

Life at the Top Chapter 891

A large sales order appeared without warning, which had an effect as though one were splashing a bucket of cold water on a steaming pan.

Sena's shares that were undergoing countless transactions just moments ago suddenly came to an eerie halt.

Everyone began to guess what this order meant.

No one dared to make a move—not the retail investors, day traders, or funds.

Sena's shares seemed to freeze in those few short seconds as there was no activity at all.

After a few seconds of silence, the second and the third large sales order were also thrown out.

In the blink of an eye, a hurricane seemed to have swept through all the buy-orders.

3 consecutive large orders of more than 5000 shares put Sena's market in an uproar.

"It's begun!"

Jasper sat before the computer and stared at the screen as he spoke.

Celine sat down as well and stared at the screen solemnly. She pursed her lips and said nothing.

Her crystal-clear eyes reflected the unending trading information that was continuously updating on the computer screen. It was a waterfall of data.

It was as if a large play was set into motion as the public speculation over the past week finally began to rear its ugly head.

A large number of retail investors scrambled to escape, in fear that they would be trapped inside if moved any slower.

Thanks to the bandwagon effect, the somewhat stable and rising prices immediately plummeted. The other investors could not remain calm either and they began to choose to sell their shares.

“It looks like an avalanche.”

Celine sighed deeply.

“The moment the first chunk of snow on the tip of the mountain fell, all the snow in its path will also join in as they sweep through everything in their path. There’s nothing we can do to stop it.”

Jasper replied expressionlessly, “All we can do now is wait. We’ll wait until the situation stabilizes before we make a move. All we can do now is watch the price fall. Considering its price, not even the richest man in the world can fight against this trend and save it alone.”

“It’s begun.”

Conrad’s sentence in the villa in Nauritius City greatly excited Zane and Mitch. The two stood up and walked toward Conrad as the three stared at the screen.

The screen currently showed Sena’s market index on the Nasdaq.

Conrad swirled the red wine in his glass and smiled slightly.

Valentine stood by the side. After all, he had no right to stand with the other three.

Looking at Conrad, he spoke softly, "Mr. Monty, we've already put three large sell orders out. From the looks of things, we've already met our preliminary goal."

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“Coupled with the recent public speculation, we’ve managed to perfectly ignite the investors’ panic. Any slight slip in Sena’s price will cause them to immediately flee; Considering the trend, Jasper won’t be able to stop this even if he were a God.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes and spoke softly, “There’s no point in him acting now. It doesn’t the market, the strongest people in it are never organizations or large funds, but rather retail investors. These retail investors represent at least 85% of the global share market.

“It’s just that they are too disorganized and cannot be harnessed as a single unit. This is why the retail investors who actually hold the most power are merely seen as small fries when compared to organizations and dealers, and are often used for the organizations’ and dealers’ own benefits.

“However, the moment there comes an opportunity for them to work together, for example, on a share that they collectively agree is over or undervalued, then you only need a few of them to create an immense force that neither hell nor high water can hold back.”

Zane replied in disdain, “I don’t care about these things. It’s too confusing and I don’t understand it either. My only question is, how much longer until you kill Jasper?”

Conrad glanced at Zane with disgust and distaste hidden deep within his eyes. He looked at the latter as if Zane were a lower-class animal that had not yet evolved to have brain.

By the time Zane felt Conrad's gaze and turned around, Conrad was already wearing a polite and small smile on his face. This made Zane feel comfortable and respected.

"Jasper isn't easy to deal with at all. He hasn't made a move since it started, and just like how he can't guess what we're going to do next, we won't be able to predict how he'll react either. What I can promise, though, is that Jasper will definitely make his move soon.

"Now, regarding when we will be able to completely destroy Jasper's Sena will depend entirely when Jasper makes his move. We'll have to make our next move after that. All of these are still unknown variables right now."

Zane scoffed at Conrad's words and spoke in disdain.

"So all that bullsh*t you said just now was a bluff? And here I was marveling at how impressive you were. Turns out that this is all you can do. Don't act so happy before the results come out; I can't believe you made me feel so excited for nothing."

When he heard that, even Valentine's lips twitched as he stood by the side, much less Conrad's.

All Valentine knew was that Zane and Mitch were trust-fund children from Harbor City. He had no idea who exactly these people were, but he was fully impressed by Conrad since he's been working with the latter for some time. This man was pretty much Valentine's idol.

Valentine was about to speak up when he heard how Zane insulted Conrad so brashly.

He had just opened his mouth when Conrad's fierce glare had made him swallow his words.

“You’re right, Mr. Lancaster. I shouldn’t have gotten ahead of myself,” Conrad spoke calmly.

Zane huffed and returned to sit on the sofa. Shaking his leg, Zane said, “It’s so boring just waiting here and doing nothing. Get me a few pretty ladies to pass the time with.”

Conrad sighed internally at Zane’s request...

Zane was truly on a whole new level of moronic.

Even so, he was not in the place to say anything, nor would Zane listen to him. If anything, he might only end up infuriating Zane. Thus, he turned to look at Mitch, the only person in the room who could keep Zane in line.

As expected, Mitch frowned and looked at Zane before he began to reprimand him without holding back, “Are you stupid?”

“Do you not know what we’re doing here? The last thing we need is a new problem to arise, but you want to invite women over? Run back to Harbor City if all you can think about is sex.”

Zane replied in indignation, “Mr. Langdon, we’re all the way in some remote place, so what’s wrong with inviting a few women over? I’ll bring them to the other rooms if it bothers you so much, and I’ll make sure they won’t step foot in here.”

Mitch fumed. “This is Nauritus City, Jasper’s territory. How brainless do you have to be to think that he won’t hear of even the slight movement in his territory, huh?”

Zane waved him off in irritation and replied, “Fine, fine. I was just asking. I won’t go anywhere and I won’t invite any women over. Happy?”

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Mitch scoffed and instantly began to regret ever bringing Zane, a completely useless failure, over.

However, he did not have a better option now, so he could only suppress the irritation he felt as he said, “The most important thing now is to deal with Jasper. Think of how he’s humiliated you before—don’t you want to take revenge? What pastime could possibly compete with the joy of watching Jasper lose everything?”

A cruel look flared up in Zane’s eyes and he replied harshly, “You’re right, Mr. Langdon. I’ll go f*cking vegan and start going to church if it means Jasper’s gotten rid of!”

Mitch only turned back to Conrad now that Zane finally seemed to take the matter seriously. “We’ll follow your plan. All I request is that you hit him quick and sharp. Jasper has to fall this time!”

Conrad glanced at the screen and said confidently, “Don’t worry, Mr. Langdon. I have full confidence that we’ll beat him this time.”

...

“The price is falling too quickly.”

Celine glanced at the laptop screen and frowned in worry.

“Excluding the past few global financial crises, I’ve never seen the share price of such a popular share plummet so quickly. It’s been no more than ten minutes and it’s already approaching the limit down price. According to Nasdaq’s trading rules, you have three options now.

“One, you request for a trading halt. But doing so will severely damage Sena’s credibility and damage investors’ trust. You’ll have to resume trading eventually, and there is a very high chance that the prices will plummet like a landslide when that happens.”

Jasper shook his head and replied, “I can’t choose that option. It’ll solve the issue now, but the consequences aren’t worth it. There’s no point doing that when it’ll give me more problems to deal with in the future.”

“Then the second option will be to watch it hit the limit down price,” Celine continued, knowing fully well what Jasper was considering.

Jasper replied calmly, “That’s no different from the first option.”

Celine’s eyes burned into Jasper as she stared intently and asked, “So you’re choosing option three?”

Jasper let out a light sigh and dialed Jack’s number, muttering, “Do we have any other choice?”

“The enemy’s already launched an attack, we have no other chance but to shift the battlefield to make it advantageous for us to counter.

“We either annihilate them, or we will get annihilated.”

Celine shook her head. “But what if this is what the culprit aimed for from the start? We won’t be able to retreat if we do that!”

“I can’t know for sure whether this is what they intended, but just as how it will cut off all escape for us, they will have no way out too. We don’t know what they’re thinking, so all we can do now is create as many advantages for ourselves as possible.”

With that, the call connected and Jack's voice was heard through Jasper's speakers. Jasper brought the phone to his ear and spoke to Jack, leaving Celine to shake her head speechlessly.

For how gentlemanly this man seemed, the man hid an utterly fierce character underneath. All would be well if people stayed in line, but if one were to offend him, this man would then counter with the most ruthless and bloody attacks. All without hesitation.

"What are your orders, Mr. Laine?"

Jack immediately asked after accepting the call.

Jack was currently seated in Sena's brightly lit conference room, where real-time trading data was being displayed on its big screen.

The plummeting of Sena's share price had the group of senior executives sweating profusely. They were discussing countermeasures maddeningly when Jasper called. Some had suggested applying for a trading halt, while others had suggested watching it play out first and enduring the prices hitting the limit down since it was just a 10% loss at most.

Every suggestion had its fair share of supporters, so there was no consensus.

Jasper's call had quieted everyone as they all stared at Jack. They knew that Jasper was going to make a decision.

"You've seen the situation, haven't you? Any thoughts?" Jasper asked.

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This was a question Jack dreaded the most, but since Jasper had asked it, Jack had no choice but to muster his courage and reply, “Everyone’s still discussing what to do. Some of them support the idea of applying for a trading halt, while some of them favor waiting it out and letting it hit the limit down price first before they make a decision.”

As he looked at the group of subordinates that were staring at him in anticipation, Jack’s heart softened at the fact that these people were hesitant about making a mistake. “Mr. Laine, we don’t actually have any good suggestions...”

“It’s okay, I know what you’re trying to say.”

Jasper interrupted Jack.

While he was irritated at Sena’s senior executives’ impulsiveness and irresponsible attitude toward their work, he could not blame everything on his subordinates or their superior, Jack.

“There’s no need to discuss further, I’ve already made my decision. As Sena’s President, Jack, I need you to immediately apply for us to issue additional shares with the Nasdaq Review Committee.

“JW Capital will immediately transfer 1 billion Somer Dollars to increase the number of shares on the market. This is a major asset restructuring, so for the next three days, Sena’s shares will not have any price limits.”

Jasper’s words had Jack feeling lightheaded.

“Mr... Mr. Laine, there are too many risks in doing that.”

Jasper replied calmly, "I've already considered all the risks. Jack, ever since I first invited you to be a part of JW, every decision I made was risky. But when have I ever lost?"

"Trust me."

Jack fell silent for a moment when he heard Jasper's voice echo through the speakers. Taking a deep breath, he grit his teeth and replied, "I'll get to it immediately, Mr. Laine!"

"I'll have JW Capital release a statement."

After hanging up the phone, around a dozen employees in the conference room, all of whom were financial and business talents in Sena, now blinked at Jack like obedient children waiting for their teacher to hand out their test results.

They had a premonition that Jack was about to give them an earth-shattering piece of news.

After a moment of silence, Jack spoke.

"According to Mr. Laine, Sena's holding company, JW Capital LLC, will transfer us 1 billion Somer Dollars to increase our share issuance.

"We will use the excuse of Sena undergoing a major asset restructuring to request for a review by the Nasdaq Review Committee. During this time, Sena's share price will not be restricted by any price limits."

The conference room fell pin-drop silence after he said that.

Every's eyes widened and they felt their minds ring.

As people who worked in the industry, they immediately realized something from this decision.

'Mr. Laine's planning to fight the mastermind head-on. Whoever loses will have to leave.'

Manly men do not back down.

'Screw with my company's shares and I'll destroy all your escape routes!'

Despite their rationale telling them that big boss Mr. Laine was being very impulsive with the decision, the people in the conference room felt their blood rush with excitement!

Compared to suggestions to surrender and apply for a trading halt or to watch the prices hit the limit down price, Mr. Laine's suggestion was just...

Too manly!

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Just as countless investors and funds began to feel afraid from the large drop in Sena's share price, the Nasdaq Exchange published three official statements in a row.

The first was to inform all investors that Sena's share price was currently undergoing extreme oscillations and were highly risky. Thus, investors were reminded to invest cautiously.

This was essentially an official statement of utter nonsense. It served no purpose other than to remind people of its existence.

The second statement was that Sena had already applied for a special procedure with the Review Committee due to major asset restructuring. As of that moment, the Committee was currently reviewing Sena's application to ensure that it complied with Nasdaq's trading regulations.

When they read this statement, many people let out an unsurprised smile.

Sena had indeed panicked at such a time.

There were only so many outcomes when a public company applies for a major asset restructuring with the exchange center.

There was a ninety percent chance that Sena was making preparations for a trading halt.

After all, when a public company goes through asset restructuring, it was not uncommon for it to experience a trading halt for a few trading days.

This was a reasonable request.

Considering Sena's current situation, everyone could tell that Sena was unable to endure the plummet in share price and had chosen to halt trading to prevent further loss.

The more experienced and skilled traders began to shake their heads at this. They wondered if something was wrong with Sena's decision-makers.

It was evident that investors in the market currently lacked trust in Sena, and this lack of trust was the reason for the drop in share prices. Yet, instead of releasing good news, Sena had decided to avoid the battle. This would only shatter the trust of the remaining investors who still had any faith in Sena.

Applying for a trading halt would only result in even more severe consequences, with more investors losing hope in Sena.

Moreover, a public company could not halt trading forever, and the day Sena resumes trading would be the day Sena's valuation will be completely shattered.

This was a stupid move!

After mocking Sena's decision-makers, these people then clicked on the third official statement.

With a few lines, the third statement had everyone swallowing their words.

It stated that after review from Nasdaq's Review Committee, Somerland's JW Capital Ltd. Co. had invested 1 billion Somer Dollars into Sena as its majority shareholder to increase the issues of shares.

Sena's request for their major asset restructuring situation was proven true, and so, special procedures had been approved.

Sena's share prices would undergo special procedures, effective immediately, and Sena's shares would not be restricted to any pricing limits for the next three days.

This third official statement served as a harsh awakening to the people who had previously made assumptions after reading the second statement.

Instead of applying for a trading halt, Sena had applied to cancel all price limits due to the increase in issues of shares.

'This means a f*cking huge event is about to occur!'

Analysts and investors did not have time to regret their words as they became all fired up.

Canceling rising and limit down restrictions meant that Sena was initiating battle. This was a matter of life and death!

These were rare battles.

After all, the shifting of price limits usually led to the oscillation of tens of millions in market value. A person's wealth could either skyrocket or vanish in the blink of an eye, and people were usually never impulsive enough to make such a decision.

Despite this, Sena had shown the world that even if others did not dare to face such a challenge, they would!