

Life at the Top Chapter 426

As he had just gotten beat up by Henry during the day, Ben's nose was still wrapped in gauze. His voice sounded muffled when he spoke, but his gaze carried bone-deep bitterness.

Erik smiled slightly while looking at Jasper and saying, "I'm so glad you're here today, Mr. Laine. We can finally make negotiations. After all, negotiations are key to solving problems. If our negotiations don't work, only then we'll display our own ability. What do you say?"

Jasper said calmly, "Get straight to the point. Stop using two mediocre and insignificant characters to breed enmity. That's just plain boring. Make your offer."

Jasper's words were tantamount to the punches Henry hurled at Ben during the day.

Ben and Lisa's expressions changed immediately.

From Jasper's words, anyone could tell that he did not regard them as humans at all. How could they possibly stand the humiliation when he called them mediocre and insignificant characters?

With a bang, Lisa screamed at Jasper while pointing at him, "Who do you think you are, Jasper Laine? What are you so proud of? Don't forget that we still hold a bargaining chip that can cost you dearly. Aren't you afraid that this negotiation will fail and all your plans will fall apart?"

Jasper looked at Lisa and smiled. "Sounds good."

Sounds good?!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

They all looked at Jasper in astonishment, not knowing how those two words came out of his mouth.

Lisa was even more astonished. Jasper should have flown into a rage after hearing what she said, no? Perhaps he would even show humility. However, what did he mean by 'sounds good'?!

“Frankly speaking, Erik is the one who orchestrated this. You have neither the brain nor the guts. The only reason why you two are able to participate in this is that Erik doesn't want his plan to fall through or be exposed, nor does he want to stain his hands. You guys are just his gloves.”

Jasper smiled and continued calmly, “A pair of blood-stained gloves can be thrown away at any time. You must know your worth.

“If all fails, then I can just turn around and walk away, no big deal. Feel free to deal with the Laws yourself. Think about it, when that happens, do you think Erik will let you off? Or will the raging Laws let you off?”

A strange air lingered over Lisa, Ben, and Erik following Jasper's words.

They were swayed by the things Jasper said, and their distrust for each other intensified.

Lisa and Ben looked nervous as they stared warily at Erik.

Erik, however, looked calm. He stared at Jasper and said, “You're really great at sowing dissension, aren't you, Mr. Laine? Oh, I concede defeat.”

Jasper looked at Erik coldly and said, “I don't think it's necessary for us to eat this meal together. Tell us your conditions straight away. I'm a busy man. I don't have time to waste blabbering nonsense with you here.”

Erik smiled and said, "Since you want me to get straight to it, I'll dive right into it then. My request is simple. I can return everything to you but at a price of five billion. Also, I want you and Henry... to get down on your knees!"

The smile on Erik's face vanished abruptly when he said the last six words, his expression turning cold and sinister instead. He looked like a demon that had ripped its mask apart and was finally baring its fangs.

Lisa and Ben laughed wildly as soon as he said those words, gloating.

In comparison, Jasper and Henry's expressions sank deeply.

As for Julian, his entire being was enveloped in a murderous aura. As long as Jasper gave him the command, he would not hesitate to pounce on Erik and rip him apart.

Julian had now regarded Jasper as his lifesaver. When he started striking someone, he could not care less if the other party was a young master or if they had a noble status. In his opinion, it was just a matter of a click and twist.

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"Jasper Laine and Henry Law, you don't know what to say anymore, huh? Hmm? Are you still pleased with yourself? Still so full of yourself?"

Ben covered his sore nose and said bitterly, "Let's see whether you can keep being so arrogant. I'd like to see who goes down first!"

"Can't you hear? Are you deaf or are your ears full of sh*t? Young Master Turner asked you to get down on your knees!"

Lisa looked extremely complacent, eager to jump up and stare straight into Jasper's face. She said, "You were so full of yourself earlier, no? Weren't you all smug and self-righteous? You're really good at pretending, aren't you? Go on then, I'd like to see how you can keep pretending!"

"Wendy must've been blind to have fallen in love with you. I'd love to see the look on your face when you get down on your knees. I'll let Wendy know so that she'll realize what a wuss her man is. Hahaha!"

"I bet Wendy will give up on you after that. Only I, Ben Hull, can be her Mr. Right—only I am worthy of her!"

Ben had gone almost completely insane, his anger and frustration exploding all at once at this moment.

He looked at Jasper and Henry ferociously then let out a burst of wild laughter. "I've waited for this moment for so long! When you go down on your knees, I'll take Wendy away and make you watch!"

Erik crossed his arms and said indifferently, "Looks like both of you aren't getting along very well, huh? So what's it going to be? When you're done figuring it out, I want you to get down on your knees and apologize to me."

"Oh, by the way, you said they're my gloves, didn't you?"

"I'd like to add one more condition. Not only do you need to kneel down to me, but you also need to kneel down to my gloves. If I'm in a good mood, then I'll return the things to you."

Erik was truly in a good mood. He hosted this banquet tonight especially to humiliate Jasper and Henry.

In his opinion, these two had no chance of making a comeback.

They had no choice but to do as he said.

Ben and Lisa looked at Erik gratefully.

“Thanks for giving us a chance to hold our heads up high, Erik,” Lisa said to Erik sweetly.

Ben also said emotionally, “That’s right. It’s all thanks to you, Mr. Erik. Hehe. Only a man like Mr. Erik is worthy of being a true magnate. You’re nothing compared to him!

“The only reason why you could be so complacent before this is because Mr. Erik didn’t want to argue with you. Well, he still managed to use his tactics to get you on your knees in the end, didn’t he?”

As soon as Ben finished his sentence, he felt an icy gaze on him. He looked at Henry, saw the latter’s gloomy expression, and took a step back subconsciously.

Ben was probably traumatized after Henry’s beating.

However, Ben quickly realized that he had the upper hand now. Henry would not have the guts to lay a finger on him at all, hence he went back to becoming bold and self-confident again.

“What are you looking at? If you think you’re so great, why don’t you try and hit me one more time?”

Henry took a deep breath and clenched his fists.

He had never felt so infuriated before.

Due to excessive force, his knuckles cracked like popping popcorns.

Nevertheless, he endured it all.

He gritted his teeth and swept his gaze across Erik, Lisa, and Ben coldly.

Just as Henry was about to speak, Jasper spoke.

“Julian, since he wants to be beaten up so much, we will fulfill his request.”

As soon as Jasper’s words left his lips, Julian, who could no longer stand it, rushed out like a tiger charging out of its cage.

It was a distance of seven or eight meters with a large round table that could seat more than 20 people in between.

Julian was seen taking large strides before leaping on top of the huge round table. He was extremely agile despite his tall and sturdy frame. In the blink of an eye, he had rushed over to Ben.

It was only at this moment that Ben had the time to react with a horrified expression.

However, Julian had already grabbed him by the collar, whirled him around, and slammed him on the dining table.

A loud crash.

The tableware shattered, and even the surface of the table cracked.

Ben let out an ear-piercing scream while lying amidst the shattered glass and a pool of blood.

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Everything happened so fast that Lisa only had time to let out a scream.

Erik's eyes twitched. He was feeling tremendously shocked on the inside but remained composed on the outside.

Even Henry was astonished.

He was surprised that Jasper, who had always played it safe, would suddenly choose to become more violent than him and do such a thing.

The most he had done was beat Ben up, but when Jasper asked Julian to do it, he was probably hoping that Ben would be beaten half to death.

"You're crazy, Jasper!" Erik chided with a stern expression.

"I'm crazy?" Jasper chuckled slightly and turned to look at Henry.

"When dealing with people, I told you before that you must use profit to lure the people beneath you so they will do things for you wholeheartedly."

As Jasper said that, he patted Henry.

"I will now teach you one more thing, one more way of dealing with people. When facing your enemies, never be softhearted and hesitant! Most importantly, don't give your enemies something to use against you. Worst comes to worst, fight them to death!

"When you're not supposed to give in, don't give in! Never stoop to compromise!"

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Erik whose expression was changing slightly.

“Otherwise, even if you manage to get through this entire ordeal, you’re not going to have peace of mind.

“A man can be beaten, scolded, or even have someone roll their eyes at him, but his knees and forehead must never touch the ground for anyone other than his own parents or ancestors.”

Henry looked at Jasper in a daze, realizing how different Jasper was at the moment.

Usually, others would see Jasper as a scholar holding the pearl of wisdom in his hands. He was always so calm and breezy, acting like nothing in the world could change his expression.

Right now, however, Jasper had turned into a mighty and powerful god of war. Although his aura was not too strong or vigorous, he was like a lofty mountain, standing in between heaven and earth like a point of navigation for sailors.

It was as if his presence could hold up the sky when it was falling down.

Henry, a male adult and a big-shot trust fund baby who had gotten himself into countless troubles in the past, actually felt an unprecedented sense of security in Jasper.

As long as this big guy Jasper was around, even if he poked a hole in the sky, Jasper would still be able to help him clean up the mess.

At this moment, Erik suppressed the astonishment and the trace of fear in his heart that he refused to acknowledge. He gritted his teeth, saying, “Jasper, are you trying to go down with me?”

Jasper said calmly, "You've overestimated yourself. This is just a company. I can easily get Henry to register another 17 or 18 companies. As for the project proposal, if you like it, then take it. You think I can't do a better one?"

Erik stared fixedly at Jasper, then suddenly raged. "Fine! Since that's what you said, I don't think this negotiation can go on.

"No more negotiations!"

Jasper suddenly raised his volume. "The Laws can afford to bear this loss, but after this, I can tell you clearly that the Turners and these two clowns will be the number one enemy of the Laws and all of Harbor City's business groups!

"Harbor City groups and me, Jasper Laine, will attack all industries of the Turners at all cost! From this moment onward, we will begin a full-scale war!

"Only one of us can win this battle. No peace will be made!"

His voice echoed in the magnificent hall.

There was central air-conditioning in this five-star hotel private room, so naturally, the air should be extremely cooling and refreshing.

Erik, however, felt a stifling feeling in his heart. It was as if he could not breathe.

Henry was so excited his blood started surging and boiling. He was eager to scream out at the top of his lungs to release the pent-up emotions inside of him.

Domineering!

Jasper was simply too domineering!

The amount of pomposity he had!

Henry stared at Jasper with bright eyes and thought, 'If I can one day be as pompous and domineering, I'll be sure to die with no regrets!'

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Erik's head began ringing.

He was puzzled.

He could not figure out why he had been forced to a dead end, unable to advance or retreat even though he clearly had the upper hand at first.

Had the script changed?

Erik was puzzled.

He thought he had received blessings from the heavens and the next thing he had to do was to humiliate Jasper and Henry before sending the documents to his family.

By doing so, not only would he reap the benefits, but he would also gain recognition from his family. This was simply killing two birds with one stone.

Though when he looked at Jasper at this moment, Erik had a sudden feeling that he had been too naive.

He could tell that Jasper meant what he said and would put his words into action.

However... there was no way he was going to miss out on such a Godsent opportunity!

“Who do you think you are, representing Harbor City’s business groups?” Erik sneered, still putting up a last-ditch struggle.

“I was the one who invited the four wealthiest families over. If it were the Turners, do you think they would entertain you at all?” Jasper said mildly.

Erik gritted his teeth, feeling as though he had been slapped hard in the face by Jasper’s words.

He was still struggling.

Jasper was right.

As a Turner himself, Erik had been hearing the elders in the family talking about this matter these days.

The four wealthiest families in Harbor City had gathered in Swallow Capital because of Jasper. This alone had left the tycoons extremely impressed and happy with Jasper.

This was because in a sense, this was the first time Harbor City’s top-notch elites in the business world had friendly contacts with their Mainland counterpart since the handover.

This was a strategic event involving figures from the highest level.

In other words, Jasper had made contributions to helping the country.

No matter how insignificant something was, anything that involved the country was a huge deal.

“Hah, Harbor City’s businessmen are really smart. Even if they came to Swallow Capital out of respect for you, you still have no right to say you represent them

because this involves going against the Turners. This is no small matter at all.” Erik forced a sneer, suppressing the anxiety and unease inside of him.

Jasper shook his head and said indifferently, “I don’t need to explain to you how I did it. But if you don’t believe me, you’re always welcome to have a taste of it.”

Erik clenched his fists, took a deep breath, and said in a deep voice, “What do you want then? How do you plan to solve this matter?”

“Simple, just return the documents to us and we won’t hold you accountable,” Jasper said flatly.

Erik was so furious he laughed. “Are you saying that I’ll return everything to you without getting a single benefit from it after all the efforts I’ve spent? Who do you think I am?”

“You know better than anyone how you got these documents. You stole my things and I’m being generous enough by asking you to return them without holding you accountable, yet you still want to walk away with benefits? Are you dreaming?” Jasper returned the question.

Erik said resolutely, “If you’re going to behave like that, then you might as well just forget about it. Let’s see who will have the last laugh.”

Erik knew that he must never agree to Jasper’s terms. Otherwise, he would forever be a laughing stock.

Also, if word got out in the future, how would his family think of him?

Regardless of what Jasper would do in the future, he would first hand over the documents to his family because at least that way, he would still have made a contribution.

Erik did not believe that Jasper actually had the ability to touch the resources of Harbor City’s business groups.

He was simply exaggerating.

Who did Jasper think he was?

He was nothing but a fellow with some stinking money.

In comparison, Harbor City's four richest families were all super-rich people.

Would they listen to a young junior like Jasper?

This sounded very much like a fairytale to Erik.

Jasper was not surprised by the choice Erik made either.

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This was within his expectation.

In fact, Jasper had already known from the start that he and Henry would not be able to handle this themselves.

He was only doing so much because he had other plans in mind.

Therefore, at this moment, Jasper did not say a word and only turned around to leave.

Henry seemed to have moved on as well. He glanced coldly at Erik before walking out.

Julian was the last to leave. Before he left, he even grinned at Erik.

“Hurry up and send that glove of yours to the hospital. He could be crippled for life if you send him too late.”

Having said that, Julian swaggered away without bothering to look at the abrupt change in Erik’s expression.

As soon as Jasper and his group left, Lisa shouted to Erik, “Erik, come and take a look! Ben has... He passed out. There’s so much blood!”

Erik’s expression changed. If Ben died here, then this whole affair would turn into a huge mess.

“Hurry up and call an ambulance!”

...

In the car on their way back.

“You killed Ben, Julian?” Henry craned his neck and asked Julian who was driving the car.

Julian said with delight, “I wouldn’t dare. Jasp only told me to beat him up, so I broke his tailbone. If he receives timely treatment, then half a year will be enough for him to recuperate. If his treatment is delayed, then he could be crippled for life.”

“Ouch...”

Henry gasped.

“Teach me this move someday, it’s so darn cool.”

Jasper thought that Henry had learned his lesson but he realized that he had underestimated this young man's spoiled nature. He did not take this matter seriously at all and was even eager to learn a new move.

"You won't be able to stand it, Young Master Law. Martial arts training is really hard," Julian said honestly.

"Do I look like someone who can't endure hardships?" Henry asked, unconvinced.

"Yes," Julian replied sincerely.

"You!" Henry was furious, then sighed and said, "You're right."

After making jokes with Julian, Henry turned to Jasper and said, "I've decided."

"What?" Jasper asked with a smile.

"I'll go straight to Old Master Law and confess everything." Henry sighed.

"You've thought it through? You're not afraid anymore?" Jasper asked curiously.

Henry said grumpily, "You think I can't tell that Erik, that idiot, isn't going to return us the things? He even tried to get us to go down on our knees! I'll f*cking feed him to the fish sooner or later.

"I can't keep this a secret for long. I may be afraid to go back and confess, but you've done so many things just to let me know that I have to pay a price for the trouble I've caused."

Henry's remarks made Jasper look at him in a new light.

"Not bad. I did so many things just to help you understand that there will be innumerable underhanded tactics in the ever-changing business world.

“Your grandfather will grow old, and your father can’t protect you forever. They will leave before you no matter what. You need to learn how to walk through the storm yourself.”

Henry nodded with a gloomy expression. Staring dazedly at the busy night scene of Swallow Capital and the endless stream of cars, he said, “Yeah, it’s time I learn something.”

Jasper was just about to console him by saying things like a prodigal who turned over a new leaf was more precious than gold or something along the line when the man’s face lit up a split second later.

“You can protect me forever, though? You’re younger than me, so you’re not going to die before me, right?”

“Julian.”

“Yes!”

“Stop the car and throw this idiot into the sea.”