

Life at the Top Chapter 981

Regardless of what the two wished, Jasper's request was extremely difficult to fulfill.

"Mr. Laine, we've accepted 20 million US Dollars worth of investment from Softwin. They've financed us three times in total, and they hold 41% of Abbylon's shares. I'm afraid that your request is unrealistic," Jose said.

"You'll only know if it's realistic once you try. Moreover, wouldn't it be more trustworthy to work with a fellow Somer descent as compared to a Sunriser?" Jasper asked.

Jose frowned and said briskly, "Mr. Laine, nationality doesn't matter in the business world, and capital is international."

"I understand where you're coming from, Mr. Salazar. After all, you were born in Nawait and you grew up overseas. It's only normal that you are more progressive."

"But you must understand that while capital is international, capitalists are not. Especially not with Somerland. There are some things we should not forget. If everyone was equal, then how do you explain the capital and technological blockade other countries have imposed on Somerland?"

Jose was about to argue when Wayne pulled him back.

"Jose, you might not know about the situation in the country since you grew up overseas, but Mr. Laine is right about this."

Jose shook his head after listening to Wayne and replied, "Alright. But even then, how are we supposed to remove Softwin as a shareholder? It's impossible."

Wayne looked at Jasper and said, "It's getting late, Mr. Laine, so we won't delay your rest any longer. We need to give this some thought and discuss it with everyone else as well. Perhaps we could talk another time."

Jasper got up and replied, "Then we'll stay in contact. I await your good news."

Wayne nodded. He shook Jasper's hand and left with Jose in tow.

Jasper stood by the office's entrance and watched as Wayne and Jose's figures vanished into the night. His brows remained furrowed the entire time.

"Should we return as well, Jasper?" Julian's voice broke Jasper out of his stupor.

Jasper glanced at the time in surprise, "It's four already? Let's go home, then. It's going to be daybreak soon."

Julian glanced at Jasper through the rearview mirror as he drove. Seeing how the latter remained deep in thought, he could not help but ask, "What did the two of them say, Jasper? You seem frustrated and you haven't smiled once the entire ride."

"I'm not frustrated."

Jasper smiled and replied, "It just hit me how talented some people can be."

He was referring to Wayne.

Jasper replayed the entire process in his mind after the negotiation ended and realized that the suggestion for TH's concept was the only time Wayne seemed stunned. Excluding this momentary lapse, the man had kept his true emotions concealed the entire time.

In comparison, Jose, who seemed more experienced, had lost his composure several times.

The ability to control one's emotions was a necessity every successful top-notch businessman needed to have. Sure, this could be learned, but the nature of this trait was more innate than learned.

As for the promises Wayne had made during the discussion...

There were none.

Which meant the three of them had spoken for hours only to come out empty-handed.

"Wayne Marlon will always be Wayne Marlon," Jasper murmured to himself.

The car whizzed down the roads and time ticked on as they headed home. Jasper suddenly smiled when he realized that the lights in Wendy's room upstairs were still switched on.

"Oh well. There's no use worrying about it. The smarter he is the better; Only smart men make the correct decisions."

As things took a turn for the better, the first ray of sunlight broke across the horizon.

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They alighted the car and Julian immediately returned to his room to rest after staying up the entire night with Jasper while the latter quietly climbed the stairs.

Jasper twisted open the handle of the door carefully. Thanks to the lit table lamp, Jasper was met with the sight of Wendy lying on the bed and staring at him with a bright pair of eyes.

“Did I wake you up?” Jasper chuckled, pushing the door open and walking in.

Wendy flipped on her side and said, “Mhmm. Why’re you back so late?”

“It was already past two when I arrived in Nauritus. Then I had to rush over to talk to Wayne and Jose. It was four, almost five, by the time we were done,” Jasper explained.

Glancing at the time, Jasper realized that it was precisely five-thirty-five in the morning.

Wendy groaned at Jasper, “What’s so important that you’ve got to rush over and meet them in the middle of the night. Couldn’t you do it tomorrow?”

Jasper chuckled. “This is my show of respect for them. Them willing to wait is a show of their sincerity. You have to give people like Wayne enough respect if you want to partner with them, or they won’t ever be sincere with you either.”

Wendy asked curiously, “I’ve never seen you so attentive even with Terizone back in the beginning. Is this Wayne from Abbylon Inc that powerful?”

“He’s more than just powerful.” Jasper pinched Wendy’s nose with a smile, feeling the soft and warm skin under his fingertips as he spoke, “If all goes to plan, he’ll surpass everyone’s imagination in the future.”

“Sure, keep bluffing then. You sound like a con artist.”

Wendy pushed Jasper away. “Go take a shower and get some sleep. It’s not good for your body if you stay up so late. You need to rest.”

“I already took a shower at my mom’s over in Brac County before I came back,” Jasper replied, shuffling into Wendy’s bed and lying down.

Wendy gasped softly, “What’re you doing? Go sleep in your own room!”

The two were very intimate, having done everything but the last step. Even so, they still slept in two separate rooms.

Although this was not the first time Jasper was pushing his luck.

“I’m exhausted and the bed there is cold. It’s warm here, so just let me lie down for a little bit.”

Jasper laid next to Wendy so she could half-hug him close to her. He closed his eyes and took in the warmth and homey scent that engulfed him as he murmured, “Just a little bit, a little bit and I’ll go back.”

Wendy was extremely embarrassed and she wanted to push Jasper away, but she felt her heart tighten as she took in the baby-like features on Jasper’s face when he closed his eyes.

Others might not know how busy Jasper was, but she certainly did.

Excluding the two days during Christmas where he was considerably freer, Jasper had spent every other day dealing with all sorts of issues. Not to mention, problems that required his personal attention kept arising.

Jasper had kick-started his business last year and developed it exponentially, but he had also spent that year extremely busy without having any chances to take a breather.

God was fair to everyone. Jasper, for example, had wealth ordinary people could never imagine obtaining throughout their entire lives, but he lost all his personal time in return.

Caressing Jasper's face gently, Wendy felt her heart melt.

"It's okay, go to sleep."

Wendy comforted an exhausted Jasper with gentleness and softness.

Encased in this heavenly embrace, Jasper's lips tugged slightly upward, and snores slowly began to fill the room.

A little more than two hours later, the sky was completely bright.

Wendy had laid down, holding Jasper in her arms for more than two hours such that it was now almost time to get to work. With no other choice, Wendy pushed her numb body out of bed and carefully walked out of the room.

She had just made it to the door when she saw her father walk down the stairs.

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“Jasper’s back?” Dawson asked as he watched his daughter snoop around.

Wendy immediately tried to act natural and nodded, “Yeah. It was dawn when he returned, though.”

“This little brat. I’ll talk to him later, it’s no good screwing your body over just for work,” Dawson said.

“Weren’t you the same when you were young?” Wendy shot back.

Long used to his daughter taking Jasper’s side, Dawson stretched his neck to look at the room door behind Wendy and asked, “Did Jasper sleep in your room last night?”

Wendy immediately flushed and said embarrassedly, “Stop. What’s with all these questions? I told you he only got back at daybreak. He fell asleep the moment he came back, so what was I supposed to do? Pull him to his room?”

“Fair point. You’d never have the heart to do that,” Dawson teased with a playful chuckle.

“You are so annoying—I’m going to work!” Wendy quickly fled with her purse swinging behind her.

“Hehe, this little brat. He’s finally stopped being so stubborn.”

Dawson was elated when he looked at the closed door.

“My chubby grandchild’s on the way.”

Just then, Tiffany's voice rang out from downstairs.

"Oh, Big Sis Schuler, you haven't had breakfast yet."

"I'm not eating! Oh, and could you please prepare a bowl of hot porridge? Jasp's back and he's still sleeping, but he likes to have a bowl of porridge when he awakes, and he only eats it with the Black River pickles; He'll throw a tantrum if it's anything else. We have it on the second shelf in the fridge. Bye!"

Dawson was speechless when he heard her.

"This girl, she's probably forgotten what her dad likes to eat at this point!"

While Jasper snored away in Wendy's room, Wayne and Jose stayed up.

Wayne laid on the bed in the hotel as he watched Jose pace frustratedly in front of him. Jose would reprimand him from time to time as he paced, and Wayne found himself both irked and humored by the situation.

"What are you laughing at, Mr. Marlon? I'm not kidding here. We're going to be in a lot of trouble if Softwin gets wind of what went on during tonight's meeting."

Jose pulled over a chair and sat by the bed before he said to Wayne sternly.

"And that B2C Jasper proposed. I admit that his understanding of e-commerce is beyond our imagination, but he's too naive. There's no way the plan can be that simple."

"C2C and B2C might both be e-commerce strategies, but they're extremely different. Even we ourselves are going in completely blind, so how can he be so confident that it'll work?"

Wayne's hands pillowed his head as he asked Jose, "So you don't support it?"

Jose was about to speak when he seemed to have realized something. He looked at Wayne in disbelief as he asked, "You can't possibly share Jasper's idea, can you?"

Wayne sighed and replied, "I used to think that out of everyone in the country, I knew the most about e-commerce. But now that I think about it, perhaps I was being too arrogant. There's still capable people in the country."

"Take Jasper for example. There's a reason he's managed to successfully invest in Sena and Terizone, and even got Sena listed on the Nasdaq."

"You're crazy. Both of you are crazy," Jose stated.

Wayne spoke seriously, "Think about it, Jose. The problems Jasper told us about 8861... Aren't they the exact same problems we've been worrying about all this while?"

"It's just the two of us here, so let's be honest and admit it. Yes, there are problems and they're unsolvable."

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“So what do you have in mind?”

Jose looked at Wayne and asked sternly, “Are you planning on partnering with Jasper and removing Softwin from the list of shareholders? Then working with Jasper to create an online shopping platform for individuals?”

“I’m going to be blunt with you, Mr. Marlon, if you want Abbylon to make it big, then you need to watch out for the enterprise’s reputation at the very beginning.

“We’ve just got Softwin’s investment and now we’re suddenly changing our mind and working with Jasper against Softwin. If news of this gets out, no one is going to want to partner with Abbylon anymore.”

Waynes smiled softly and said, “Both Softwin and Jasper’s JW are huge figures to Abbylon. We can’t afford to offend either of them, nor can we carelessly choose one party to side with.

“I’ve thought about it, and the best thing to do now is to let them fight amongst themselves.

“Abbylon being so weak puts us at a great disadvantage, such that we’re completely defenseless against titans like Softwin or JW.

“But our advantage lie in the fact that both of these companies want us. Look at Jasper, why do you think he wants to remove Softwin? Because Softwin’s a Sunriser investment bank?”

“Don’t be naive. I dare say that even if one of Somerland’s wealthiest investors had invested in us instead of them, Jasper would still have come up with a plan

to get rid of them because his interests require it. That's just the kind of person he is.

"Therefore, the situation here is that both Jasper and Softwin want to own Abbylon completely. This works for us, so we're going to secretly leak information to both parties. Let them fight amongst themselves, and we'll partner with whoever wins."

Jose looked contemplative after hearing Wayne speak.

After a long while, he slowly said, "You're treading a fine line here, Mr. Marlon. The slightest mistake and we'll end up offending both huge companies. By then, we'll truly be screwed."

"That won't happen," Wayne said confidently, "There are no personal feelings in business, only benefits. The same rule applies to Myles and Jasper."

"But what about you?" Jose asked.

"Me?"

Wayne rubbed his neck and replied slowly, "I only want Abbylon to grow, but before that, we've got to think about how to keep it afloat. Nothing else even crossed my mind."

Jose stared intently at an average-looking Wayne. Suddenly, it dawned on him that this person he admired and was willing to follow was not just a charismatic entrepreneur, but a crafty businessman as well.

Perhaps this characteristic was what kept him alive and kicking in this society where only the strong survive.

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It was already afternoon when Jasper awoke.

It had been a long time since Jasper had slept so comfortably and soundlessly. Getting out of bed, Jasper took a bath and walked downstairs energetically.

“Mr. Laine,” Tiffany greeted Jasper obediently.

Jasper smiled when he saw Tiffany wearing an apron around her waist and gloves on her hands as she did the chores. “You don’t have to do this. All you need to do is cook. You don’t need to wash the dishes either, as we have specific people for that.”

Tiffany replied while blushing, “But I have nothing to do all day if I don’t do this, and I feel bad. It’s like I’m getting a place to live, food to eat, and paid for doing nothing. I’d feel better if I helped out like this.”

“Do you want to study something?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany was stunned and she tilted her head confusedly. “Study? Is there something I’m not doing right?”

“That’s not what I meant,” Jasper waved her off. “What I wanted to ask, is do you want to go back to school and study?”

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For a split second, Jasper saw a clear flash of excitement flash through Tiffany's eyes only for them to dim immediately after.

She tilted her head down slightly and shook it, but she did not say anything.

"Think about it. If you want to study, then I can send you to university. Your choice of national universities.

"I have methods to get you in, and I'll pay for your tuition and life there. Don't worry about your brother, I'll have someone pay for his education as well. I'll also send someone over to take care of him.

"Treat it as me lending you money. You can pay me back by working for me after graduation," Jasper spoke gently.

Tiffany replied softly, "Thank you, Mr. Laine."

"Call me Jasper," Jasper walked to the kitchen, "Is there anything to eat?"

"Right, Big Sis Schuler had me make a bowl of porridge for you. It's still hot, so let me take it out for you."

"Thank you, that's exactly what I wanted to eat. Yo, you've got my favorite brand of pickles too."

"Big Sis Schuler specified it. She said you'd throw a tantrum if it was any other brand."

"Don't listen to her, I'm not that particular."

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In the Presidential Office of Softwin's Somerland Branch, while Jasper chatted with Tiffany over porridge.

Echo Welch was currently listening to his subordinate's report.

"Mr. Welch, this is what we know of the current situation. Our sources are extremely reliable, as I heard it directly from one of Abbylon's senior executives."

Echo sneered and replied, "Abbylon Inc is still a small company, but President Shon from the headquarters believes that they have a very promising future. He told me to build a good relationship with Wayne before I came to assume my position here in the Somerland branch.

"I haven't even been here for long and this Jasper Laine wants to become one of Abbylon's shareholders? Does he not know that Softwin is Abbylon's majority shareholder? He thinks he can steal our assets without our approval?"

The subordinate hesitated for a moment before he replied, "Mr. Welch, I've done some digging on this JW Capital and I don't think it's going to be easy dealing with them.

"Jasper the most capable person in Somerland's dot-com industry. Both Sena and Terizone belong to him.

"In addition to this, JW Capital has also invested in other industries. JW Electronics, for example, has partnered with Coreana's Sentel Corporation. The company purchased Sentel's MP3 patented technology and has succeeded in upgrading it, thus becoming the only MP4-producing company in the world.

"JW Capital's also involved in the real estate industry. Their strength in the Southeast province is immeasurable.

“According to the evaluation carried out by our professionals, JW Capital and its subsidiaries can unite to form a comprehensive and strong modernized group.

“I fear that rashly starting a conflict with them will threaten Softwin’s plans to find its footing here in Somerland.”

Echo grabbed a dart and suddenly threw it at the target hanging on the wall.

With a ‘woosh’, the dart accurately pierced through the heart of the target six-to-seven meters away.

Echo smiled confidently and spoke in a cold tone, “You think too much, Yona. You must understand that Somer descents are born cowards who only bully those weaker than them. They may fight vigorously among themselves, but they will never be an opponent to us great Sunrisers.

“Go give that Jasper a call. Have him come to Waterhoof City immediately. Tell him I wish to see him.”