. Langdon, what is he playing

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Kennedy, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Kayden, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Bob Lancaster, one of Harbor City's bigshots.

While Bob did not hold a candle to the four richest families in Harbor City, the man's wealth and status were definitely that of an elite in venues where the four main families were not present.

No one had expected Jasper to be able to invite three of Harbor City's richest families for his topping-out ceremony.

The reporters felt lightheaded and were moments away from going crazy. They were all too excited and could barely contain the urge to step forward and interview the newly-arrived guest, but the stern-looking bodyguards in black suits were very effective in deterring them.

Both Zane and Mitch were stunned when they saw their fathers.

They had not expected their fathers, who had remained impartial all this while, to suddenly rush over for this.

Even so, they dared not hesitate and quickly went to greet them.

"You've done well, Jasper." Kayden smiled at him after observing the surroundings.

Jasper shook Kayden's hands and smiled. "Quite a bit of hard work and ideas were pitched during the designing process back then, and we've taken inspiration from quite a few of Harbor City's design concepts in order to have Southface River look the way it does today. I could bring you around for a tour later."

Kayden nodded. "Sure, I've got to get a good look at it. If I could, I was hoping to buy a few businesses here, and wait for its value to rise."

"You're very welcome to do so."

Jasper then turned to extend his hand toward Kennedy. "Thank you for coming, Mr. Kennedy."

Kennedy chuckled and shook Jasper's hand while replying, "Not bad, it looks much better than I imagined. It seems like we elders need to learn more from youths like you, or we'll only get left behind and forgotten."

only dream of having. We're still young and there are many places where

shook Jasper's hand and turned to smile at Bob as he spoke, "See? I told you Jasper's the best wordsmith amongst all the youth in

“That’s not right. Jasper isn’t from Harbor City, he doesn’t count of Somerland now, it means the same thing,” Jasper replied up with your honeyed words. I’ve got miles more experience than you; have you no shame and Mitch rushed over

“Dad.”

greeted their respective doing here?” Bob frowned at his

“I, I...”

stammered and kept glancing at not help but think that couldn’t find anything worth investing in. We were passing by the Southeast Province when he heard the news, so we came

was

in an event as grand as this one, no one truly cared whether your reason to attend was believable or not. As long as

the Boyle family wanted me to help extend their apologies. He’s on a business trip right

his eyes

family their invitation alongside the

family had yet to inform them whether or not

speaking, guests tended to inform the host if they could not attend the event due to specific reasons, or if they could attend, what time they would

someone else to

the Boyle family was the most fickle out of the four richest families. The man followed went wherever there were benefits to

afford to offend anyone, then he would just steer clear

thanks to the Law family. They had worked together a couple of times and their cooperation was

personally invited the

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Jasper was momentarily stunned before he quickly spoke, "What? No way, you worked even harder than I did for the project. How can you not be here for the ribbon-cutting ceremony?"

Dawson pointed at the representatives of Harbor City's richest families as well as the officials from the Provincial and City Government, then said with a smile, "You're more suited for this kind of event than I am."

Seeing how Jasper was about to protest, Dawson spoke meaningfully, "I'm growing old, Jasper, but you're still young. The stage will be yours in the future, and you're meant to reach further heights than I have!

"That's why I'm going to help you as much as possible while I still can. I'm an old man about to retire, what's the point in me joining this kind of event?"

"I have no intention of growing the Schuler Group anymore, it's enough for me to have managed to obtain the majority market share of the supermarket industry. This is already way past what I ever imagined achieving, but I don't have the energy to manage nor to fight in business anymore.

"However, it's different for you. You need this event, so let the Southface River project become a halo over your head. This halo will help you find your footing among those people quicker and easier!

"So go!"

When he heard Dawson's moving speech, Jasper stopped protesting and nodded solemnly.

He knew that Dawson was letting him take all the glory.

If both of them went up there, then the world would remember that this project that had shaken the entire country had been completed by two people.

However, if Jasper went up there himself, then Jasper would become the mastermind while Dawson would merely be the man that worked in the shadows.

The world was cruel in that it doomed its people with a horrible memory. Thus, people would only remember the first to achieve something, but never the second.

Dawson was too well aware of such a concept, so he decided that he would let Jasper enjoy all the glory.

rearranged

on the right. Following that was Jasper and Kennedy,

to cut the ribbon, which was in

Bob had merely glanced at

the prettiest female host in the television station, the bigshots

celebrities, reporters, staff, and guests invited to the topping-out ceremony, all looked up at the decadent

that only powerful people and those with extremely distinguished statuses could

were destined to
in attendance
ones. This was despite the fact that
was Zachary
oldest, at the age
he was considered young for someone who held the position
the topic of youth, everyone's gaze fell on
stood behind Zachary and had stunned countless people in one year as he shot up to become one of
Southeast Province's
that Jasper had achieved
seemed to have forgotten that he
did everyone remember that Jasper was only turning
able to achieve such success and
than she would have been if she herself were standing on that
of work. He lit a cigarette and looked at Jasper happily, before turning to his daughter and asking,
"Wendy, do you know why I agreed to

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"Do you think I'm blind? Your dad is a man, I've been through this and I know it better than you do.

"There's nothing wrong with men having flings outside, as the worst thing would actually be the inability to attract flings. Jasper at least has the capital and qualifications to do so."

"But you are my daughter so I've hesitated for a long time over this. I don't want you to end up suffering from this relationship in the future.

"I've watched him for a while, and I can say that Jasper still knows his limits. He knows that you're the most important one and I can be certain that no matter how much JW Capital grows, no other woman will be able to tamper with its core!

"You're the only exception in all of this. Didn't you realize that he gave you have one of the main powers at the very beginning, and has slowly shifted the resources and authority over internal affairs over to you?"

Wendy was stunned for a moment before responding dumbfoundedly, "No? All I know is that I do my work every day. It is true that I'm getting busier though."

“Silly girl, had it not been for Jasper, you’d be helping whoever scammed you now!” Dawson said in disappointment.

“Look at all those heads of the families onstage. Tell me who among them doesn’t have at least a few secret wives?”

“Jasper’s only just started, but considering his growth and speed of development, it won’t be long before a whole new Laine family makes a name for itself. With an enterprise as huge as JW Capital and its subsidiaries, no one could possibly ignore its existence.

“While Jasper will spend the first twenty years trying to grow his enterprise, he’ll be spending the next twenty on how to continue the business and ensure that someone inherits it after him.

“You two will have children, and with children comes the issue of inheritance. Fights for authority and control will arise the moment the family grows bigger.

“These are all problems that you two will have to worry about in the future, but it’s obvious now that Jasper’s already made his choice. When it comes to his official wife, he chose you.”

Wendy waved him off and spoke nonchalantly, “You think too much, Dad!

idea, nor does he plan to hand his business to his children unless they’re outstanding enough and have won his approval. Otherwise, he’d much prefer the western model with plenty of professional managers,

Dawson shook his

about to say something else when he was interrupted by the celebratory pop of confetti. He looked up to see Jasper, standing at the center of everyone’s gaze with a mature and confident smile. The man

he trusts you with this because you’re so innocent and

crowd stood two pairs of eyes that reddened with

the f*ck! Why! Why!” Zane held his heart gnaw maddeningly as if there were seven to eight crabs trampling over it with their pointy feet. It

from the farms! How dare he walk all the way up there while all I can do is stand here

stormy and his slightly shaking balled fist betrayed

over the crowd. It fell on Mitch and Zane for a short moment

could barely hold back their anger when they

was that look from that son of

mocking us because we can only stand

proud for? So what if he is up there? He’s still standing behind someone

He’s just a piece of trash that’s

said this, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was about to begin. Suddenly, Zachary turned around to speak to

surprised gaze, they watched as Zachary swapped places with Jasper as the latter tried

What the hell does this mean?!" Zane was in

was standing in front

'What did that mean?

richest family, the Law family, was

the world gone

You should be the one to stand here,"

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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.

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

the few promotional living districts we completed. The sales were downright terrifying today,

satisfaction and replied, "Not bad. We'll be able to sell them all at this

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

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

"What is it?"

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

intention of buying the three commercial buildings on the left of the Southface River Tower, beside 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

was worried about what was wrong. If he wants it,

rich, and the father-son duo are rumored to be able to buy

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,

no obstacle for people like him when

say this, Lance nodded in enlightenment and chuckled, "You're so smart, Mr. Laine. I know what

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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.

me, what is it?" Jasper

Scarlet came to look for me because she wanted to introduce a friend to you, Mr. Laine.

'Stephen Cole?'

for people not to recognize

his career, it was said that every citizen owed that man a movie ticket since they were all pirating it online

not fanboy over celebrities considering his current status. Not to mention, he was well aware that celebrities were often completely

a hilarious man in his movies, yet he was a stern and unsmiling

'Don't believe me?

that was the

is Scarlet trying to do by

of him. Bring him over quickly if she wants to introduce him, then. I have around fifteen minutes." Jasper gave it

watched quite a few of Stephen Cole's movies in both his past and present life, and, to put it

this man was sort of like Jasper's idol in his past

no harm in

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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.

Laine," Scarlet greeted

Laine," Stephen

gaze fell on Stephen first. It was a rather interesting feeling to see someone he

honesty, this did

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

Scarlet looked at Stephen.

hastily replied, "Of course, Mr.

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

following half a step behind. Stephen stood on

Scar helped because I was hoping that you could invest

sentence told Jasper

Scar.

Invest.

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

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

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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."

Scarlet and Ted, let alone

rich people

US Dollars the way ordinary people

this transaction. Easy Media

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

Laine," Ted quickly

that Jasper was giving him a

you'll be in contact with Ted from now on," Jasper shook Stephen's hand and

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

much less expect a deal to

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

Jasper

"Nor do you dare."

know about Jasper in

one in Harbor City

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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.

have someone pick you up later,

came over to them. A small portion of them wanted to know what Stephen and Jasper had been talking
was the charm

more famous than her who would never have previously given her the time of day now surrounded her.
One

be nice being rich

...

banquet involving most of Harbor City's and the

of the South were now aware of this

came to know of a company

countless pairs of eyes, the topping-out ceremony finally came

television stations had come to cover it, and both Nauritus Television and Southeast Television had live-
streamed the entire event.

series of powerful publicity was in place to roll out that night as they planned to

decision Jasper

in the shortest possible time, then it had to have a signature project. The Southface River project was
their

climate, and was also the type of development that modern society