

# Life at the Top Chapter 766

After returning to her own office, Celine let down her guard and leaned back on the chair in exhaustion. She then closed her eyes to take a light nap.

She did not know how much time had passed when she was awoken by the sound of the door opening. She sat up straight in record time and recomposed herself to once again display the stance of a strong and capable woman in the workforce.

Celine sighed in relief when she noticed that it was her new secretary entering the room. "Is there anything urgent, Merrie?" She asked.

As Celine's new secretary, Merrie Jones admired this powerful woman whom she idolized from the bottom of her heart. "Miss Maynard, the investigation team has left today. I just wanted to ask about our work schedule tomorrow," she said courteously.

"Cancel everything," Celine said with a wave of her hand. "I'm returning to New York soon. My current priority is to get Sena listed successfully. Besides, I have to get reviewed by headquarters in New York," she added.

Merrie nodded. After a while, she mustered up her courage and said, "Miss Maynard, is it worth doing this? I heard that...I heard..."

"What did you hear? Did you hear that there's something going on between Jasper Laine and me? Am I his lover, or did Jasper Laine offer me tons of benefits so that I would help him out?" Celine asked in amusement.

A tense look of nervousness appeared on Merrie's face. "No, I don't believe the rumors circulating in the company. However, you have way too much on the line, Miss Maynard," she said anxiously.

Celine chuckled and said, "Alright, this is none of your concern. You can head home now."

Merrie turned around to leave after nodding in response.

Celine sat alone in her dark office room and stared at the colorful lights of the city below. She was overcome by an inexplicable sense of loneliness.

She took out her phone and called Jasper.

The moment the call went through, and a radiant smile formed on her lips, washing away all her fatigue and loneliness.

"Hey, it's been a few days but you didn't even bother to call. Didn't you say that you'd miss me?"

Thousands of miles away, Jasper was having a meeting with Jack Tanner and the other executives of Sena. He gestured for them to continue with the meeting and walked out of the meeting room. "I'm busy. Besides, you should have been busy these past few days as well. Anyways, we'll see each other very soon," he said with a chuckle.

"Once a scumbag gets what he wants, they usually use work as an excuse not to call," Celine said playfully.

Although they were talking through the phone, Jasper could picture the enchanting and charming expression on Celine's face right now. He could imagine the way that she would smile at him teasingly while fixing a provocative gaze upon him as she spoke.

Jasper emptied his mind of these thoughts at once and replied in a muffled voice, "After getting what I want? Others will think that there's something going on between us if they hear you say that."

“Alright, enough with the nonsense. In three days, we’ll be heading to New York,” Celine said.

“Has it been confirmed?” Jasper asked. His heart lurched. Although he had been preparing for it for some time, he was still inevitably excited when the moment finally arrived.

“It’s confirmed,” Celine said as she chuckled softly. “I have a feeling that you will shine brighter from the moment Sena gets listed. Everyone will look up to you in all of your dazzling glory,” she said in a complicated tone.

“...Were you previously involved in multi-level marketing?”

Jasper’s words caused Celine to hang up the call in a fit of rage.

Celine stared at the night view with a completely different mood as compared to a few minutes ago. She suddenly burst out in laughter after hanging up the call.

Her smile was the epitome of uncontended beauty. Her fatal, alluring smile could move the heart of anyone.

However, nobody had the chance to appreciate the view of her smile.

After returning to the meeting room in satisfaction, Jasper knocked on the table and gestured for Jack to stop the discussion. He looked at the executives of Sena, who were staring at him with sparkling gazes and looks of anticipation. Suddenly, he laughed out loud and said, “In three days, all the executives will get on a chartered flight to New York. The company will pay for everything!”

“Yay!”

“Long live Sena!”

Everyone in the office celebrated with a burst of excitement. The executives, who had been through countless struggles and were currently in their forties, were as exhilarated as children right now.

It was an extremely important and glorious moment in the life of a domestic corporate practitioner to be able to represent companies from Somerland on the Nasdaq listing in the year 2001.

They were standing right in front of the top 99.9999% of people in Somerland at this point in time.

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Three days later.

Sena had booked a charter flight from Somerland Air. Jack had even driven Jasper out of the first-class business cockpit.

Henry had no choice but to take a seat in the economy class area with a somber look on his face while he watched Jasper chat with two women through video call at the same time using two different laptops.

He muttered the words "Make a mistake! Make a mistake! Make a mistake and let them find out the truth!" repeatedly under his breath.

Wendy Schuler was on the left while Anna Law was on the right.

An overwhelming tension underlined Jasper's usual calm expression.

Both women were oblivious to the situation. They did not know about each other's existence.

"Jasp, I've checked the weather. The weather in New York is quite cold right now. Remember to bring more clothes," Wendy said in a gentle voice.

“You aren’t allowed to fool around with other people!” Anna reminded him in a tone that was laced with threatening undertones.

From the way that they spoke, one could tell that both of these women had vastly different personalities.

Celine Maynard?

The thought of another woman surfaced in Jasper’s mind.

He pushed her image out of his mind immediately. It was already a battlefield with just the two of them. He only had two legs and two knees. If he added another laptop, where could he put it? Would he have to sprout another leg?

“Don’t worry, I know what to do,” Jasper replied to both of their contrasting questions with his immaculate speaking abilities. He then proceeded to smile at both of them.

“Sigh, I really want to go to New York as well... I’ve never been to Fifth Avenue or Wall Street before,” Wendy let out a sigh. The project at Southface River was coming to an end soon and she had to manage the project’s operation. If it were not for the project, she would have followed Jasper to New York.

“New York is a vanity fair for capital. It’s good to make more friends over there. It’ll benefit you,” Anna reminded him on a serious note.

“Yes, I’ll come back as soon as I can. I’ll bring presents for you,” Jasper said with a smile on his face.

“Alright, alright. The plane is about to take off, right? I’ll hang up now. Remember to call me after you arrive,” Wendy said with a small smile on her face.

“I’ll keep the present in mind. Let’s see if you manage to bring me something that I like,” Anna chuckled. “Alright, I’ll hang up now. Remember to call me when you arrive,” she added.

“The plane hasn’t taken off yet. Shall we continue chatting for a bit?”

When Henry heard what Jasper said, the renowned wealthy man from the second generation of Harbor City stared at Jasper with widened eyes. It was hard to believe that such a terrifying man existed in real life.

He advanced through the battlefield by opting to retreat. It was the perfect move.

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After bidding Wendy and Anna goodbye, Jasper led everyone onto the plane.

After a fourteen-hour flight, Jasper and the others arrived at New York, which was the economic center of the world’s most powerful country, the United States. It was also known as Gotham City.

After the plane landed, Jasper realized that Colossal Investments had sent a senior client manager named Jameson to greet them. Celine Maynard was nowhere to be seen.

“Where’s Celine?” Jasper frowned as he asked Jameson, who greeted them with a radiant smile on his face.

“Are you referring to the general manager of the Terra regional branch? She can’t make it as she’s busy with something at the moment, so she asked me to greet you on her behalf. Besides, I will also be in charge of contacting you on everything relating to the series of handover work that needs to be carried out for Sena’s listing,” Jameson said courteously.

Jasper halted in his steps after registering what he had said. He cast a thoughtful look at Jameson and asked, “Does Colossal Investments endorse the act of stealing the fruits of someone else’s labor?”

Jasper knew that Colossal Investments viewed their collaboration with Sena as a high priority case for the company. Plenty of people would surely get jealous of a case that brought forth as many of benefits as Sena’s listing did.

Jasper was worried that Celine would get buried by the power struggle occurring within Colossal Investments, and that someone else would take all the credit for her work.

If that was the case, he would need to have a talk with Colossal Investments.

Jameson was slightly stunned. Obviously, he did not understand what Jasper had meant by “stealing the fruits of someone else’s labor” as it was an idiom that was usually used exclusively in Somerland. However, after his assistant explained it to him, he immediately replied Jasper, “Mr. Laine, you must have misunderstood.”

“I’m only in charge of greeting you and communicating your needs and queries to the investment bank. Miss Maynard is still in charge of the specifics. She is currently caught up at the headquarters of Colossal Investments due to an urgent matter. She’ll be back once she’s done handling the issue,” he explained.

“I assure you that the investment bank will never change the person in charge of your listing without your consent.”

The look of distaste on Jasper’s face eased slightly after he heard Jameson say this. He smiled at Jameson and said, “Let’s head to the hotel at once. To be honest, I’m really tired after sitting on the plane for more than ten hours.”

Jameson was all nerves after he saw how quickly Jasper’s expression had changed. This man from Somerland did not seem like he would be easily fooled.

Colossal Investments would be responsible for the reception of all the executives in Sena's business team. As such, Colossal Investments had spent a generous sum of money to accommodate their needs.

The accommodation that they had arranged for Jasper and his team was the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, which was located adjacent to Wall Street.

Jasper and Jack each had a presidential suite to themselves whereas the other executives were each allocated to a luxurious suite respectively.

In terms of accommodation fees alone, their daily expenditure exceeded 10000 US dollars.

However, this sum of money was next to nothing for Colossal Investments.

Not long after arriving at the hotel, Jameson went to Jasper's room.

"Mr. Laine, according to the schedule, you and your team can rest for the time being. We will be holding a banquet for all of you in the evening. I will notify you beforehand."

Jasper nodded and said, "In that case, I'm sorry to have to trouble you."

A faint smile formed across Jameson's lips as he bowed down to Jasper. "It's my honor to be at your service," he said.

After speaking, Jameson walked out of the room swiftly.

Jasper sat down on the sofa and pondered something. He then made a phone call to Celine.

The situation aside, he had already arrived at New York, but Celine had yet to show herself. Because of this, Jasper sensed that something was off.

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Nevertheless, Celine did not pick up the call even after Jasper had dialed her phone number for some time.

Just as he was considering whether to contact Jameson with a frown, Jasper heard the sound of his door opening. This was accompanied by the sound of a phone ringing.

Picking up his phone, Jasper stared at Celine, who was standing by the door with her phone in her hand, speechless. She had a radiant smile plastered upon her face. "How are you capable of getting my room card no matter which hotel I stay at?" He asked.

Celine smiled proudly and said, "Please don't lodge a complaint about me. This hotel is one of Colossal Investments' partners. Clients of Colossal Investments will usually have their accommodation booked here, and it took me a long time to get acquainted with the manager. If you report me, it won't be that easy to get your room card the next time."

"I didn't think of that. Thanks for reminding me," Jasper said with a smile.

Celine walked into the room with her hands behind her back. She held the room card in her hand and closed the door on her way in. She then sat down on the sofa and surveyed the surroundings of the room. "Are you used to staying here?" She asked.

"Hotels are all the same, aren't they?" Jasper replied. He leaned on the sofa and fixed his gaze upon Celine, who was inches away from him. "Jameson said that you were busy with work," he said.

“Do you think that Sena’s listing is an easy matter?” Celine asked as she rolled her eyes at him.

“I know that you think that the commission fee charged by our investment bank is ridiculous. You even previously told me that I was an accomplice to a committee of vultures,

“However, have you ever thought about it properly? For a foreign company to get listed on the Nasdaq, we’d need to conduct a tax review, asset review, debt review, and credit review in Somerland, and then covert these review reports into evaluation documents.

“This evaluation document will be sent to a third-party company for auditing after going through Colossal Investments’ internal professional evaluation. If there is no problem, it will be submitted to the Nasdaq Review Committee to be reviewed.

“Even after the trial, there are still a lot of branches and departments that we need to visit one by one. That process itself is so annoyingly tedious.”

Celine rolled her eyes as she continued rambling on. “After everything that I’ve done, I’ll only be getting 1% of the total commission at most,” she remarked.

“Quit your job then. Join my company. You won’t earn a penny less than you do right now,” Jasper said.

Celine fixed a gaze of amusement on Jasper and asked, “Are you really going to take care of me?”

“You can say that. I really do value your abilities anyways,” Jasper replied.

“Tsk tsk, what a scumbag. Other men are only after women’s bodies, but you’re asking me to work for you. It’ll only happen in your dreams,” Celine said.

Celine placed her fair arm on the armrest of the sofa and supported her temple with her hand.

This posture made her seem indolent but charming at the same time. She looked just like a wealthy lady that was lazing on the couch while emanating her charm and beauty to her heart's content.

"Aren't you even going to consider it?" Jasper asked half-jokingly.

"I'm only interested in the financial industry and banking. Let's talk about it again when you open a bank," Celine drawled.

After chatting for a while, Celine stood up and said, "Alright, I need to go back. A lot of prominent figures from Wall Street will be attending the banquet in the evening. They're extremely interested in you, so you can try networking. Colossal Investments will send some executives over as well. Contact Jameson if there's anything that you need."

"Aren't you coming?" Jasper asked with a frown.

Celine leaned on the doorframe and faced forward while she fixed her gaze upon Jasper. Her eyes dazzled under the light. "Do you want me to come?" She asked.

After speaking, Celine opened the door without waiting for his response. "I won't go even if you want me to. I've been extremely busy these few days. You probably won't see me for the next few days as I have loads of stuff that I need to handle. However, I'll be there on the day of the listing," she told him.

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After walking out from the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, the smile on Celine's face gradually dissipated.

By the time she arrived at a black commercial vehicle that had been parked at the entrance of the hotel for a long time, the expression on her face was impassive.

The door of the commercial vehicle slid open to reveal two men and two women sitting inside the car. One of the blonde women spoke out in a sarcastic tone, "Miss Maynard, have you finished catching up with your friend? If you're done, we should go now. We have fulfilled your request to visit Jasper Laine, but we hope that you can cooperate with us during our following investigation."

Celine eyed the blonde woman coldly. "Catherine, don't think that I'm oblivious about what happened between William and you. Didn't the two of you cause the scandal in the office back then? He threw you aside for his own future. Just look at you now. So many years have passed, but you're still so loyal to him," she said.

Catherine's expression darkened as she gritted her teeth. "Celine Maynard, don't get ahead of yourself. Don't forget that you're now being investigated by the bank!" She blurted out.

"An investigation is just an investigation. What's the matter? When have I ever said that I wouldn't cooperate with you?" Celine questioned her in a frigid tone.

"It's just an investigation. Maintain a polite attitude in front of me. I'm still the general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments. In terms of position, I rank higher than any of you. If you offend me in any way, none of you will be let off easily."

Celine finished speaking with an impassive expression on her face. She then got into the car.

"Start the car," Celine took the initiative to give the order.

The employee that was in charge of driving the car was stunned. He turned to look at Catherine instinctively.

However, Catherine had a sullen expression plastered upon her face. She wanted to retort against Celine, but she did not dare to do so. "Start the car!" She said through gritted teeth.

The black commercial vehicle slowly left. It merged into the heavy traffic and headed toward the headquarters of Colossal Investments.

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It was almost time for the evening banquet.

As the representative of Colossal Investments, William had returned to New York as well. He arrived at the banquet hall of the hotel before the actual event time.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel was Colossal Investments' long-term partner. Therefore, the people here all knew William, who was a young elite within the financial circle. They all greeted him politely.

William nodded with a smile in response.

He grabbed hold of a staff member and asked him nonchalantly, "May I know who the service manager in charge of the banquet in the evening is?"

The staff member was surprised by the fact that William was talking to him. He immediately replied, "That would be me, Mr. William."

"That's great," William said cheerily as he took out a hundred US dollar bill and handed it over to him. "The banquet tonight is extremely important. Not only will the executives of Colossal Investments be here, but a lot of elites from Wall Street will be in attendance as well. This is an opportunity for Colossal Investments to demonstrate its capabilities to Sena, so you must guard the event strictly. Don't let any strangers into the hall," he said.

"Especially a young man from Somerland. Understood?"

The service manager was slightly stunned. “Mr. William, I will definitely carry out my responsibilities to the fullest of my abilities, but a young man from Somerland? Isn’t Sena a company from Somerland? Is there a mistake?” He asked instinctively.

I want you to make a mistake!

William thought to himself. Nevertheless, he grinned widely at the staff member and said, “Don’t worry. Don’t bother about those who are older, but as for a young man... Think about it, how can a young man in his twenties attend such an important event? Anyways, just remember to check the guest list strictly. Here is your tip.”

The service manager pondered upon it for a while and figured that there should not be any problem with his requests. He agreed to it at once and put away his tip happily.

William turned around and left with a smile on his face. He felt extremely exhilarated.

He knew that arranging for someone to prevent Jasper from entering the hall was not anything great, but he just wanted to disgust him. That was more than enough for him.

William wanted to embarrass Jasper so that he would feel disgusted by them.

He felt beyond excited and satisfied upon thinking about the awkward scenario that would occur later.

...

The evening banquet commenced at the set timing.

With Colossal Investments' persuasion, and the Sena's attractive concept, Sena's pre-listing banquet managed to draw the attention of a lot of famous investors from Wall Street.

This evening banquet could be regarded as a high-end networking event between business elites.

Jasper attended the event clad in a formal business suit. As he had left his room slightly late, he did not ask Jack and the others to wait for him. He decided to head straight to the banquet on his own instead.

He had just arrived at the entrance when a manager with a blank expression on his face came over and said, "Sir, please show me your invitation!"

"Invitation?"

Jasper frowned. As the main stakeholder in tonight's banquet, Jasper did not need an invitation.

The manager smiled. He was just about to say something when the door to the hall opened.

Jameson walked out in a hurry. He seemed to be looking for someone. His gaze shone once he caught sight of Jasper, and he walked over courteously at once.

"Mr. Laine, the banquet has already begun. Without the main stakeholder, the banquet can't commence. Follow me in right now," he said.

Jameson's words shocked the service manager.

Jasper chuckled and patted the service manager on his shoulder. He then followed Jameson into the hall.

Jasper thought that the manager was just carrying out his usual responsibilities. He would not hold a grudge over a small issue like that.

Meanwhile, that manager broke out into cold sweat as he stared at the two figures walking into the hall. He had prepared for the worst and thought that he was about to meet his ancestors in heaven.

“Is this that certain someone who wasn’t supposed to be eligible to participate in the banquet? He is the main person being celebrated in tonight’s banquet! You b\*stard, William. I hope you’re faced with bad luck tonight!”

The service manager dabbed at the cold sweat on his face. He was still pretty shaken up. He was lucky that Jasper did not blame him for all the trouble, or otherwise, his job would be at risk!

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When Jasper entered the banquet hall, his appearance immediately attracted everyone’s attention.

Under the propaganda deemed necessary by Colossal Investments, Jasper’s identity as the largest private beneficiary from the crude oil futures market last year had been disclosed to the public.

Another important identity of his, the organizer of the Harbor City share market rescue plan, had been revealed as well.

With these achievements associated with him, Jasper attracted the attention of everyone in the banquet hall, which was full of elites from Wall Street.

Everyone looked at this young man from Somerland with a curious and inquiring gaze. They wanted to see exactly what kind of extraordinary man was capable of making such an awe-inspiring move in the crude oil futures market.

“Friends, look who’s here!”

Jameson announced to everyone with a loud laugh as he wrapped an arm around Jasper’s shoulders passionately.

“This is Mr. Laine, whom I’ve told all of you about. He’s from the ancient and mysterious Somerland.

“Just like that great country, he is full of extraordinary power. During the crude oil futures incident some time ago, he snatched a bunch of coveted benefits from the hands of governments and capital predators.

“Of course, there’s the shocking Harbor City share market rescue plan as well. Mr. Laine, who is right beside me, initiated the entire plan. I believe everyone here is familiar with that wonderful game of capital, right?”

Shoved under the spotlight, Jasper responded to everyone’s curious gazes with a wide grin on his face.

Meanwhile, Jack Tanner, Henry Law, and the others stared at him with bitter smiles on their faces.

“The West really favors young geniuses. Old men like us don’t catch their attention,” Jack joked.

Henry was slightly envious as well. “When can I ever be that awesome?” He asked.

Jasper greeted the elites of Wall Street in fluent English.

Although these people were not the top dogs on Wall Street, they were not random nobodies either. Otherwise, they would not have been invited to this banquet.

In a larger sense, they were the backbone of Wall Street.

Because of this, Jasper naturally did not mind forging an amicable relationship with them.

In the future, he would be participating in the international market. Thus, it was possible that one of these people will be of great use to him in the future.

Not long after, Jameson came over with a blonde middle-aged man.

“Mr. Laine, let me introduce you to this man. He’s one of the most prominent figures within the real estate industry in the United States. He really admires your ability and wishes to get to know you.”

As soon as Jameson finished speaking, Jasper turned around to look at the said man. His gaze instantly wavered once he set his eyes upon him.

He would not have been that shocked if even Winston Bennett or Charles Granger had appeared before him.

However, the person before him had an insanely powerful identity.

He was the future president of the United States.

Donnie Todd.

He was from the second generation of an extremely rich family in the United States. After taking over the family business, he gradually flourished and became one of the most powerful real estate developers in the United States.

As a free-spirited man, he changed his focus to politics after engaging in business of the highest order... He then rose to the absolute top once he got into politics.

It was simply incredible.

However, all of this would take place in the future. As things stood, he was still a real estate tycoon in the United States right now. He did not have any other special identities.

Jasper did not expect Donnie Todd to appear at this banquet.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine. I see a reflection of my younger self in you. You’re as capable and determined as I was back then.”

Todd said in his characteristic voice that resembled a drake.

Just like his personality, he was a detached and conceited man. He never failed to glorify himself even when others were already showering him with praise.