

# Life at the Top Chapter 601

Reading Jasper's reaction, Dawson knew that the former had understood his message.

Turning around, Dawson was about to introduce him to Conrad when he saw the man smile and wave his hand dismissively. "There's no need to introduce us, Mr. Schuler. I've heard of Mr. Laine before."

Jasper turned to Conrad and asked, "I'm honored to know that you've heard of me, Mr. Monty."

Conrad replied calmly, "The host of Harbor City's billion-dollar stocks rescue plan and the celebration banquet for the approval to host the Olympics in Swallow Capital. Just because ordinary people do not know of it does not mean I do not as well."

"There's not much I can't find out should I want to. And I just so happen to be intrigued by you as well."

Jasper asked Conrad, "Could I ask what about me that has intrigued you, then, Mr. Monty?"

Conrad laughed aloud. "I heard that you sent Zayden to jail?"

Jasper's expression was calm, but he did find himself shocked.

It had been no more than two hours since he showed his hand to Zayden and returned, yet Conrad seemed to already know what had happened.

"There's no need to be shocked. I have my ways to know what I want to know," Conrad explained calmly as if seeing through Jasper's thoughts.

“Mr. Monty, you sure are knowledgeable,” Jasper stated calmly.

Conrad smiled. “I’ve wasted quite some time here already, and since you’re here now, let’s not beat around the bush anymore.

“It’s completely over for Zayden now, Jasper. But many wish to keep the incident silent, so I’ve come to bargain.

“Let’s minimize the damage here. Pull Zayden out of this incident and I can promise you he’ll never bother you again. As for your loss, I’ll compensate five times the amount.”

Conrad then looked at Jasper confidently.

It was a great deal, and he believed that Jasper had no reason to decline him.

“Five times my loss, what a large amount,” Jasper said.

“Now I’m even more curious. Does Zayden have something on you people? Why are all of you so desperate to pull him out of jail?”

At that point, Jasper could confirm that Sirius was not the accomplice Harbor City had found for Zayden.

The true accomplice was Conrad.

It made sense, considering how Sirius did not have the status nor the intellect to directly contact the people in Harbor City.

Conrad, however, matched the characteristics Jasper thought the accomplice should have.

The actual person Kennedy wanted to support might just be Conrad instead of Zayden.

The fact that Conrad had shown up tonight answered the last question in Jasper's mind.

Hearing Jasper, Conrad smiled. "Something on us? As if that's possible. Zayden has never been anything more than the most useless pawn on the board. What could he possibly have on us?"

"Let's be frank, Jasper. Your true opponent is me."

At that, Conrad stared at Jasper deeply and chuckled. "You're the pawn the Law family has been nurturing in the Mainland, while I'm that of the Langdon family. Zayden is nothing more than a piece of trash. That's what he was in the beginning, and that's what he will always be."

"This is the first time I've seen someone so proud of the fact that they're someone else's pawn," Jasper commented with a shrug.

"Haha, and yet that is the truth, is it not?"

Conrad pointed at Jasper and then at himself.

"We're all climbing upwards, all of us. But the only difference between us and everyone else is that while they're still climbing at the starting point, we've already reached a specific height."

## Life at the Top Chapter 602

"Ordinary people like Zayden are nothing more than pawns to us.

"While we are pawns to people who've climbed higher than us."

Conrad's smile was light, but his words ran shivers down people's spines.

"As long as you're useful, it proves that there's meaning to living in this world. If you can't even be a pawn, then how will you ever be the player?"

"Jasper, oh, Jasper. It looks like you have not understood this situation as clearly as I thought. But that's alright, you're still young. The Law family will teach you in due time what you must understand as a pawn."

Jasper raised his hand to cut Conrad off and spoke exasperatedly, "Hold on, Mr. Monty. I think you've misunderstood."

"I'm not a pawn. Although, I am not against mutualistic partnerships with someone else to reap benefits."

"Secondly, the Law family and I are partners. We're an alliance."

"I do not know nor do I care about what your relationship with the Langdon family is, but who am I to judge if you like being someone's pawn? I'll have to decline the offer though because I'm not interested."

"And as for your claim that you're my opponent? Pardon my bluntness, but you're thinking too deep into this. I've never had the intention to fight you at all."

Jasper's words had Conrad's smile slowly vanishing off his face.

Now that Jasper had finished speaking, Conrad finally concluded calmly. "So it seems that you're unwilling to bargain, then, Jasper?"

"About what?"

Jasper asked in confusion. "Oh, I get it... You mean about Zayden?"

"Simple."

“In your dreams!”

Conrad’s indifferent gaze fell on Dawson as he spoke calmly, “Look at your future son-in-law, Mr. Schuler. He seems to lack a bit of respect. Perhaps he does not know what the Monty family is capable of in the Southeast Province. I believe you have the responsibility to teach him well.”

Dawson coughed drily and replied, “The youth these days seem to have a lot of ideas, Mr. Monty. I’m an old man who’s close to retiring. I don’t have the energy to do that anymore, so I might as well let them fight for themselves.”

Then, Dawson grinned and spoke straightforwardly, “Plus, this child didn’t get this far because he had someone’s support. Jasper has fought hard and fiercely to get to where he is today. I’d go so far as to say that he has no less experience than I do when it comes to business wars.”

While Dawson’s words sounded soft, they came with a sharp impact.

They pierced through Conrad and infuriated the man.

“Very well, then.”

Conrad got up and stared coldly at Jasper and Dawson. Then, he scoffed. “I suppose negotiation is out of the question now. It’s war, then.

“Very well. This will be the end of our conversation today.

“Do not forget that the Monty family has stood strong in the Southeast Province for decades. Our roots run much deeper than yours could ever. I am Conrad Monty, and there has yet to be anything I cannot do in Southeast Province!”

With that, Conrad scoffed and walked toward the doors of the study.

“Please hold on, Mr. Monty,” Jasper suddenly spoke.

Conrad turned and spoke to Jasper calmly, “Now you wish to bargain?”

Jasper brought the coffee cup to his lips and took a sip before replying to Conrad with a mirthful smile, “I’m happy that both you and the Langdon family are satisfied and happy with your loyalty to them, but please refrain from showing off how proud you are to be someone’s dog in front of me.

“Because the last person who did that? He met his end a long time ago.”

## Life at the Top Chapter 603

Jasper’s last sentence was a very widely used threat before he reincarnated.

That was because of how classic the threat was.

However, in the year 2001, no one said such a thing.

It explained why Dawson almost laughed aloud when he heard Jasper say it.

Even Conrad’s gaze darkened instantly although he had always prided himself for his composure and ability to stay unfazed regardless of the situation.

Despite being enraged, Conrad did not act on the ire he felt and smiled instead.

“Are you trying to provoke me on purpose?”

Conrad stared at Jasper and spoke calmly.

Jasper shook his head and replied sincerely, “You’ve misunderstood. I am merely stating the truth.

“I’m not like other people. Anger will not cause me to lose my rationality. If anything, anger only clears my mind.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes at Jasper coldly and fiercely, but the corner of his lips quirked.

“Because I’m well aware that useless nobodies are unworthy of my anger. Only the truly capable and skilled have the ability to irk me, so whatever you’re playing at? I’m sorry but it’s not going to work.”

With that, Conrad faced Jasper and tapped on his temple before turning to leave.

“Show yourself out, please.”

Jasper had just finished speaking when Conrad closed the door behind him with a bang.

The relaxed and casual expression Jasper wore fell away, leaving his heavily furrowed brows to be seen.

“Jasper, this person has already made a name for himself ten years ago. There are countless families of different sizes here in the Southeast Province, but he’s the only one who managed to supersede the head of the family at the age of 25.

“Sure, there’s not much competition within the Monty family for the right to inherit since his grandfather, his dad, and he are the only sons. But the fact that Conrad had his father Steven’s approval is enough testament to his capabilities. Plus, all of the Monty family’s property and businesses are very well organized. There’s nothing to pick on at all.”

Dawson walked over and clapped Jasper’s shoulder. “There have been rumors before about how Conrad’s genius existence is good karma that has been accumulated over the past 50 years. There’s hope for Conrad to lead the Monty family into being the Southeast Province’s first inter-province family.

“There’s nothing wrong with feeling stressed when you’re facing such a person.”

However, Jasper shook his head and looked up to ask Dawson, “Uncle Schuler, there’s something I’ve been thinking about this entire time. What did Conrad want from coming over tonight?”

Dawson was stunned and replied reflexively, “Didn’t he come for Zayden’s release?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “That’s what he said, but didn’t you realize? There was no sigh of disappointment at all when I declined.

“Or perhaps he’s just really good at hiding what he thinks. But still, despite Zayden being an evidently lost cause, Conrad was still willing to expose himself for him. And to request something we could not possibly agree to.

“I had no idea that Kennedy and the others were using Conrad to deal with me before this.”

Dawson fell into thought at Jasper’s words, and his expression turned into an interesting one.

“Unless, this was a diversion?”

Jasper let out a small huff and spoke, “We don’t have enough leads right now, so I can’t predict what his true motive is here.”

“Uncle Schuler, how much do you know about this Conrad or this Monty family? Tell me a little bit more about them. I have no idea who they are at all.”

Hearing Jasper’s words, Dawson smiled. “It makes sense that you wouldn’t know considering how low profile the Monty family is. Not even ordinary people who’ve lived their entire lives in the Southeast Province may know of them either, let alone come in contact with them.



“The founder of the family is Conrad’s grandfather, Austin Monty, but he lived a short life. The current head of the family is Conrad. His father Steven is still alive, he’s just retired. Back then...”

## Life at the Top Chapter 604

More than an hour later, Jasper exited Dawson’s study with a solemn look on his face.

“How’d it go?” Wendy approached and asked attentively.

She did not have a clue what had happened just now since she was not in the study.

The storm above Jasper’s head vanished as he smiled at Wendy. “Nothing much, it was just some pretentious b\*stard who decided to come to our door and show off.”

“What are you talking about, stop being so crude. Come on, this is serious,” Wendy spoke, displeased.

Jasper wrapped an arm around Wendy and walked toward the kitchen. “Is there anything left to eat? I’m famished. I didn’t get to eat a proper meal today.”

Seeing that Jasper did not want to speak much about this, Wendy scrunched up her nose unhappily but did not press him for details. When it came to such things, she knew her limits.

“I could feed you?”

Jasper's eyes shone and he stared at Wendy's alluring figure before gulping. "So direct? Well, aren't you forward today?"

Wendy blinked, having yet to catch up with a joke that would only begin to trend more than a decade later.

Still, Wendy was a smart lady and she realized where Jasper was looking. With a little more thought, it dawned on her what the man meant.

Embarrassed and furious, Wendy grabbed the pan and began to run after Jasper to hit him with it. "Do you want to die? Would it kill you to stop joking around all the time?!"

...

The following day, Jasper was informed of a horrible piece of news right after he woke up.

Zayden Hanks was dead.

In the heavily guarded detention center, he had knocked his head against a wall and killed himself.

"Jasper, our intel states that Zayden was very determined to die. Not only did he knock his head against the wall, but he also bit his own tongue before that in case the knocking did not kill him.

"No one in the detention center expected him to commit suicide.

"There was blood all over the floor when they found him this morning. There was a huge hole in his head and his brain was splattered across half the wall. He's unrecognizable."

Wendy was eating breakfast with Jasper when she heard the news. The sunny-side up egg was still in her mouth when she paused and put the egg back on the plate.

Jasper, who was drinking his soy milk, glanced at Julian distastefully. "Do you have to say it in such detail?"

Jasper scratched his head and replied innocently, "I was afraid that it'd affect your deductions if I missed out on any details, Jasper."

"I'm not a detective. Solving murders is their job, not mine."

Jasper sighed and asked, "Did someone visit Zayden last night?"

Julian nodded. "Yeah. Sylva Hanks visited him at ten last night and two other unknown foreigners visited at two this morning. The two foreigners are missing now and the officials are trying to track them down."

Jasper scoffed. "What loyal guards there are in the detention center! I'd understand if it was Zayden's dad visiting him, but strangers visiting at two a.m.? What the hell were they doing?"

Julian smiled bitterly, saying, "Those two foreigners are very suspicious. And because of this, half of the guards from yesterday's night shift have been fired."

"A bunch of useless guards!"

Jasper slammed his chopsticks on the table heavily. "Zayden is terrified of death, to the point of begging me for mercy just to live. Why would he kill himself with such a tragic method? Someone must've threatened him with something more important than his own life."

Just then, a servant from outside entered the doors. "Mr. Laine, there's someone called Sylva Hanks outside who wants to talk to you."

# Life at the Top Chapter 605

Jasper met Sylva in the villa's reception room.

Jasper had met the man once before.

From what he remembered, Sylva was a middle-aged man with a gentlemanly and elegant aura around him.

However, now when Jasper set his eyes on Sylva again, he wondered if he had mistaken this man for someone else.

Jasper sighed slightly when he saw the slouch in Sylva's posture and the messy white mess of hair atop his head.

"My condolences, Mr. Hanks."

Jasper knew that Sylva had already gotten news of Zayden's death.

Sylva grinned with a tearful smile and pulled a cigarette out. He patted his pockets but could not seem to find a lighter.

Jasper pressed down on his lighter with a click and reached out to light Sylva's cigarette.

"Thanks."

After taking a long drag, Sylva coughed twice. Jasper then broke the silence.

"Is there a reason why you're here, Mr. Hanks?"

Jasper and Sylva would still be enemies instead of friends if Zayden was still alive. Now that Zayden had passed away, Sylva's arrival meant that the man had moved on from their past.

"The death of a person is no different from the extinguishing of a flame." Sylva sighed deeply and slouched further.

"I've already decided. I still have more than a million Somer Dollars saved up and it should be enough for me to live the rest of my life in peace. I've spent my entire life fighting for fame and power, only to lose it all to my son.

"Now, my business is gone and I've lost my son as well."

Sylva looked up at Jasper and smiled sorrowfully. "What a pitiful end, wouldn't you say?"

Jasper remained silent.

Sylva rubbed his face and exhaled, sobering up. "I really shouldn't be telling you all of this, but I can't find anyone else to vent to. I'm sorry."

"It's alright," Jasper said in consolation.

"I came here with another goal, to inform you of something.

"I went to see Zayden yesterday and the boy was absolutely frantic. Perhaps he knew that someone was going to hurt him, so he told me everything.

"Now that he has passed away, there's no need for me to keep the secret anymore.

"My brother Sirius has already joined forces with Conrad. The two of them will work together to attack all properties under your and Dawson's name. It'll be an

attack from all sides, and their main target will be all the projects your real estate company has in the Southeast Province.”

Sylva looked at Jasper intently and spoke, “There’s no need to doubt nor feel shocked about it. This is very much within the abilities of him and Conrad combined.

“This is what you must watch out for.

“In addition to that, Zayden also told me last night that there was a traitor among Harbor City’s four richest families during the share market crisis. This traitor is the Langdon family!

“Wallace Langdon had teamed up with the sly b\*stards from Wall Street. They were trying to screw over Harbor City’s economy to earn money but you managed to stop them. They didn’t give up, though. They’ve decided to team up and attack the other richest families as well.

“Zayden doesn’t know who that other party is. All he knows is that Kennedy has been in charge of this as of now and he’s been plotting for a very long time.”

Jasper frowned, and his expression turned solemn at Sylva’s words.

Sylva relaxed greatly after he was done speaking and he stood. Smiling, he spoke, “Alright. I’ve said all I had to and it’s time I leave now.”

Jasper looked up. “Still, I’m grateful for the news you brought me. I have a question, though.

“I’d like to think I know what kind of person Zayden is, so what forced him to kill himself in the detention center?”

Sylva smiled at the question and replied, “My son has finally won against you.”

Jasper looked at Sylva confusedly.