

# Life at the Top Chapter 1011

Today was an ordinary day for most people.

However, to Southeast Province's real estate industry, today was extremely happening.

This was because three of Southeast province's top five real estate companies had suddenly released statements right after the workday began, stating that they had initiated a partnership with Softwin.

Softwin had invested a total of 6 billion Somer Dollars into those three enterprises so they could develop Southeast Province's real estate industry.

The officially number one ranked real estate company in the Southeast Province was JW Real Estates.

With the Southface River project as their golden brand image, and a total of forty-six profitable construction projects within the province, JW Real Estates had proven their strength and position as the number one enterprise despite being founded less than a year ago.

Even so, Softwin had suddenly invested in the number two, three, and four real estate enterprises, avoiding JW altogether.

Everyone could tell what Softwin's goal was.

It was trying to use the strength of the three subsequent real estate companies to overturn JW Real Estates.

The news had sent shockwaves through Southeast Province's real estate industry.

Now, everyone was looking at JW Real Estates, waiting for them to react.

In Southface River Tower's office sat Jasper, who had immediately rushed over to the company once he heard the news. The man took a sip of scalding hot tea and closed his eyes.

He had spent most of the night awake, so he took what little time he had now to rest his eyes.

Dawson was also in the office, smoking a cigarette with a dark look on his face.

He glanced at Jasper and said, "How about you take a break and rest for a few hours? You won't be able to work peacefully even if you push on after staying awake for so long."

Jasper smiled. "How can I sleep when the enemy's already at our door?"

Sean, the President of the real estate group, was also in the office. The man's brows were tightly knitted together and he looked very concerned.

"Mr. Schuler, Mr. Laine, what do we do now?"

"This news puts us at a great disadvantage. Not to mention that the people from the company are feeling uneasy as well. I've received multiple calls from senior executives asking if JW Capital has any countermeasures in place."

Dawson frowned slightly and replied, "The other three real estate enterprises are long-standing businesses here in the Southeast Province. They're very strong.

"Our Southface River project may have caught them off guard, but their business hasn't been too affected, nor have they suffered too much thanks to the hype in the real estate industry.

“Softwin’s huge investment will turn out to be horrible news for us if Softwin suddenly instructs them to attack JW in the Southeast Province.”

Sean sighed and seemed to age a few years as he exhaled.

“The sudden rise of JW has already changed the face of Southeast Province’s entire real estate industry. Most long-standing enterprises before us were enraged by us, but they just did not say anything. We rose too quickly, and before they realized it, we accumulated strength on par with them.

“All they needed was an opportunity to deal with us and they would seize the opportunity. So, now that this investment bank Softwin has passed them a knife, they’re coming for us with or without Softwin’s instructions.”

Jasper opened his eyes and smiled. “You’re already stunted by this? I dare say that there will be more news coming soon. Softwin won’t stop at this if they’re trying to make a move.”

Dawson and Sean exchanged a look before turning to Jasper.

They were about to ask what he meant when the office doors were flung open. Wendy entered the room as if to prove Jasper’s claim.

“Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. just released a statement. Due to the influence of international markets, they’re going to initiate restricted sales for construction steel to the Southeast Province. Unless your company is whitelisted, you’ll have to line up with the rest to buy their materials.

“Our JW isn’t in their company’s released whitelist, but the other three real estate companies are.”

Sean was furious when he heard this. “They’re attacking our roots! This Softwin is just too vile! What benefits did Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. and Stellar Company even get from Softwin to oppress us so blatantly?

“We won’t be able to get our hands on high-grade steel like this, and our cost will increase greatly if we ship them in from outside. They’re rubbing salt into our wounds.”

Jasper spoke calmly, “If I’m right, raw material suppliers of all cement, piping, construction, silt, and the like would have also received the same instructions from Softwin.

“Either take benefits from Softwin and stop all partnerships with JW, or become Softwin’s enemy and be besieged by the industry.”

Even Dawson’s expression changed slightly when he heard that.

Even someone outside the industry knew that a real estate company would be destroyed instantly if they were cut off from their raw construction materials while staring down competitors.

“What do we do, Jasp?” Wendy asked worriedly.

Jasper lifted his head to rub his face and the drowsiness away. Now slightly more awake, he turned to Sean and asked, “What did you say just now?”

Sean was stunned for a moment before he replied instinctively, “I said Softwin was just too vile.”

“No, you said they’re attacking our roots.”

Jasper got up to fill his half-empty cup of tea with hot water and chuckled. “What we’ll do next can truly be considered as attacking their roots!

“Take a trip to Waterhoof City immediately, Sean. You have my authorization as the company representative to negotiate with Stellar Company. If they’re willing to partner with us, we’re willing to buy their materials at the best price. We’ll also promise a 40% increase in yearly purchase volume.

“As for the other suppliers we partner with, send each of them a notice under JW’s name to sign a three-year supply contract.

“Using the original contract as a baseline, tell them that JW promises a 30% increase from the previous year in purchase volume throughout the length of the contract. If they disagree, look for another supplier immediately.

“Businessmen throughout the world all share a common love of money. It won’t matter how strong Softwin is, because there’s no way they can monopolize all the raw material suppliers out there. If they do, anti-trust laws will go straight after them instead of us.”

Sean was unsettled by what he heard and could not help but ask, “Mr. Laine, will we be able to use up the materials in time?”

“I have faith in the country’s real estate industry. If anything, I’m afraid that what we’re promising now won’t be enough,” Jasper replied calmly, “Go, I don’t have time to answer your questions now.”

Sean shivered and stood to attention. “Yes, Mr. Laine.”

Then, he immediately left the room.

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Jasper walked over to the floor-to-ceiling windows in the office after Sean left. Watching the calm flow of the Southface River, he fell silent.

Wendy was about to speak when she saw Dawson shake his head slightly at her.

“He’s thinking. Leave him alone for a moment.”

Wendy nodded and looked at Jasper worriedly.

She knew that Jasper was the person under the most pressure within the company.

Sean, herself, and even her father were used to relying on Jasper and placing their hope in him most of the time. It was as if every problem could be easily solved Jasper was around.

However, as someone who was always by Jasper’s side, Wendy knew better than anyone that it was because Jasper spent countless nights thinking, weighing the potential outcomes, and revising the entire situation, that everything was ‘easily’ solved.

No one succeeded without putting in any effort.

After more than ten minutes of thought, Jasper suddenly spoke, “I can’t keep waiting.”

Dawson shared a look with his daughter, Wendy. They did not know what Jasper meant by this.

A moment later, Jasper had dialed a number.

“Mr. Marlon, it’s me, Jasper.”

“Mr. Laine, we were waiting for your news,” Wayne’s voice sounded from the other end of the line.

“How are your discussions going?” Jasper asked.

Wayne replied, “I need a promise from you, Mr. Laine.”

“I’ll make the promises I should, but I don’t have the time to let you discuss endlessly. Time is of the essence, and I’m sure both Abbylon and I are racing against it.

“I suggest you hold a shareholder meeting immediately. If you agree to vote for me, Mr. Marlon, then I will do everything I can to support Abbylon’s rise. But if you don’t agree...”

Jasper stopped speaking there, but they both understood what the consequences would be.

Wayne knew that with Jasper’s current status in the dot-com industry, either Sena or Terizone could easily replicate Abbylon’s model and surpass the latter.

The most tragic part of such an outcome was that Abbylon would be too weak to defend itself against them.

This was essentially Jasper’s ultimatum to them.

Wayne frowned slightly, but not because he was displeased by Jasper’s oppression.

No businessman could be polite forever. When necessary, they had to be daring and resolute in their negotiations.

In the future, Abbylon's development would similarly prove that Wayne was not a pushover or a cowardly businessman either.

On the contrary, Wayne was conflicted as to why Jasper was in such a rush.

After a moment of silence, Wayne asked, "Mr. Laine, I've also received news of Softwin targeting you. Are these two matters related?"

"Yes," Jasper affirmed calmly.

They were all intelligent people and Jasper did not need to deny such a thing. Doing so would only be disrespectful to Wayne and himself.

It was possible that Jasper's frankness had moved Wayne, or perhaps Wayne had another idea in mind. In any case, Wayne did not hesitate this time.

"Alright, we'll hold a meeting."

Jasper let out a long sigh at Wayne's words as his mood brightened as well.

He was willing to greatly offend Softwin for Abbylon's sake, and now that he had paid the price, Jasper was facing the risk of losing everything if he did not force Wayne to declare his stance.

This did not tally up with Jasper's traditional way of doing business.

Wayne was well aware that Softwin and JW were already attacking each other head-on, and he could not afford to be an undecided fence-sitter anymore. Now, Wayne had to make a choice.

His final choice was to bend to Jasper's will.



After all, Abbylon was a Somer business and Softwin was a Sunrise investment bank. However, even he could tell that no one dared to offend Jasper in Somerland's dot-com industry.

"Two-thirty this afternoon, Shangri-La Hotel's Conference Hall. I'll send someone over to book the place, so just arrive by then, Mr. Marlon."

"Alright," Wayne replied.

"But according to the regulations, I have to notify and invite Softwin's representatives as well They're a major shareholder, after all."

"Of course."

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“See you in the afternoon, then.”

With that, Jasper stretched and smiled at Dawson. “I’m going to rest for a while, Uncle Schuler. I’m dead tired.”

Dawson frowned and asked, “This won’t be the end of Softwin’s attacks. Are we not going to make more preparations?”

Jasper laughed out loud and replied, “I don’t think they’ll have the chance or time for that.”

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“Mr. Welch, it’s a call from Wayne,” Yona told Echo.

Echo frowned slightly, “Why’s he calling now? Give me the phone.”

Echo took the phone and accepted it, speaking solemnly, “Echo speaking.”

“This is Wayne, Mr. Welch. We’re planning to hold a shareholder meeting this afternoon to clarify the issue of share proportions within the company.”

Echo narrowed his eyes when he heard this. A cold look flared in his eyes and he raised his voice, “Mr. Marlon, Abbylon Inc’s current shareholder structure is already very clear. I don’t think there’s any need to hold a shareholder meeting.”

Wayne replied, “This is mainly due to JW Capital wanting to invest in Abbylon.

“Whether we accept the investment, how much capital we’re accepting, and how we’re distributing the diluted shares must all be clearly discussed in a shareholder meeting. This complies with our company’s articles of association.”

“But I don’t have that kind of time now,” Echo spoke with a frown.

Wayne smiled and replied, “If you aren’t free to attend, Mr. Welch, then according to our company’s articles of association, we’ll have to accept Softwin’s absence as a choice to abstain from the vote.”

Echo harrumphed and replied, “So this is you standing on Jasper’s side, then?”

Wayne answered calmly, “My apologies, Mr. Welch. I’m just a businessman and I only have one wish, to make Abbylon stronger and bigger.

“Whoever manages to make my wish come true will be my friend.”

Echo felt extremely displeased by this.

It seemed like anyone or anything became difficult to deal with once Jasper was involved.

“Two-thirty this afternoon, in Nauritus City’s Shangri-La Hotel’s Conference Hall.”

Wayne then hung up the phone once he relayed the time and place.

Yona took in Echo’s dark expression and could not help but ask, “Mr. Welch, did something happen with Abbylon?”

“Wayne called, inviting us to attend the shareholder meeting in the afternoon,” Echo explained grimly.

Yona frowned as well. “A shareholder meeting at such a time? Not to mention that it’s so rushed too. Something feels wrong about this.”

Echo clenched his jaw and said, “Still, we have to attend no matter what. If my guess is right, Jasper will definitely be there.

“If we do not attend, the 41% of shares Softwin owns will be considered forfeit—in that case, we might as well be giving Abbylon to Jasper on a silver platter. The headquarters will not forgive us for that.”

At two p.m., in Nauritus City’s Shangri-La Hotel’s conference hall.

The large conference hall was empty except for the three people sitting inside.

Wayne, Jose, and Jasper.

“I remember that the eighteen founders each hold a percentage of the shares, yes?” Jasper asked.

Wayne nodded and replied, “They already gave me the right to vote for them before the meeting began.”

“Alright.”

Jasper nodded, unsurprised.

All of Abbylon’s shares were split into two major portions.

The 41% in Softwin’s hands, and the remaining 59% split between Wayne, the eighteen founders, and Jose.

However, both the eighteen founders and Jose listened to Wayne’s opinions, and the man held the final say in the group. Therefore, at the end of the day, the true majority shareholder was still Wayne.

As they conversed, the clock struck two-thirty.

It seemed purposeful when the doors of the conference hall were pushed open at exactly two-thirty.

Echo walked into the conference hall expressionlessly with Yona in tow.

Echo met Jasper's gaze. The two did not talk, but the air immediately grew tense.

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“So it really is your fault, Jasper,” Echo spoke, looking at the man coldly.

Jasper sat on his seat and replied calmly, without even looking up at Echo. “I don’t think I understand what you mean, Mr. Welch.

“How am I at fault?”

Echo scoffed. He did not want to waste any more time arguing with Jasper, so he turned to Wayne with a dark look in his eyes.

“Mr. Marlon, you claimed that this is Abbylon Inc’s shareholder meeting. So what is this irrelevant person doing here?”

By irrelevant person, Echo was obviously referring to Jasper.

“Mr. Welch, the most important agenda of today’s shareholder meeting is to discuss whether we should allow JW Capital to invest in Abbylon. Therefore, it is only right that he is present,” Wayne replied unfazed.

Echo scoffed and said, “Very well. Then according to your company’s articles of association, you should’ve sent a letter of notice to your shareholders three days before the meeting. Yet, you’ve only told me today. Aren’t you being too clear with your intentions?”

Wayne found Echo’s aggressive questioning distasteful and replied indifferently, “Perhaps you did not take a proper look at our company’s articles then, Mr. Welch. Should there be any special and urgent agendas, I have the right to hold a meeting immediately.”

Echo’s eyes shone with a frigid glare.

The two previous questions might have seemed like Echo was intentionally antagonizing Jasper and Wayne, but it was actually a method he used to test Wayne's stance on the issue.

Now that he had finished asking this, he had gotten his answer.

The situation was not in his favor.

Wayne himself was completely leaning toward Jasper, which was horrible news to Echo.

"Mr. Marlon, it was Mr. Shon from Softwin than invested in Abbylon when you needed funds the most. We were the ones who helped you then.

"But this is how you repay Softwin and Mr. Shon?!"

Wayne looked up at Echo and replied, "First of all, our deal is purely professional. Be it Softwin or Mr. Shon, your relationship with me and Abbylon goes no further than business partners. It's a relationship built on mutually benefiting off each other, so there's no need to make it sound so ostentatious.

"Secondly, once again from a professional perspective, I only have one goal. I'll make whatever choice that benefits Abbylon the most, and I'm sure Mr. Shon will understand this."

Echo sneered and replied, "How professional of you!

"Why are we the only ones here for a shareholder meeting? Where are the other shareholders?" Echo asked expressionlessly.

"The other shareholders have authorized me to vote on their behalf," Wayne replied.

The corner of Echo's lips twitched and he spoke expressionlessly, "If you've already written your scripts, then what's the point of asking me to come and act it out with you?"

"Mr. Welch."

Jose had no choice but to step up and speak upon seeing the atmosphere in the room turn tense. "No matter what, Softwin is still Abbylon's majority shareholder, so we still need to follow procedures for formalities sake."

"Ridiculous!"

Echo slammed his hand on the table and pointed at Jasper while barking, "You think I don't know what you're thinking?"

"What did you agree with him? What did he promise you, huh? Did you forget how Softwin helped you during your most difficult times? If so, why are you working with him to target Softwin?"

After this, Echo's sinister gaze fell on Jasper, and he chuckled.



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“You can’t even fend for yourself now, Jasper. I’m sure you’ve already seen Softwin’s strength. It’ll only take the wag of a finger for a huge capital like us to crush you, I don’t know how you even have the mood to hop around happily in front of me.”

“Are you referring to the problems JW Real Estate faced?” Jasper looked at Echo calmly. “To be absolutely honest, if that’s all the trouble Softwin can create, you’ve disappointed me.

“Softwin’s got to be more capable, right? Or there’s no way you’ll be able to crush me.”

“Hahaha!”

Echo laughed out loud and said to Jasper, “Stop pretending. You’re actually terrified, frantic, and angry, aren’t you?”

“You’re terrified that your real estate company will die from my siege, frantic because you haven’t found a way to counter it, and angry because I’m oppressing you with my power. You must be so aggrieved.”

Echo sneered, speaking as if he had seen through Jasper, “I must’ve read your mind, hmm?”

“Or perhaps this huge shareholder meeting is nothing more than your final counter. Perhaps you’re hoping to threaten me as one of Abbylon’s shareholders so that I’ll give up on the siege against JW Real Estates.”

Echo’s tone grew colder as he chortled. “Too bad, because that’s not going to happen!”

He turned his head and spoke to Wayne and Jose, “Don’t fall for his lies, both of you. The real estate company under his name is under my attack and it’ll only be a few months before it completely collapses.

“Just ask around outside and you’ll discover the truth. He won’t be able to last for much longer.

His competitors are closing in, and he is without any construction materials. What can he do? Demolish his own house to use his cement and rebar for construction?

“The only reason he’s persuaded you to hold such a shareholder meeting is because he wants to use this as a condition for me to stop the siege on his real estate company.

“You two are nothing more than a bargaining chip. How is he going to invest in your Abbylon when he can’t even protect himself?”

Echo’s voice echoed through the conference hall, causing Wayne to frown slightly. His gaze dimmed such that no one knew what he was thinking about.

Meanwhile, Jose frowned heavily.

As expected, Echo’s words had affected them greatly.

Jose silently leaned over to Wayne and whispered, “We have to be wary, Mr. Marlon.”

Wayne nodded in acknowledgment and turned to Jasper, “Is there anything you’d like to say, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper shrugged and spoke calmly, “You’d believe a madman’s clamor?”

“This is Abbylon Inc’s shareholder meeting. There shouldn’t be a need to raise issues irrelevant to Abbylon Inc here.”

“Regardless of whether JW Real Estates goes bankrupt or not has nothing to do with the nature of my investment in Abbylon.

“Therefore, I suggest that we spend less time talking and get to it. A shareholder meeting is a serious matter. All promises and resolutions made bear legal validity.

“If I said I want to buy shares, then I will buy shares.”

Jasper’s words had Echo bursting out in laughter. “You really are a stubborn mule, Jasper. Are you really not going to give up?”

Letting out a soft exhale, Wayne seemed to have made a decision and he spoke grimly. “In any case, the shareholder meeting starts now!

“For the first agenda, Mr. Jasper Laine will be representing JW Capital and attempting to buy Abbylon Inc’s shares. Mr. Jasper Laine, please describe your investment, as well as the percentage of shares your funds accounts for. If you could make an official statement, Mr. Jasper Laine?”