

Life at the Top Chapter 1051

The trio talked as they walked toward the buffet.

Stared hotels' buffets were pretty consistent and Jasper had already gotten tired of the food they provided from business trips his past life, let alone this present one.

Jasper simply grabbed a plate of food and asked Sean as he ate, "Oh, right. How's the injured worker doing? Is everyone else on the construction site doing okay?"

Sean replied, "He woke up already. Fortunately, it was just a fracture of his spine. There's still hope for him and he should be alright after a year or so. But from how the doctor seemed, I don't think he'd be able to get back to construction work in the future.

"But their emotions are considerably steady, they're really grateful to you too, Mr. Laine. They've been asking to come and thank you themselves but I declined them.

"The workers on the site are doing well. We've calmed most of them, mainly because they know you're looking out for them, Mr. Laine. No one made a ruckus and they've all gotten back to catch up on lost work."

Jasper nodded and spoke, "Comprehensive compensations are a must when it comes to situations like this. It's too small a sum to matter to the company, but it's enough to save these workers. They're using their entire life's health in return for what's an insignificant amount of money to us. We cannot and will not deduct compensations, this is our bottom line.

"And ask him if he has any plans after he gets better. If he wants to continue working for us, then assign him a more leisurely position, but let him go if he doesn't want to stay."

"Alright, Mr. Laine, I understand," Sean replied.

After eating, Jasper got up and spoke, "Go get some rest later. I still need your help to keep an eye out for the real estate company. I won't have the time to check up on it for the coming two days."

“Are you going back, Mr. Laine?” Sean asked.

“No, I’ll be staying in Waterhoof City for the time being. There’s no way I’d just move on after getting plotted against,” Jasper replied calmly.

Under Norman’s efforts, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch had moved to the business center in Peace CBD after Jasper had kicked them out from their original address.

The Haddock Chamber of Commerce had always been known for its abundance of wealth. They had leased three whole floors for their office, costing at least a million a year for rent.

This was the first time Jasper had come here to the Chamber since he had assumed the position of Waterhoof City branch’s Vice President half a year ago.

Pushing open the door, Jasper saw the word ‘Haddock’ written in huge cursive letters, representing the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“Hello, who are you looking for?” The receptionist was beautiful and dignified as she greeted Jasper politely.

“I’m looking for President Norman, is he here?” Jasper asked with a smile.

“Mr. Gardner? He’s not in. But his daughter Miss Lisa is... Miss Gardner, someone’s looking for Mr. Gardner.”

Jasper turned around and locked gazes with Lisa who happened to walk out.

“It’s you,” Lisa spoke expressionlessly.

“It’s me,” Jasper replied calmly, “You expected that I’d come here, didn’t you?”

Lisa sneered and replied, “Why would I be able to guess when and why you’d arrive, Mr. Vice President?”

“That’s alright, I’ll tell you then. The asset conference is about to begin, I’m here to get my materials,” Jasper spoke.

Lisa's eyes shone and she replied indifferently, "Is that so? That's all you came here for, Mr. Vice President?"

"What else? Or did you think that I was here for revenge, Miss Gardner?" Jasper chuckled.

Lisa replied coldly, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Jasper walked over to Lisa and spoke calmly, "This is business, it's only normal you attack others. After all, we're enemies, not friends."

"But if you're so willing to involve an innocent life just because of your conflict with me, do you not fear the haunting of ghosts when you sleep, Miss Gardner?"

Lisa took a step back in terror and gasped. "The construction worker died?!"

At that, Lisa immediately realized she had misspoken. Yet it was already too late to go back in time and change what she had already said. She immediately stared at Jasper darkly and accused him. "You set me up, Jasper!"

"I wouldn't be able to set anything up if you weren't feeling guilty, to begin with."

Jasper continued coldly, "He's still alive but that's because he was lucky. It doesn't make you any less guilty, Lisa, go back and tell your dad that it isn't over."

Lisa replied resentfully, "Stop acting so arrogant! I'd like to see how long more you can stay prideful!"

"Oh? So you're telling me that you've still got tricks up your sleeves, hmm?" Jasper narrowed his eyes and spoke.

Having learned her lesson of being set up, Lisa harrumphed and spoke, "You deserve any trick against you. Just you wait, you have too many enemies and you'll die a miserable death one day."

Just after Lisa spoke, a young man walked out of the same room Lisa did just now.

The man rolled his shoulders lazily as he approached Lisa. He reached out to wrap an arm around her shoulders and spoke affectionately, "Who's this f*cker, Lisa? Looks like there's a conflict between you two?"

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly when he heard the accent businesspeople from Teo had.

The Teo Chamber of Commerce had already arrived at Haddock's Chamber's doors to attack them. So what was Lisa, the daughter of Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch's President, doing by mingling with someone from Teo's Chamber of Commerce?

"This is our great Vice President, Jasper Laine. He's the one that's going to represent Haddock in attending the asset forum conference." Lisa stared at Jasper and smiled.

The young man chuckled and pointed at Jasper, speaking disdainfully, "This f*cker? Forget it, look at him. He looks like a child, go home and call your parents out instead."

"Or does Haddock's Chamber of Commerce not have anyone left? Instead of having someone able like Uncle Gardner, they had a stupid f*cker you like you come and make a fool out of yourself?"

Jasper looked at the young man and spoke, "This is Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's station. What is a Teo businessperson like you doing here?"

"Dudley is my friend! I invited him over!" Lisa claimed.

"You are the daughter of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch's President. How do you have no shame to shout about inviting him into the station?" Jasper spoke calmly.

"Business is business, friends are friends. What's it to you?" Lisa sneered.

"Exactly, you dumb f*ck. You think you're some sh*t just because you're a Vice President here? I go wherever I want, who're you to control me, huh?"

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Dudley raised his arm as he spoke to shove Jasper.

Dudley's movements were wide, perhaps because he wanted to show off in front of Lisa.

Instead of shoving Jasper, Julian ended up catching his hand and twisting it behind his back.

Dudley shouted in pain as his wrist was twisted to his back. Julian pressed the hand against Dudley's back, causing the man to bow forward and shout.

The action and posture Dudley was in caused a few pieces of paper to fall from his breast pocket.

Both Lisa and Dudley's expressions changed at the same time.

Lisa instinctively bent down to pick up the papers.

However, Julian was much faster than her.

Just as Lisa reached out, Julian had already picked the papers up with one hand while still holding Dudley's wrist with the other.

"Give my things back to me!" Lisa glared at Julian and spoke angrily.

Julian ignored her and passed the papers to Jasper instead.

Jasper took the papers and glanced at Lisa before he read their contents.

Jasper was elated by what he saw.

The paper was precisely the prepared schedule and explanations for the core topics of the asset forum conference prepared by the Haddock Chamber of Commerce for Jasper.

This so-called asset forum conference was essentially an event where a bunch of bigshots within the industry would sit together and give their own opinions on topics each other or the host had brought up. It could either be a debate or a speech.

As this was a provocation from the Teo to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, they would certainly decide on a debate.

This meant that if the Teo Chamber of Commerce wanted to put businesspeople from Haddock in a difficult position, then they would surely attack Jasper who was their representative. Coincidentally, there were also people within Haddock's Chamber of Commerce who wanted to put Jasper in a difficult position, so the two parties had intriguingly ended up with the same 'enemy'.

Both Lisa and Dudley's expressions changed.

"Motherf*cker! Tell your dog to let go of me and give me back my things!" Dudley shouted fiercely.

Jasper looked at the duo and waved the documents in his hand before speaking calmly, "Who'd have thought that I'd get such a great surprise the first time I'm here. Should I understand this as a gift from both of you together?"

Lisa's face was taut and she did not speak, but her eyes kept flickering as she came up with a plan.

Dudley was more aggressive and simple. The man turned his head to sneer. "I don't know what you're talking about. Also, I said let go of me right now, you hear me? Or I'll kill you two!"

"F*cking h*ll, do you even know who I am? My dad's the President of the Teo Chamber of Commerce! How dare you hurt me, I'll have people kill you once you walk out the doors!"

"Jul, I think this child's gone mad. Give him a shock to wake him up," Jasper spoke calmly.

Julian did not hesitate before he slapped Dudley's mouth with the back of his hand.

Julian's hand was akin to a steel plate as he slapped on Dudley's clamoring mouth. The latter immediately let out a muffled scream and stopped speaking, replacing it with pitiful screams and shouts.

Dudley covered his own mouth and stared at Jasper with hatred and fear, all while blood seeped out from between his fingers.

Dudley was used to being arrogant thanks to his family background and identity, so he had not expected Jasper to attack him.

“You’ve gone crazy, Jasper!” Lisa screamed as she saw Dudley’s pitiful situation.

She immediately rushed over to help Dudley up and wiped the traces of blood from his face with a tissue. Then she turned to speak to Jasper icily.

“Do you even know who Dudley’s father is? Don’t think that just because you’ve got a small business now you’re suddenly a true wealthy businessman. You don’t even have the right to stand and speak in front of someone of Dudley’s father’s caliber!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Lisa calmly.

There was something strange with Lisa’s expression right now.

It seemed like she was elated to see him and Dudley get into conflict. Yet for the sake of acting, she had no choice but to pretend to be furious.

That was not all. Lisa’s choice of words was very specific as well. Instead of explaining the cause of the conflict or trying to smooth things out, she had emphasized Dudley’s identity.

This was a sore spot for trust-fund children like Dudley.

She had also told Dudley that Jasper was just a normal businessman with a little bit of property and a normal family.

“Motherf*cker. How dare you hit me! Just you wait, my dad will never forgive you!”

As expected, Dudley had mustered the courage and he glared at Jasper, his gaze resentful and fiery.

“No one’s ever dared to hit me all these years, you’re the first. But that’s alright, just you wait. I’ll make you pay tenfold for this slap!”

“Looks like you’re not completely awake yet, hmm?” Jasper asked Dudley calmly.

Dudley was stunned and he looked like he was about to rage. He glanced at Julian instinctively and fear spiked within him to squash the anger down.

That slap had told him that Julian was not someone he could fight back against. There was no other option but to let the matter go for now.

Or he would get beaten up again.

Dudley stared at Jasper and spoke with his jaw tightly set, “Fine, you win this time!”

Dudley then made a move to leave.

He was evidently at a disadvantage now and he could not beat Jasper in a fistfight. So Dudley planned to go back and wait for a chance to take revenge.

However, he had only taken one step forward when Julian appeared in his path.

“What is the meaning of this?!” Dudley asked, terrified and angry.

“What’s the meaning?” Jasper chuckled and looked at Lisa. “I’m afraid you’re going to have to ask her that. I’m only doing what she wants me to do.”

Dudley turned to Lisa confusedly and saw a rather frantic expression on her face.

“You’re insane. I don’t even know what you’re trying to say,” Lisa spoke, forcing herself to calm down.

“You wanted Dudley and me to fight, best to the point that both of us are willing to risk our lives to get rid of each other. All while you watch by the sidelines and reap the rewards, no?” Jasper spoke calmly.

Lisa’s expression changed slightly at that.

“What are you talking about! Dudley and I are friends! I’d definitely stand on his side if you two fought, what do you mean reap rewards?”

Jasper smiled and spoke, "I don't care if you admit it or not, but there's something the both of you must explain to me today."

Jasper brandished the papers in his hands and his expression turned frosty. He shouted, "You two. What is the meaning of conspiring and stealing this document?!"

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Lisa's expression darkened when she saw the papers in Jasper's hands.

She knew that Jasper had found a weakness and without a reasonable explanation, Jasper would surely blow the issue up. She would be put in a difficult position then.

"I don't know," Lisa turned her head away and replied unnaturally, "Why would I know what he has on him."

Dudley wiped the blood from the corner of his lips and scoffed. Yet he did not say a word.

It was evident that the two planned to leave the matter alone by denying and remaining silent.

Jasper looked at the two and spoke, "So you're not going to admit it? Alright, then."

Jasper then turned to look at the receptionist who was still dazed and frightened. He spoke, "Could you please call Mr. Gardner?"

"Huh?" The receptionist looked at Jasper blankly. Her brain had yet to catch up to what was happening.

“Tell him that if he doesn’t come over and deal with this as fast as he can, then I’ll sue his daughter on grounds of stealing trade secrets.”

Lisa jumped up like a cat who had her tail stepped on. “What nonsense is that, Jasper?!”

“You have to take responsibility for your words! You can’t just accuse me of stealing trade secrets without evidence! You really think you’re on top of the world?”

“We’ll know if we investigated,” Jasper spoke calmly.

With that, Jasper turned to look at the receptionist. The latter did not dare to anger Jasper so she immediately found Norman’s number and called him.

At the same time, Lisa was also cueing Dudley with her gaze, urging him to do something.

Dudley’s expression was sour.

Lisa was the one who handed him the documents. Dudley knew that his Teo Chamber of Commerce was planning to attack Haddock’s Chamber from its Waterhoof City branch and he wanted to make a huge contribution. He had not expected to be caught red-handed at the very last moment.

The matter could potentially be blown into something huge, depending on whether people wanted to investigate it or not.

With the way Jasper acted, it was unlikely he would let the matter go.

Dudley’s eyes darted around and his expression kept changing.

“The asset forum conference held by the Teo Chamber of Commerce to attack the Haddock Chamber is about to commence. Yet the daughter of Haddock’s

Chamber of Commerce's President brought a businessperson from Teo into the Waterhoof City branch station to steal all of Haddock's core future plans."

"What do you think will happen if word gets out? Do you think your father, as President of the Chamber, would praise you for being understanding or hang you up and scold you for being a failure?"

Dudley's expression darkened extremely at Jasper's words.

"What do you want?" Dudley asked, clenching his teeth and ignoring the pain on his lips.

"Simple. Tell me what transaction you two made and I'll let you go immediately. I also won't hold you accountable," Jasper replied calmly.

Dudley's eyes flickered and asked, "Really?"

"I have no reason to lie to you," Jasper replied.

Lisa immediately spoke, seeing how Dudley was persuaded to tell, "Mr. Ball! Don't fall for this crafty and vile man's lies! Who knows what bad intentions he's got in mind!"

Jasper replied calmly, "I'm sure you can tell who's more trustworthy. Me, or a woman who's willing to betray her Chamber of Commerce father just for her own interests."

That sentence worked better than any vow and Dudley immediately decided.

"Lisa and I are just acquainted, we aren't especially close. She contacted me a few days ago and told me she could hand me a document your Chamber of Commerce has prepared for the asset forum conference later."

“The only request she had was for me to humiliate you harshly at the conference.”

“I thought that since we’re going to have to deal with whoever Haddock’s Chamber sends over, I’d be gaining important internal intel without having to do more than I originally have to. So I agreed.”

Dudley completely sold Lisa out once he opened his mouth.

“Dudley! Are you even a f*cking man? Jasper just gave you a slight shock and you’re already admitting everything! You’ve got no balls, you coward!” Lisa shrieked in mortification.

Dudley glanced at Lisa icily. He clenched his jaw quietly and turned to ask Jasper, “Can I leave now?”

Jasper waved his hand and replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “If you wish.”

Despite getting Jasper’s approval, Dudley did not leave straight away. Instead, he looked at the document in Jasper’s hands hesitantly.

Jasper smiled before he ripped the papers in front of Dudley in half and spoke, “Does this soothe your worries?”

Dudley let out a long breath and wiped off the blood from the corner of his mouth. He spoke grimly, “At least you’re a man of your word. But this isn’t over, just you wait!”

There was no way people like Dudley would leave the matter alone after losing so horribly to Jasper once. The man had thought of countless ways to kill Jasper in his mind and he turned to leave after he said his piece.

Julian looked at Jasper as if to ask whether he should follow after the man.

Jasper shook his head and replied, "Let him go. This is just a small matter, there's nothing we can do even if we catch him red-handed. It's not something we can bring up, so it won't affect the outcome of the situation."

Jasper then turned to Lisa and asked calmly, "Is there anything you'd like to say?"

Lisa stared at Jasper icily and sneered. "Don't look so proud, Jasper. You're a dead man walking."

"Is that so? Then please wait with me for your dad to come and deal with this."

Jasper shrugged and turned to the receptionist. "Excuse me, but has the call connected?"

The receptionist stuttered in fear, "It-it's connected. Mr. Gardner said, said he'll be here shortly."

"Alright. Could you also help me contact the other council people? Tell them to arrive in half an hour, I'm holding a meeting."

"One last thing, could you bring me to your most commonly used meeting room please?"

The receptionist nodded vigorously and did not dare to say anything. She glanced at Jasper secretly through her peripheral vision and thought to herself. How this young, handsome, and wealthy man was not only respectful and dignified but also friendly.

Her cheeks flushed the more she thought about it.

"Hello? Could you lead the way, please?"

Jasper's voice had shocked her out of her delusions and she frantically replied in acknowledgment. She quickly led the way, sighing as she walked. 'What am I thinking? This isn't a man I can dream about...

'But he's so charming!'

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In the meeting room, Lisa sat icily on one of the chairs by the side while Jasper took the head seat comfortably.

"The environment here's quite nice," Jasper commented.

"Haddock Chamber of Commerce's wealth isn't what a nouveau riche like you can imagine. This isn't even much, you should look at the Chamber's headquarters if you want something grand," Lisa spoke disdainfully as if to a country bumpkin.

"Oh? Is that so? I've seen Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch's station before. I don't remember seeing the wealth you were referring to though. That three-story building was quite the pitiful sight."

"As for the headquarters. I haven't been there before but I've been to Old Master Hurlbutt's. It's luxurious, I have to say, but there weren't as many doors as you said," Jasper replied calmly.

Lisa clenched her jaw. She felt like she had been belittled by Jasper again.

Jasper had singlehandedly destroyed the previous Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch station.

So there was no right to brag about the new station to Jasper no matter how beautiful it looked.

Not to mention that Jasper was the Vice President of the branch.

Lisa felt extremely uncomfortable at that line of thought.

She wondered if the spiritual leader of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce, Old Master Gale Hurlbutt's eyes was worsening with age. How could he have Jasper, an enemy, be the Vice President?

As they spoke, the conference room doors opened to reveal Norman.

At the door, Norman glanced at Lisa darkly before he turned to Jasper.

Norman scoffed and spoke, "How arrogant of you, Mr. Laine. You haven't been here for the earlier half of the year, yet the moment you come you hold a meeting with all members of the council. What's this, are you trying to get rid of me?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You misunderstand, Mr. Gardner. I haven't been here for half a year because I have absolutely no interest in this title as the Vice President, let alone get rid of you. It would be inappropriate of me."

"I'm only here because Old Master Hurlbutt forced me and to attend the asset forum conference.

"I've resigned myself to it, but I also told Old Master Hurlbutt that my only request is that the branch does not cause me trouble.

"Who'd have thought that in the end, it'd be your darling daughter that's causing me a lot of trouble and I've only been here for one day. Thank goodness I found out in time, or I wouldn't be the only one humiliated, but so would the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“Initially, I thought that since it’s my own thing, I should deal with it by myself. But then again, I came here to help. And instead of thinking of a way to get rid of the Teo Chamber of Commerce, you’re teaming up to get rid of me.

“What do you think will happen if I were to call Old Master Hurlbutt, throw a tantrum and leave? I’m sure the old master is too kind to blame a youth like me, no?”

Norman’s expression darkened further at Jasper’s words.

He had no idea what Lisa had done, but regardless of what it was, the fact that Jasper caught her red-handed meant that this would be a horrible situation to resolve.

As expected, Norman’s brows scrunched up at Jasper’s suggestion to call Gale.

No matter what happened, it would be best resolved within the Waterhoof City branch. The moment Gale caught wind of it, then the situation would be beyond Norman’s control.

Norman could not afford to anger Gale.

“What happened?” Norman asked Lisa.

Lisa bit her lip and relayed what happened to Norman by her father’s ear.

“Useless brat!”

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Norman immediately slapped Lisa across the face when he heard.

Norman had slapped her harshly, forsaking all public image.

Lisa shouted in pain and fell to the ground with a hand cupping her cheek. Her cheek immediately reddened and bumped up, and she looked rather pitiful.

“I already warned you a long time ago that no matter what conflicts there are, it’s still between ourselves. It cannot involve what’s important.”

“The Teo and Haddock Chamber of Commerce have had decades of history, ever since Old Master Hurlbutt. We’re mortal enemies! How dare you endanger something so important!”

Norman pointed at Lisa and scolded her angrily.

“Get lost, right now! This isn’t over, I’ll deal with you when I get back later!”

Norman then walked over to Jasper and bowed deeply after he was done scolding her. “This is my ignorant daughter’s fault, Jasper. Thank goodness you stopped her in time before she made a horrible mistake. I’m sorry, and thank you.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Norman as if trying to see through the man with his calm and unfazed gaze.

Norman’s expression was calm as if he had spoken his genuine thoughts just now. There was no deception in the man’s face.

Jasper did not say anything and Norman did not move from his bow.

The conference room fell silent, less Lisa’s soft sobs.

Other than that, it was terrifyingly silent.

The silence was only broken when the conference room was opened again.

Filing in were three members of the Waterhoof City branch council.

The Chamber was a loose organization. It was made up of unofficial members and official members. Ranked above them were members of the council, the Vice President, then finally the President.

Members of the council were considered the managers of the Chamber even though there was nothing binding the members of the Chamber and thus nothing to manage. Still, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was a huge chamber with members all over the country and not everyone could be a council member.

The three council members had decided to come in sternly to take a look first when they heard that Jasper had called for a meeting. After all, they were members of the Chamber's council and they knew who Jasper was.

They also knew that Jasper was the one who ended the Hull family before. No one knew if they would be next now that Jasper had assumed the position of Vice President.

The three were stunned when they entered the room.

They saw Jasper sitting on the chair rigidly while Norman, the President, was bowing to him. There was also Lisa by the side, sobbing as she cupped her cheek in pain.

'What are they doing this time?'

The three council members wondered if they had seen the scene wrongly.

"You're too kind, Mr. Gardner. It's common for youths to make ignorant mistakes, why would I hold a grudge?" Jasper suddenly smiled, reaching out to help Mr. Gardner up.

"As Vice President, I also wish that our Chamber of Commerce grows better every day. As President and Vice President, we have to work together with the same goals."

Norman remained unaffected by Jasper's words and the three council members looked terrified.

They wondered if, in addition to having poor eyesight, their ears had also begun to hear things as well.