

Life at the Top Chapter 821

Jasper knew that Yahoo was going to use their search engine.

He also knew that this partnership would help Google gather a large amount of technology and data, which would help them completely perfect the Google search engine.

Yahoo had only agreed to this partnership because they did not believe that the search engine domain would be a big profitable market. They merely saw the search engine market as a small direction for composite dot-com enterprises to gain more technology.

The fact that Google was willing to provide their technology for free meant Yahoo did not have to form a team of technicians to research search engine technology.

As such, it was already too late by the time Yahoo realized how search engines would become the gateway to the entire internet.

By that time, Google's technology would already have been completely perfected and no matter how skilled Yahoo's team of technicians was, there was no way for them to surpass Google's technology in such a short time.

Not to mention that Google would already have taken a majority of users and market share, so they no longer needed Yahoo anymore.

Humiliated and angry, Yahoo then cut Google off. Not that Google minded, as their company became independent.

Thus began the rise of Google and the fall of Yahoo.

"I'm willing to continue investing," Jasper replied.

Both Page and Brin were shocked by Jasper's words.

"What are your requirements in return, Mr. Laine?" Page asked carefully.

Jasper smiled meaningfully. "From what I can tell, Google won't need any other shareholders excluding the three of us. So I'd like at least 70% of the shares."

Both Page and Brin frowned at that.

The duo had sensed the same thing on Jasper as they had on Morrison... Greed!

"But I will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the business, nor will I interfere with your managerial rights," Jasper explained unprompted as if understanding Page and Brin's concern.

Page and Brin gasped. "Really, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper shrugged and replied, "We're talking about a large business transaction here and I have no reason to joke about this with you. Of course, to ensure my interests, you will have to accept my requirement to control the company's financial rights."

Page nodded. "Of course, but your required percentage is too high."

Jasper sipped on his coffee and smiled at Page.

Page took a deep breath and came to a tacit understanding with Brin through eye contact. He said, "It's 70% of the shares, after all. That means we'll have to kick the other shareholders out and minimize mine and Brin's percentage. This... is costing us a bit too much."

"Whether it costs too much or not depends on what you're getting in return.

“For 70% of your shares, you will receive 150 million US dollars. I promise that the first 100 million will be transferred on the day we sign our contract and the second batch of 50 million will arrive after six months.”

Jasper’s words sparked Page and Brin’s ambition.

“150 million?!”

Page gasped in shock.

Even Brin’s expression turned excited.

As of that moment, Google itself had a market share of 100 million US dollars at most. Yet Jasper was willing to pay 150 million US dollars for 70% of their shares.

Doing so would triple Google’s market price.

Meanwhile, Morrison was offering 60 million US dollars for 80% of the shares and the company’s managerial rights, which meant that he could fire these two founders at any time.

In comparison to Jasper’s generosity, Morrison was just giving the bare minimum.

“I can sign the contract anytime, but I won’t be staying in the United States for long. I have to return to Somerland to deal with some things, so if you two need some time to think it over, please do give me a reply as soon as possible,” Jasper spoke.

Page and Brin replied at the same time, “No need, we agree.”

Jasper smiled and reached out his hand. “Then I wish for cordial cooperation.”

Page and Brin shared a look and then each shook hands with Jasper. "I'm sure it will be."

"Alright then, we can sign the contract tomorrow. As we agreed, I will not interfere with the company's day-to-day operations, but you're free to contact me anytime you want an extra opinion. Of course, the final decision lies with you as well.

"I also hope that you can persuade the other shareholders as quickly as possible because I'll only transfer the funds after the shares are under my name."

Both Page and Brin nodded at Jasper's words.

"We'll get it done as quickly as possible, Mr. Laine."

Jasper was in a great mood after the situation with Google was settled.

Seeing that it was getting late, Jasper directly checked the duo into a suite and dragged Jack over to talk for a few hours.

Everyone was working in the same industry, and with Page and Brin as top-notch technicians, they were able to give Jasper and Jack quite a few epiphanies in that aspect.

Jack was also a top-notch professional manager, so he was able to give the duo inspirations on enterprise management. Their conversation was an extremely joyful one and it lasted until midnight.

It was 2 a.m. when Jasper returned to his room and fell asleep after lying on the bed.

The following morning, Jasper woke up and planned to return to Somerland once he signed the contract with Google. However, a problem arose when they were signing the contract.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve talked to the other shareholders and they were very willing to sell their shares. But they suddenly declined this morning when we called to confirm.”

Brin looked unhappy, feeling ashamed about the fact that a problem arose the very first moment they partnered with Jasper.

“One of our shareholders, who’s one of our friends, told us the truth because we’re quite close. She told us that Layman Investment Bank decided to interfere with this transaction earlier this morning and asked to buy their shares at high prices.”

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“F*ck! It has to be Morrison! He’s the one behind all this!”

Page immediately roared after Brin spoke.

Jasper looked at Page and asked, “Who’s this Morrison you speak of?”

Page clenched his jaw and replied, “Morrison is the senior investment manager of Layman Investments. We’ve contacted him before for funds but his conditions were too harsh so we didn’t agree...”

“In truth, we were only in New York yesterday to negotiate with Morrison.

“But his condition was to have 80% of Google’s shares and its managerial rights for 60 million US dollars. We might as well sell ourselves to him if that’s the case, so we didn’t agree.”

Brin sighed and spoke, “Not only is Morrison the senior investment manager of Layman Investments, but his father is Rogers, the president of Quantum Funds.

“As far as he’s concerned, Google either has to accept Layman Investments’ humiliating conditions or it’ll be completely destroyed. I’m not surprised he would do such a thing.”

Jasper, who had not reacted much at all, arched his brow slightly at that.

Quantum Funds. Rogers.

After the Harbor City billion-dollar stocks rescue plan, the Law family and the other rich families had also found out who the culprit was.

Quantum Funds had been the culprit behind it all. While the head of Quantum Funds was Soros, the culprit behind Harbor City's stock crisis was Quantum Funds' second in charge, Rogers.

The first time Jasper had lost since he started his business was to Rogers.

This loss had Jasper deeply realize that he could not look down on others just because he had the memory of the world before he reincarnated.

The last thing the world lacked was capable people and Rogers was one of the most outstanding of the batch.

He was a man who could make art out of capitalism.

Jasper had never expected that by mistake, he was meeting Rogers' son, Morrison, before he got a rematch with Rogers himself.

Jasper did not know if Morrison was aware of his past with Rogers, but Jasper knew that Google was a chance he would not miss out on nor would he allow Morrison to screw this over for him.

"How much is Layman Investment Bank willing to pay to stop us?" Jasper asked directly.

Page replied embarrassedly, "According to our classmate, Layman Investments is willing to pay double of what we're offering to buy their shares."

Jasper chuckled at that and spoke, "That's a large amount. Is that actually Layman Investment Bank's decision, or did Morrison decide that on his own?"

Neither Page nor Brin dared to answer Jasper's question.

The question was too sensitive.

“Alright, don’t worry about this for now. I’ll deal with it. Go back and rest in the hotel first.”

Page and Brin nodded at Jasper’s words in agreement.

The acquisition of Google was now a personal fight between Jasper and Morrison, or even Jasper and Layman Investment Bank.

Page and Brin could easily partner with the person who was willing to pay the most, but they could not help but feel that Morrison had only made this move to prevent Jasper from acquiring Google.

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Should they end their partnership with Jasper for the current benefits before them, then they would have no choice but to be put under Morrison's control.

After a moment of discussion and thought, both Page and Brin decided that they would not participate in Jasper and Morrison's fight. Instead, they would wait for a winner to emerge and sign a partnership with whoever won.

The only difference was that both of them favored Jasper. After all, when they compared the conditions, the two of them would only get to operate according to Morrison's whims if Google fell into his hands. This was something the duo refused to accept.

After settling Page and Brin, Jasper contacted Paulson directly through Jameson.

Half an hour later, Jasper appeared in Paulson's office.

"President Paulson, I need Colossal's help."

Jasper went straight to the point and told Paulson what was going on.

However, he made sure to jump over the fact of how promising Google was and emphasized the history between himself and Morrison as well as the latter's father, Rogers.

Paulson frowned slightly after he heard everything. "You have to understand that Layman Investment Bank isn't any weaker than Colossal, Laine. Plus, there's only so much Colossal can do in your acquisition plan ... What do you want us to do and what benefits will Colossal gain from this?"

Jasper fell silent for a moment. After weighing his options, he spoke, "I need Colossal Investments to hold back all malicious movements Layman Investment Bank is making toward me and Google. As for the other business battles, I will deal with Morrison myself."

Paulson spoke calmly, "A clash between two parties over acquiring a company resembles an auction. Whoever pays more, wins. Do you believe that it's worth going to war with Morrison, or even Rogers, over an insignificant company, Laine?"

"More than just me, this is a question that they have to consider as well. The only difference is how much we believe the other party is willing to pay for this company."

Jasper spoke calmly.

"I've made a slight loss to his father Rogers before, so I have no other option but to win this battle with his son."

Paulson chuckled and spoke, "You're indeed a youth. I really envy you young people... but you still haven't told me what Colossal is going to get out of this."

"You'll have my friendship," Jasper spoke without hesitation.

"President Paulson, my friendship is very much worth the cost."

The United States subprime mortgage crisis in 2008 would trigger a global financial crisis.

Layman Investment Bank would end up going bankrupt while Colossal Investments would lose 120.3 billion US dollars, almost going bankrupt as well.

As long as Jasper was willing and Paulson believed him, Jasper was fully capable of helping Colossal Investments evade such horrifying loss.

As such, Jasper was fully dependent on Paulson's decision now.

If Paulson agreed, then Colossal would survive the crisis.

If Paulson disagreed, then Jasper had no chance to compare capitals with Morrison without Colossal's help.

Hearing Jasper, Paulson fell silent.

After a long while, Paulson replied calmly, "Trust me when I say that I would've thrown anyone else out like they've gone mad if they were to tell me that, Laine."

Jasper replied calmly, "But I'm still here."

"Indeed. Because I don't think that you're mad. Perhaps your friendship is worth a bit of investment from Colossal."

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Walking out of Colossal Investments, Jasper then contacted Page and Brin.

Jasper intended to meet Morrison through the two of them, but he had not expected the duo to tell him that Morrison was waiting for Jasper at the hotel.

Without hesitation, Jasper returned to the hotel.

In the executive lounge of DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Jasper met Morrison.

“You! You’re the one stealing what I have my eyes on, aren’t you?” Morrison sat on the sofa as he watched Jasper approach. The man showed no signs of getting up to greet Jasper but instead stared at him with an evaluative gaze that carried a hint of a sneer and disdain. The man’s tone was downright arrogant.

Jasper walked over to Morrison who was still sitting down and spoke, “Steal? I don’t think that’s the right word here. Google didn’t want to accept your offer so they came to me instead. That’s very normal.”

Morrison scoffed and played with the ring on his pinky as he spoke slowly, “You just got here, so perhaps there are things that you don’t quite know about.”

Morrison then looked up at Jasper sinisterly. “No one who’s tried to steal from me has ever ended well. No one can take what I want!”

“Your tone is misleading. And here I thought that you were Layman Investment Bank’s president, instead of an investment manager,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Morrison scoffed and spoke, “You mean that as an investment manager, I’m not qualified to offer such a high price? Fine then, I’ll use my own power. Let’s say, Quantum Funds?”

He then looked at Jasper intently before slowly speaking, "I've done some digging on you. You were the one who stopped Quantum Funds, weren't you?"

"I remember how my father told me that he met an interesting fellow when he came back. You must be this interesting fellow, then. Why? Haven't you learned enough from my father's harsh lesson?"

Jasper was not surprised that Morrison had found out about him, for most of what Jasper had done before was no longer a secret.

"You've got it wrong. First of all, when your father and I fought, I indeed lost but he did not win either. He and I could've earned even more from Harbor Stocks.

"It's a shame that I'm just a man of Somer descent, so I lost a few billion to prevent your father from earning tens of billions of profits."

At that, Jasper turned his palms over and spoke indifferently, "Do you still think I was taught a harsh lesson?"

Morrison's gaze turned cold as he sneered at Jasper, saying, "You honestly think that you could've won my father if not for how unique the situation was?"

"What unique situation? He was just afraid that he'd cause Somerland's government to take action. If he offended Somerland's government, then it won't just be a question of how much profit was made. The entirety of Quantum Funds would've met its end there." Jasper exposed the reality of the situation and did not leave Morrison any ground to retreat.

Quantum Funds had taken a huge risk to attack Harbor Stocks.

It was very similar to the stock crisis during the year of the handover. The only difference was that in the crisis during the year of the handover, Quantum Funds had led the entire Western capital into the financial economy of all Southeast Terra countries.

Harbor City could not defend itself then so they sought help from Somerland's government that then made a move.

That time, Jasper had merely contained the situation within Harbor City's government.

As expected, Morrison's gaze darkened as he sneered, "What's the use of all this talk? You want to acquire Google? Well, then you can dream on if you think I'll let you!"

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“If you pay one million, I’ll pay two million; if you pay five million, I’ll pay ten million. Let’s see who has more money. I heard that you’re in a poor financial situation right now.

“How much money can you afford to play this game with me?”

“You ignoramus! You need to understand that Somerland is a backward, garbage country. The United States is the ruler of the world, whereas you’ll always remain a pitiful little creature in front of me. If my father can take you down, then I can also crush you under my feet!

“Of course, to show you how generous the Americans are, I’m willing to give you a chance. If you’re willing to comply, I’ll probably give you a bit of compensation because that way, at least you won’t have to go back as a penniless good-for-nothing.”

Jasper looked calmly at the complacent and savage Morrison, saying in an intrigued tone, “Is that so? Let’s hear it, then.”

“I know you bought 27% of Google’s shares from Todd. Look, I’ll buy those shares from you for two million US dollars. Maybe I’ll be in a better mood that way,” Morrison said.

Jasper cast a meaningful glance at Morrison and said, “Looks like you’re really optimistic about Google, huh?”

There were slight changes in Morrison’s expression when Jasper said those words.

He stared at Jasper with intense displeasure.

He had a feeling that Jasper knew about the upcoming partnership between Google and Yahoo.

The news of it remained confidential, though. What did Jasper really mean when he said that?

“I have the habit of not letting others snatch the things that I fancy no matter how good or bad that thing is. I would rather throw it away instead,” Morrison said with a blank countenance.

He then pointed at Jasper’s nose and said, “A man who comes from a poor and backward country like you will never understand the United States’ law of survival. Wealth is the only truth, and this point alone shows that you’re not qualified enough to challenge me.”

“I will not give up on Google. If you’re interested, we can just fight for it,” Jasper uttered flatly.

Seeing how stubborn and ungrateful Jasper was, Morrison flew into a rage and said coldly, “Why don’t you look into the mirror first and see if you’re qualified enough to fight with me?”

“Just wait. Soon, Page and Brin will come crying to me begging me to buy their shares, whereas you’ll be eliminated! You’ll stay an ignoramus forever!”

As he spoke, a figure rushed into the executive lounge.

Looking as pleased as Punch, Henry’s eyes lit up when he saw Jasper. He rushed over excitedly to share his experience as a private plane owner with him.

He was not far away when he heard a man sitting in front of Jasper calling him an ignoramus.

Without hesitation, Henry walked up and smacked Morrison on the back of his head, nearly sending him falling to the ground face first.

“Idiot, you’d better clean that mouth of yours. If I hear you say degrading things like that to someone else of Somer descent, I’ll stomp the sh*t out of you.

“Motherf*cker, men these days have terrible mouths, don’t they? They always have ways to ruin my good mood.”