

# Life at the Top Chapter 1046

Rohin could not refute Jasper's words.

He was filled with regret now.

JW Real Estates was a company recognized in the industry for its great treatment of its employees.

As the vice president of the Waterhoof City branch, his salary was one-point-five times higher than others who held the same position in other companies.

Not to mention, the company also gave annual dividends, paid leave, free medical insurance for their employee's families, 2 overseas vacations, housing subsidy, and an educational support plan for employees' children to study in Waterhoof City. These were benefits that only top-notch international enterprises provided.

No company gave as great a treatment as JW within the country.

Despite this, he had lost it all.

"Mr. Laine, please give me one more chance," Rohin begged Jasper with a quiver in his voice.

"Does what I just said sound like a joke to you? A chance? Most things don't come with second chances or the chance to regret. This is an issue with your professional attitude. How am I supposed to give you another chance?"

"Let's take a step back and say that I hypothetically did give you chance, then am I also supposed to give chances to others who make the same mistake in the future? How's the company supposed to operate like that?"

Rohin's complexion paled further upon hearing Jasper's words.

“Mr. Laine, what if I atone for my sins? I have a report to make!” Rohin clenched his jaw and spoke suddenly.

Jasper arched his brow and looked at Rohin before asking, “Who are you reporting and about what?”

“This is very important matter, so I was hoping I’d get to talk to you alone about this, Mr. Laine,” Rohin spoke bravely.

Jasper glanced at everyone else in the room, especially the other two vice presidents. They seemed confused, and there was no trace of fear or panic on their faces.

“Everyone else is dismissed,” Jasper waved them out.

Excluding Jasper and Rohin, everyone else in the meeting room stood up and filed out.

While they had no idea what Rohin was going to report, they knew that it had to be something huge if the man felt it would save his life.

Therefore, everyone who left the temporary meeting room inexplicably felt a shiver run down their back. They immediately tried to recall if they had done anything incriminating before.

At the same time, Jasper turned to Rohin and said, “We’re the only ones left now, so go ahead and tell me what it is.”

Jasper continued when he saw Rohin hesitate in a seemingly self-conflicted state, “Don’t think about negotiating with me. There’s no way you can keep working for the company. But if your information is important and reliable enough, I’ll give you a sum of money at my discretion.”

Rohin grit his teeth.

He knew that Jasper’s stance on the matter was clear. There was no way he could go back to working in JW Real Estates, so he might as well settle for second best. It would be nice to leave with a sum of money in his pockets.

After all, he could always leave once the secret was out. There was an abundance of places for him to further develop, like Cavern City or Swallow Capital. There was no need to fear being the target of revenge.

Once Rohin had made up his mind, he immediately said, "A company in Waterhoof City actually came to me some time ago, almost right after I started working here.

"They wanted me to provide them with the all the data on the skyscraper's construction plan. Including labor, materials, and design."

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"That's not all. They were the ones who spread rumors about how our construction site has bad vibes. From what I can tells, it seemed like they wanted to attack the construction site and bring the construction of the entire building to a halt.

"I rejected them then, but I don't know who they contacted next. I am certain, though, that someone did get bribed into working for them.

"Because they contacted me the day before yesterday and said that they were going to cause an incident at the construction site. They told me I didn't have to do anything, but just turn a blind eye to what was happening since someone else would do the dirty work for them.

"Coupled with what happened at the site today, I suspect the project manager."

Jasper narrowed his eyes and asked Rohin, "So you decided to get drunk and have fun in the duty room yesterday?"

Rohin immediately replied, "I am grateful that Mr. Tucker appreciates my work. I may act high and mighty but I am still not fully aware of my strengths or shortcomings.

"It was by pure coincidence yesterday that a few old classmates of mine came to Waterhoof City. I hadn't seen them for years and I had to welcome them, but it

wouldn't be right for me to leave the duty room while I was on shift either. Thus, I ended up welcoming them in the duty room instead."

Jasper neither approved nor disapproved of Rohin's explanation before he asked another question.

"Why do you suspect the project manager? The project manager isn't the only one capable of plotting these things on the construction site. What about the security officer? Or even the construction foremen or the general contractor? There are plenty of people to suspect."

Rohin chuckled wryly and responded, "Mr. Laine, I dug around a little and I found out.

"While that project manager is pretty capable, he's a gambling man through and through. He has a huge debt to repay and debt collectors have actually come to the construction site to demand that he pay them back on more than one occasion.

"The company's high salary is the only thing supporting him and stopping his debt collectors from killing him.

"However, he suddenly managed to pay off all his debts some time ago. He even had the money to pay for his son's marital housing in full in Waterhoof City, as well as purchase a car worth more than 200 thousand. Unless he won the lottery, there should be no way he made so much money.

"I don't know for sure if anyone else has also been bribed, but this project manager has to be one of them. It's really obvious if you just scrutinize his financial situation.

"I have no reason to lie, Mr. Laine. Things have already reached this state and I just want to leave with a some money in my pockets."

Jasper's expression remained unchanged. "I'll investigate the matter further, but I'll make sure you receive a hefty sum if the matter is truly as you have said. Go back for now and try not to show yourself for the next few days. I'll have Sean contact you afterward."

Rohin sighed and stood up. He opened his mouth to say something but swallowed his words after thinking against it. He then bowed to Jasper and turned to leave the room.

Rohin had just left when Julian dragged the project manager in.

"You're right, Jasper. There's something wrong with this man."

Julian relayed the contents of the call the project manager received, and Jasper looked at the despondent man in question.

"Victory and loss are common when two parties are fighting each other. But do you know what the most tragic thing is?" Jasper asked the project manager.

The project manager was frantic and did not have the mind to ponder Jasper's question. Thus, he remained quiet.

"The people who betray their original superiors," Jasper answered icily.

The project manager shuddered and fell to his knees with a thud. He wailed, "Please forgive me, Mr. Laine. I gave into temptations. Besides, I'm not the only one involved in this."

"Who else is involved? Write down all their names, including the person giving orders to all of you. You will meet a fate worse than death if there is a single omission or lie in your confession."

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Half an hour later, Julian walked out of the room with a depressed project manager.

Ten minutes after that, Jasper exited the room too.

Once he walked out, the middle-aged couple immediately fell to their knees in front of Jasper.

Jasper recognized them to be the parents of the heavily injured young man that fell from the building.

“Please stand,” Jasper immediately helped the couple to their feet.

The middle-aged woman wiped her tears as she sobbed to Jasper. “Mr. Laine, you’re the biggest boss here. You have to save our son.”

“Don’t worry, the company will take full responsibility since your son was working and got injured on our construction site.”

“How’s he doing now?”

The security officer immediately ran over and replied courteously, “Mr. Laine, he’s already been sent to the emergency room and his condition is stable. He’s not in life-threatening danger but he might be plagued with lifelong disabilities after this. Worst case scenario, he might live the rest of his life in a vegetative state.”

Jasper frowned slightly and asked, “All workers on site are insured, right?”

“Yes.”

The security officer hastily replied, “This is something the head office and Mr. Tucker stressed. We could not afford to be frugal with the insurance, so every worker was given the best workmen compensation and medical insurance available.”

“Good, but insurance claims tend to be processed slowly. The company will prepay all medical expenses and send professionals to deal with the supplementary nutrition and escorting expenses. There’s no need to be frugal with this either, it’s important that we at least keep our workers stress-free if we can’t keep them safe.

“The company will also pay for everything the insurance claim cannot cover, and if the worker ends up with a life-long disability, the company will assign them with another post once they’re ready to work again. Don’t be stingy with the compensation package either, and make sure you follow the standards.”

The security officer was stunned. He wondered how much money the company was going to end up paying according to that.

Ordinary companies might only give a sum to help pay the medical expenses and ask for the money back once the insurance claim had been processed. This was also normally the full extent of their compensation as well.

Construction workers were at a disadvantage, and legal awareness was shallow among the people nowadays. Most workers did not know how to protect their own interests according to the law.

Those that did know their rights would most often end up getting scammed of their hard-earned money by illegal middlemen. They also could not fight against wealthy and powerful companies.

Despite this, Jasper’s attitude on the matter was completely different.

The security officer, who was technically just another worker on-site, was genuinely grateful and moved by this.

“Mr. Laine, on behalf of everyone working here, thank you,” The security officer spoke sincerely.

Jasper patted the security officer on the shoulder and replied, “You’ve done well handling the scene just now. You’ll be the project manager from now on.”

The security officer flushed excitedly and replied, “Thank you, Mr. Laine! I’ll do my best!”

Jasper chuckled and turned to the grateful couple. “The situation’s very complicated now, but I promise I’ll catch whoever’s pulling the strings behind this.

“Don’t worry about too much now, just go to the hospital and take care of your son. You’ll still be paid during this period. Your son’s health is the most important thing right now.”

“Thank you, Mr. Laine. You’re a saint,” The middle-aged couple declared as they wiped their tears.

Jasper shook his head and sighed. “This wouldn’t have happened at all if I was a saint. No matter how much money I give, it still won’t change the fact that your son might end up disabled. I only ask that you do not blame me too much.

“I still have things to settle, so come to the company directly for the follow-up process.”

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Then, Jasper turned and left quickly.

The middle-aged man supported his wife and spoke as he watched Jasper leave, “Mr. Laine sure is a great boss. Let’s go take a look at our boy first.”

“Yeah. I’d be willing to work for a boss like him even if he didn’t pay me,” The woman answered.

Their words echoed the thoughts of the majority of workers at the scene.

People were all the same, if you treated them sincerely, then they would be genuine to you too.

Being wealthy did not make someone superior, and being poor did not mean that person had to live a life inferior to everyone else.



Jasper's kindness had won him the hearts of these construction workers, and they were now whole-heartedly willing to work for him.

In the future, when the country's real estate industry would face a shortage of workers, JW Real Estates would be the only company not to face any trouble finding employees.

Not that Jasper thought that far into the future. All he knew now was that all the evidence on hand pointed to the president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, Norman Gardner, as the culprit!

Jasper immediately went to JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch's office after he left the construction site.

Sean rushed over to Waterhoof City that night.

After Sean arrived at Waterhoof City, the man had a closed-door meeting with Jasper that lasted for two hours. Then, as the president of JW Capital, Jasper sent a series of documents to the real estate company.

The business group responsible for JW Real Estates immediately held a high-priority video conference, hosted by Jasper himself.

The conference lasted until one a.m. the next morning.

JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch went through tremendous change after the conference was over. Two senior executives were immediately fired and up to 40% of the mid-level managers were moved about.

The construction of the skyscraper was the Waterhoof City branch's most important and core business. Excluding Zeph, who had been promoted from security officer, all managerial positions working on the project, from chief engineer to project manager, had been transferred away.

They were replaced with skilled members from JW Real Estates' other branches within Southeast Province.

In just one night, the entire Waterhoof City branch had completely changed. Almost all mid-level managers were transferred somewhere else, and a small portion were even fired.

Not to mention, the shifting of personnel within JW Real Estates had spread to other subsidiaries and businesses under JW Capital as well.

For the first time, Jasper, who had always opted for a gentle management strategy, was harsh and direct when dealing with JW's personnel.

All of JW's employees, no matter their ranks, now knew not to cross their ultimate superior.

Throughout the city, employees of JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch and another family in Waterhoof City were frantic.

The Gardner family!

In the study of Gardner's family villa. The ashtray was filled with cigarette butts and thick smoke filled the room, making it almost impossible to open one's eyes inside.

In this heavy environment, Norman held a cigarette between his fingers. The butt of the cigarette was lit, but the man did not seem to have the desire to smoke it.

A long trail of cigarette ash crept from the lit butt until it burned Norman's hand. Only then did the man extinguish the flames in the ashtray.

"Of all the times, why would Jasper come to Waterhoof City now?!" Norman murmured to himself. Great unease and panic could be heard in his voice.

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Lisa pushed the door open, and before she could enter the room, she choked and sputtered due to the overwhelming cloud of smoke.

“Why’re you smoking so much, Dad?”

Lisa had changed greatly from how she used to be in the past.

Donning a long-sleeved top and long pants, her short ear-length hair made her look smart.

Coupled with the glint of resentment and hatred in her eyes, the woman sent shivers down people’s spines.

“Can you contact anyone from the construction site?” Norman asked instead of replying.

“No.”

Lisa shook her head and opened the study windows to let fresh air into the room. She sighed. “Dad, we should be thinking of how to deal with at this stage. There’s no point in locking yourself in the study to smoke.”

“What solution could there be?”

The corner of Norman’s lips twitched. “Jasper’s already arrived at Waterhoof City. He’s definitely found out what we’ve done, and considering his temper, there’s no way he’d let us go.”

“We did this with the idea to fight to the death, didn’t we?” Lisa spoke firmly.

“What was Old Master Hurlbutt’s game by assigning Jasper as the vice president? He’s obviously trying to take your power away!

“Old Master Hurlbutt was also really ambiguous when we and Uncle had a conflict with Jasper.

“Even though Jasper was the one who destroyed Uncle’s family, who knows if Old Master Hurlbutt had given him the green light to do so? Jasper wouldn’t be able to do anything if Old Master Hurlbutt was firm about protecting the Hull family.

“Now that uncle’s family is done for, Old Master Hurlbutt even had Jasper assume the position of Waterhoof City Branch’s Vice President.

“Instead of asking you, the president, to attend the asset forum, Old Master Hurlbutt even had Jasper go instead. He’s never even showed up once as vice president before. Old Master Hurlbutt’s obviously telling the rest of the Chamber that he doesn’t like us.

“We aren’t doing anything wrong, Dad. We’re taking revenge for Uncle Ian and protecting ourselves. Jasper would still attack us even if we didn’t do anything, so there’s no going back now. We just need to fight Jasper to the end.”

Norman’s expression was solemn as he heard Lisa speak.

“Did you tell Mr. Atticus about the situation?” Norman asked.

Lisa nodded and replied, “I did. Mr. Atticus told us not to worry and that he’ll act at the right time. He’s also prepared a lot of follow-up trouble for Jasper, so he won’t be able to save himself when the time comes.”

Norman nodded at the first bit of good news he had heard today, and a small smile graced his face. “Good, Mr. Atticus is reliable after all... I heard you went to Harbor City last week. Was it to be with Mr. Atticus?”

Lisa replied calmly, "Weren't you the one who taught me to grab ahold of an opportunity with two hands no matter what the costs, Dad?"

"Did that Mr. Atticus promise you anything?" Norman asked attentively.

Norman flushed in excitement at the thought of being Mr. Atticus' father-in-law. The Gardner family would soar if this happened.

Yet, Lisa immediately poured cold water on Norman's excitement.

"That's not going to happen, Dad. I did sleep with Mr. Atticus, but he's had more women on his bed than you have cigarette butts in your ashtray. Not even I would entertain the idea of marrying into his family."

Norman's expression darkened and he sighed. "I don't even know if I made the right decision sending you over to Mr. Atticus' side."

Lisa replied harshly, "I'd be willing to sleep with beggars and rascals if it means that Jasper will be crushed! Let alone Mr. Atticus."

"What do we do next, then? Jasper's definitely going to take revenge on us," Norman asked with a frown, reluctant to continue this topic.

"We wait..."

Lisa replied grimly, "Hold on a little longer. Mr. Atticus still needs to contact another important player first. If he manages to win them over, then this person will help greatly in our plans to target Jasper. Mr. Atticus also needs to arrange for backup, so he needs some time to prepare everything.

"Mr. Atticus wants us to hold him off a little longer. This is the mission he gave you, Dad."

Norman spoke solemnly, "We don't have any other option now. Let's just hold him off for as long as we can, then. I'd also like to see how Jasper plans to counter us."

"Mr. Atticus said that Jasper would most likely attack us through the Chamber of Commerce. Since he's going to attend the asset forum conference on behalf of the Chamber, this is a great chance he won't ignore."

"Mr. Atticus even predicted that? Alright, then. If he's planning to attack me through the Chamber, then I should still be able to deal with him," Norman spoke, energized.

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Jasper walked out of the hotel room the next morning and was about to eat breakfast with Julian downstairs when he saw Sean exit the elevator exhaustedly.

"Did you just get back?" Jasper asked.

Sean had held a meeting with the Waterhoof City branch overnight after the real estate company's senior executive conference the night before. The meeting aimed to relay the spirit of the head office's conference, as well as carry out the details decided during the session.

"The meeting just ended, and all personnel transfer procedures have just gone through. They'll be carried out immediately," Sean replied.

Jasper nodded and replied, "Let's eat breakfast together first. Then you can come back and rest. Don't neglect your meals no matter how tired you feel. It's not worth harming your own health for work."

Sean kept the elevator doors open for them and chose the floor with the buffet restaurant after Jasper and Julian got in. Then, he turned to Jasper and spoke remorsefully.

“Mr. Laine, it’s my fault for not being negligent. I didn’t expect so many people within the Waterhoof City branch to have been corrupt.”

“Not to mention that the overall atmosphere at the branch is negligent and lazy. It’s only been a few days and there are already self-interest-serving groups and alliances forming within the company. I should’ve kept a tighter leash on them.”

Jasper waved him off. “I understand that you’re busy too. The real estate company’s growing larger and there are more things you have to overlook and head.

“Not to mention that the siege from the three other real estate companies with Softwin’s support in Southeast Province hasn’t ended yet. You can’t clone yourself, so I understand that you can’t deal with everything.

“I’ve already had human resource begin a search to get you some help. I’ll assign you two deputies to help shoulder your burden.”

Jasper’s words caused Sean’s expression to sour.

It was only natural the man did not want to share after discovering how good it felt to be in a position of power. Yet, from the way Jasper spoke, it looked like Sean did not have any choice but to accept it.

Not to mention, reality had all but proven his inability to handle everything on his own.

“I understand, Mr. Laine.”