

Life at the Top Chapter 1036

“Yes, I do have plans to bring over a team to conduct the research alongside them.

“I’m prepared to invest astronomical amounts into this. This is going to be a magnificent thing if we succeed. It’ll mean that JW Electronics broke through the technology blockade and will mark a turning point in which JW Electronics can finally make its way toward the international market.

“Alright. Thank’s for your trouble putting, Uncle Law. I’ll take a trip to Waterhoof City immediately to contact them.”

Hanging up the phone, Jasper had just stood to leave the room when his phone rang again.

This caught Jasper off guard as the phone call was from Gale, who Jasper had not talked to in a long time.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, is there a reason you’ve taken time out of your busy schedule to talk to me today?”

While Gale and Old Master Law were elders of the same generation, Jasper made sure to maintain enough distance with this crafty Haddock businessman that liked to look down on the younger generation for their lack of experience.

Crafty businessmen like him were ruthless, and they left no remains when they devoured others whole.

Take Conrad’s aluminum mine that Jasper had tried hard to seize before for example.

It was an aluminum mine without too much developmental value, yet Gale had spent quite a bit of money to get it through Jasper.

Jasper remembered being confused as to why the old man would spend so much when there was not much to profits to be made from it. Even if Gale had gained ownership of the aluminum mine, he would still have to deduct inflation and interest from the remaining extractable ores.

He did not know why Gale was so stubborn about the aluminum mine.

However, what the old man did with the mine afterward completely stunned Jasper.

It also taught Jasper the difference between himself and this crafty businessman.

The old man had no desire to continue developing the mine at all. Instead, he immediately split the mining company into seventeen or eighteen smaller companies, each holding few resources and property rights. Then he completely reorganized them and sought out a few listed mining companies to sell the assets to.

Those listed companies released statements claiming that they had purchased important mining resources, and their share prices immediately skyrocketed.

Gale had made 800 million with this split and reorganization.

It was a win-win situation.

The only people who made a loss were investors.

However, even for them, the prices of their shares had increased.

Through this incident, Jasper came to believe that Gale was undoubtedly Haddock Chamber of Commerce's most important figure. The old man had

managed to use ruthlessness and craftiness to maximize his profits in Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“You are putting your guard up against dear old me, aren’t you, sly child?” Gale’s chuckle drifted over from the other end of the line.

Jasper decided he might as well sit down again for this phone call and replied with a bright smile, “Old Master Hurlbutt, you prefer working on yourself and sitting down to enjoy the world around you. But I’m still young and I like moving around and wreaking havoc. We’re different people, so there’s no trust between us, nor is there any need to keep up our guard.”

Gale chuckled and replied, “There is no need to plot, sly child. I came looking for you this time with a specific goal in mind. I suppose you have forgotten your position, haven’t you?”

Jasper asked confusedly, “What position, Old Master Hurlbutt?”

“Hmph. You are still the Vice President of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch. You agreed to take this position back then, yet you have not walked through the Waterhoof City Branch doors even once. Does it not hurt your conscience to lie to an old man who is already living out his last years?”

Jasper pretended to be shocked as he replied, “I’m innocent, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’ve just been too busy lately...”

“Alright. I did not come to hear your excuses. Something has occurred at the Chamber of Commerce. We need you there.”

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Jasper immediately raised his guard when he heard Gale say this.

“Do tell, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’m listening,” Jasper spoke.

Glare harrumphed when he heard Jasper clench his jaw but not promise to deal with the matter.

Any of his countless students in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce at this moment would be promising and swearing on their lives to deal with the matter well if he gave them the chance to work for him.

Yet, Jasper always acted as if Gale was ready to hurt him at any given time.

“An asset forum conference will be held in two days and I need you to attend it as the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s representative,” Gale went straight to the point.

“The Teo Chamber of Commerce is holding the conference. Though based over at Cavern City, they decided to hold the conference in Waterhoof City, in Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce’s territory. They even sent invitations with great fanfare.

“That is why the Waterhoof City Branch will have to send out someone powerful to represent us.”

“However, there is no one suitable for the role over at the branch. I have given it some thought and you are the only one who can do it.”

Jasper frowned slightly at Gale’s words.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, I made it clear when I agreed to take the role as Vice President of the Chamber. I’m just here in name and I won’t interfere or participate in any of the specific businesses of the Chamber. I’m not a businessperson from Haddock, after all. It wouldn’t be right of me to attend this conference.

“This asset forum conference is essentially a fight between the Teo and Haddock Chambers of Commerce, it wouldn’t be suitable for a youth like me to join in.”

Gale seemed to have anticipated Jasper’s rejection and answered calmly, “You also agreed that you would take on the responsibility and work of a Vice President of the Chamber. I would not have asked you to assume the position otherwise.

“The only reason why the Teo Chamber of Commerce would dare to hold an asset forum conference in Waterhoof City is because they realized that the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is currently left without a strong leader.

“I am already old and there is only a handful of successful ones in the next generation, none of which are in Waterhoof City. Meanwhile, the generation after that has yet to grow up and establish themselves.

“A fight between chambers of commerce is large and it involves the interests of countless people. This is why the Waterhoof City Branch must send someone to attend, and the representative must win as well. You are the only one suited for the job.”

Jasper did not want to charge into this battle as Gale’s pawn, so he wanted to reject him immediately.

However, Gale continued before Jasper could speak.

“I’ll owe you a favor after this.”

Jasper immediately changed his mind after this.

Gale was a crafty man, but he kept his promises. This was evident from the situation with the Hull family.

Gale had helped the man even though it risked others mocking him for shamelessly bullying someone weaker.

All because he owed that family a favor.

During crucial times, a favor from someone like Gale could result in unexpected outcomes.

“I can go and do my part, but I have a small request. The Waterhoof City branch is not to cause me any more problems in the future,” Jasper spoke.

Jasper did not forget that after getting rid of the Hull family, Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch still had the Gardner family lying in wait.

Over there, Norman had assumed the position of president.

“Alright,” Gale understood what Jasper was implying and replied calmly, “Whoever causes trouble you from now on will also be causing trouble to me.”

“I’m relieved to hear that, Old Master Hurlbutt,” Jasper smiled.

“Hmph. It won’t be easy owning a favor from me, sly child. I’ll have the branch send you information about the asset forum conference later. Treat it seriously, or I won’t be the only one in despair. You’d be making a fool out of yourself too.”

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Gale was evidently not in a good mood, so he hung up the phone right after.

It was almost time to clock out once the two calls were done.

Jasper went to fetch Wendy and the two soon returned home together.

Dawson was also home when they arrived at the house.

“You’ve helped me a lot with that 1 billion worth of funds, Uncle Schuler. But I might still need a little longer before I can pay you back next month,” Jasper spoke as he walked into the house with Dawson.

In reality, Jasper had borrowed the 1 billion investment into Abbylon from his future father-in-law...

Dawson waved him off and replied, “Take your time. You know how it is with the supermarket industry. The last things we lack are stores and cash. Not to mention that this money is going to belong to you two one day. I’m just handing it to you early.”

Jasper chuckled and did not decline. “Alright, then I’ll take this as an investment. Give me another month and I’ll make some big money. I should be able to pay you back two-fold if nothing goes wrong.”

While Dawson did not mind giving Jasper 1 billion Somer Dollars, his eyebrows still arched when he heard the younger man’s claim.

Dawson knew how Jasper had made his first fortune, so he immediately understood what Jasper meant by making big money.

“Be careful. The financial capital industry is no different from a huge legal gambling table. No one can promise to win forever,” Dawson reminded.

Jasper smiled and said, “I know. I won’t act without absolute certainty.”

Dawson nodded when he heard this. “Good. I’ve never had to worry about this when it comes to you.”

The family of three and Tiffany soon had dinner together.

After dinner, Jasper then called Tiffany to the study.

“I still have to wash the cutlery, Jasper,” Tiffany spoke softly.

Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “That can wait. You seemed preoccupied over dinner, as though you had something on your mind. You can always talk to me about it if you want, or your big sis Schuler if you’re uncomfortable talking to me about it.

“Also, have you decided on the thing I suggested to you last time? About going to university?”

Tiffany’s finger gripped her clothes when she heard him and she replied softly, “This is actually what I’ve been thinking about... I want to go to university, Jasper.”

Tiffany mustered up the courage to say the last bit.

“But I feel like I’m owing you too much, Jasper. I, it makes me feel uneasy.”

Jasper sighed lightly at Tiffany’s words.

“I understand what you are feeling, but I told you before, I’m just lending the money to you, and you’re going to have to pay me back in the end. Therefore, you don’t have to feel like you owe me.”

Tiffany replied in a conflicted tone, “But why are you so good to me when you have no reason to, Jasper?”

“Would you believe me if I said you reminded me of someone from the past?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany was stunned and she blinked in slight confusion.

“Don’t overthink it. Since you’ve already decided, then I’ll arrange it for you. I’ll be taking a trip to Waterhoof City tomorrow anyway, and I’ll be in contact with Hoofmorn University. So, I’ll help you contact them for your enrolment,” Jasper smiled.

Tiffany gaped in shock. “Hoofmorn University? That’s the fifth-best university in the country, Jasper. Is that even possible?”

“Superpowers exist in this world, and one of them is called having money.” Jasper chuckled.

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“Thank you, Jasper.”

Tiffany suddenly got up and gave Jasper a deep bow.

Jasper instinctively went up to stop her, but he immediately backtracked after taking the first step. Standing in place, he accepted Tiffany’s bow.

He knew that not accepting would only make Tiffany feel more uneasy. Hence, he might as well accept it since it would make Tiffany feel better.

Indeed, the girl exhaled in relief after bowing as she beamed brightly at Jasper.

“Just tell me how much money I used when the time comes, Jasper. I’ll calculate a total and write an IOU. I’ll start working after graduation so that I can pay you back.”

“I won’t charge you interest, but you will need to pay the principal back,” Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile.

Tiffany nodded enthusiastically when she heard this.

Just then, the study room doors were opened.

“What are you two talking about? I heard something about an IOU?” Wendy asked, walking into the room.

“Jasper said he’ll help me enroll in a university, so I’ll write an IOU for Jasper and you, Big Sis Schuler,” Tiffany spoke softly.

Wendy glanced at Jasper intently and said, "It's great that you want to study. Is there a major you're interested in?"

Jasper facepalmed when she said this. Wendy was indeed more detailed than he was when it came to things like this. All he thought of was to enroll Tiffany in a university, but he totally forgot to ask her what she wanted to major in."

Considering Tiffany's personality, she would only force herself to study if it was a major she did not like. This would go against Jasper's original intention.

"Can I study law?" Tiffany asked.

Wendy's eye lit up and she spoke, "Law's a major overlooked by many people, so it's in dire need of great talents. Having a law degree would also help you greatly in your future career."

"I don't see why not. If you can pass the judicial examination when you graduate, it'd help you greatly whether you go on to assume a legal position in a company, becoming a lawyer in a law firm, or even being a government official.

"I have no desire to work for the government or to be a lawyer, but I will take the judicial and bar exam. I want to work in your company's legal team," Tiffany spoke bravely.

Jasper smiled. "You're ambitious, that's great. Not to mention that JW's current legal team is still very weak, so it'll definitely need strengthening in the future. Even so, it isn't easy taking the judicial examination. Are you confident about this?"

Tiffany replied embarrassedly, "I love law. I even have half the general rules of Civil Law memorized. I'm confident."

After talking for a little longer, Tiffany excused herself.

Tiffany had just left when Wendy narrowed her eyes and walked over to stand in front of Jasper.

Wendy and Jasper stood very close together, to the point that they could feel the other's breaths on their faces.

However, Wendy was not flirting with Jasper now as she had questions to ask.

Jasper could also feel that Wendy was slightly pissed, and he smiled drily, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Are you guilty?" Wendy asked.

Jasper replied solemnly, "Why would I feel guilty when I didn't do anything wrong?"

"You're guilty," Wendy narrowed her eyes and spoke with certainty.

"Or you wouldn't be acting like this.

"Tell me, what are your plans with Tiffany?"

Jasper replied exasperatedly when he heard this, "She's just a young lady who came out to work after high school. I sympathize with her family background so I want to help where I can. What other plans could I have?"

Wendy looked at Jasper suspiciously and said, "No, I can tell that your reaction was different the first time you met Tiffany. It's like you've known her long ago, but Tiffany doesn't seem to remember you at all.

"Jasper you flirt, this isn't one of those amnesiac female-lead Conreana dramas, is it?"

Jasper let out a sigh. "What a vivid imagination you have. Say there is a female lead, it'd still be you, no?"

"Hmph."

Wendy seemed to be satisfied with Jasper's reply for she answered, "Don't even think about Tiffany in that way. She's too young and clueless."

"I wouldn't think about her that way even if she wasn't clueless," Jasper shook his head, "Don't you what kind of person I am?"

"I do know, which is also why I'm giving you this talk to deter you," Wendy spoke firmly.

When he recalled Anna and Celine, Jasper immediately surrendered and could not refute.

"Moving on, help me pack two outfits, would you?" Mr. Laine immediately changed the subject.

As expected, Wendy was stunned for a moment before she snapped back to attention. "Where are you going?"

"I have to take a trip to Waterhoof City tomorrow. There are quite a few things I have to do so it might take a few days. I also have to go check on the skyscraper. The construction team there asked me to come up with a name for the building. Any suggestions?"

Jasper asked.

Wendy tilted her head and thought about it, "The tallest building in the world, huh. JW Tower? Wait, no, this building is supposed to be a landmark, it's best the building doesn't scream JW."

“Yeah,” Jasper agreed. “The skyscraper’s model is already beyond what can be considered as part of the company’s ancillary assets. It has to be treated as an independent asset.

“The most important aspect of this building is its overall influence, so it’ll need an independent name, one that best has nothing to do with JW if possible.

“Take a look at how the previous tallest buildings in the world were named. There’s a reason none of them are named with any reference to their parent enterprises.

“It’ll limit the building’s potential once it’s named according to the enterprise, and it’ll also influence the types of tenants willing to rent lots in it. No one wants their office address to be under another company’s name.”

“Then how about the World Financial Center?” Wendy suggested.

“I think there were similar buildings in global financial centers overseas.

“Moreover, I think it’ll do both JW and Waterhoof City good to give off the impression as though our building is the only financial center in the country. Since it implies that Waterhoof City is comparable to the long-standing large financial cities in the west.”

“Sounds good,” Jasper smiled, “Still, I worry that this name is a little too grand. I’ll discuss with the people in Waterhoof City later, but it should be fine. Who else is deserving of such a name if not the tallest building in the world, right?”

“I’ll go pack your outfits then. Are you leaving tomorrow?” Wendy asked as she stood up.

“Tomorrow morning,” Jasper nodded.

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Jasper and Julian left early the next morning, taking the Bentley as they made their way to Waterhoof City.

“Jul, I heard from Wendy that your sister’s been trying to set you up for blind dates recently?”

Jasper suddenly thought of something as they entered the highway, so he asked Julian with a subtle smile on his face.

Julian was in a great mood this morning, but his expression immediately darkened at the mention of dating.

Jasper and Julian had known each other for quite some time and their relationship was more akin to friendship than that of an employer and employee. Hence, there were fewer inhibitions between the duo’s private conversations.

Julian immediately began to complain, “I already told my sister that I don’t want to start dating so soon, let alone get married. I don’t even know what she’s searching for.

“You’re the only son of the Lager family. Elder sisters tend to take up the role of the mother in the family too, so of course she’d worry for you,” Jasper answered.

Julian sighed and complained, “I’m busy with work and I don’t have the kind of time to deal with those girls. They can be so demanding sometimes I might as well train with what little remaining time I have.”

Jasper replied irritably, “Will training continue your family bloodline? Will training find you a doting wife?”

“Getting married and having children is something everyone has to experience. Sometimes people just need the company of their other half; it’s different from the company of friends and family.”

Julian grumbled at Jasper’s words, “I’ll just see where fate takes me. I’ve actually met a few girls but none of them felt right. These girls only came to me because I worked by your side, Jasper. They come with ulterior motives.”

“You’re making a few hundred thousand annually, so you should have quite a bit saved up, right?” Jasper smiled.

Julian chuckled innocently and replied, “My sister’s the one saving my money for me. I heard I’ve made over a million now.”

Julian could be regarded as a small wealthy local man with more than a million Somer Dollars in savings in the year 2000.

“That’s nice. Your sister’s got quite the talent in managing money. This will be your savings allocated to marriage and dating.

“But as you said, let fate decide. Who knows, maybe you’ll find someone you like just around the corner. Tell me if you need my help one day. I’ll be your wingman.” Jasper laughed out loud.

The two continued to talk, and in a few hours, they had exited the highway and entered the overpass leading to Waterhoof City.

“Jasper, are we going to the hotel or somewhere else first?” Julian asked.

“To the construction site of the skyscraper first. We can have lunch around the area before we get to work in the afternoon,” Jasper replied.

Julian then changed directions and made their way to Waterhoof City city center.

This construction of the skyscraper was no secret in Waterhoof City.

Relatively capable companies and individuals all knew about it, as well as anyone who simply asked around. They would immediately learn that some large company's owner wanted to build the tallest building in the world. As envious as these people often were, they were also fascinated to learn that Somerland had produced such hidden talents.

After all, not everyone could construct the tallest building in the world just because they wanted to.

Soon, even commonfolk had gotten wind of the construction, and Waterhoof City quickly became abuzz with news of the construction.

People who were more well-informed immediately took the opportunity to spread the little bits of gossip they knew.

Something about the construction party being a trust-fund child from a formidable family, or about a fight involving a huge amount of backing behind each party, and rumors about something some powerful person did amidst all of this.

Gossip rapidly spread through the city.

Despite all this, the undisputable fact was that the tallest building in the world being built in their city was something to be proud of.