

Life at the Top Chapter 991

As an ex-senior executive of the world's largest consumer goods company, the P&G Group, Malcolm had more than one trick up his sleeves.

He continued to speak to Yona arrogantly, "Please watch your attitude. Since when were Sunrisers like you allowed to act superior in front of a man from the United States?"

This was something the whole world, including Sunrisers, had to admit; in front of the great United States, they were nothing more than inferior subjects.

Yona's expression soured further.

"Enough."

Echo glared at Yona's show of weakness and spoke to Malcolm calmly, "You're Malcolm Malibu, JW Capital's COO, right? Please lead the way; our time is very valuable."

"That's more like it," Malcolm replied, then turned sideways and lifted his hand. "This way. Mr. Laine's been waiting for a long time."

Jasper's office doors were opened, and under Malcolm's lead, Echo and Yona entered together.

Echo and Jasper's gazes met in the air.

"Welcome, distinguished guests."

As the host, Jasper stood up unprompted and made his way around the office desk to shake Echo's hand, greeting them with a smile.

Not going to Waterhoof City or greeting them downstairs was a show of his attitude, and also stressed that both parties were of equal standing.

However, Jasper would be a horrible host if he remained seated as he greeted them.

Jasper had a very good understanding of his limits.

Echo's dark expression that he had worn the when he first walked into the room immediately vanished to make way for a bright smile. The man spoke in fluent Somerish, "Hello, Mr. Laine. I've heard much about you, and it's nice to finally meet you."

Jasper sounded shocked when he spoke, "Your Somerish is really good, Mr. Welch."

Echo smiled reservedly and replied, "Well, I'm one-fourth of Somer descent and I've studied in Somerland for three years. To understand its market, one has to first understand the people and culture behind it."

"Haha, you're very right, Mr. Welch. Here, come and take a seat."

Jasper led the two into the reception room next to his office. Once everyone was seated, Jasper then smiled crescent-eyed as he spoke to Echo, "My apologies for not being able to meet you in Waterhoof City, Mr. Welch. I was preoccupied with work and I couldn't afford to leave."

Echo gave a small smile as he replied, "Mr. Laine, us Sunrisers come from a very polite country and we always treat people with respect.

“If you don’t have the time to come over, then we shall come to meet you. There are no worries. I also brought you a gift, Mr. Laine, and you should’ve received it already. Was it to your liking?”

When he said this, the atmosphere in the reception room made a sharp turn for the worse.

The seemingly somewhat harmonious atmosphere suddenly thickened and tensed.

Jasper smiled calmly and replied, “It’s not too bad. But if this small present is all you can gift, then I must admit that I’ve overestimated you.”

“Hmph. Stop pretending.” Yona sneered. The pair had already agreed on the way over that Yona would be in charge of acting sinister and fierce while facing Jasper.

“You’re frantic now, aren’t you, Mr. Laine? After all, we’ve done some digging, and know that a large portion of your JW Electronics’ revenue comes from the Sunrise market.”

Life at the Top Chapter 992

“Losing the Sunrise market means that you’ve lost almost one-third of your revenue.

“I’m impressed at how you can still act so calm, Mr. Laine.”

Yona’s words had Jasper moving his gaze to look at him. The latter asked calmly, “And you are?”

“Yona, The Presidential Assistant of Softwin Investments’ Somerland branch,” Yona introduced himself arrogantly.

“Oh, so you’re just an assistant,” Jasper shook his head. “Sorry, but subordinates aren’t normally allowed to pipe in when I’m talking to your superior. I do remember that Sunrise Land’s rather particular with regulations in the business setting. So I have to ask, is this how you educate your subordinates, Mr. Welch?”

“What are you implying?” Yona shouted, enraged.

Jasper replied casually, “As a Sunriser, not only have you been acting like you’re better than everyone while standing on Somer soil, you’ve also come to my company and caused a ruckus. Do you perhaps think that I’m too kind to kick you out?”

Yona clenched his jaw immediately. The urge to curse Jasper out was strong, but he did not dare act rashly in fear that it would disrupt Echo’s plan.

Echo frowned slightly and interrupted them, “Let’s cut the nonsense, Mr. Laine. I think I’ve shown you this time that we can make doing business in Sunrise Land difficult for you.

“Our request is simple: give up on Abbylon if you want to continue doing business in Sunrise Land.”

Echo had a small smile as he continued, “You must know by now how powerful Softwin is in Sunrise Land. If we’re able to return all of JW’s goods overnight, then we can also fill Sunrise Land’s department store shelves with JW’s goods if we so please.

“Of course, it wouldn’t be difficult at all if we also wanted to make JW disappear completely from the Sunrise market.”

“That sounds like a terrifying threat.” Jasper looked at Echo and answered, “So if I disagree, JW’s products will never get a chance to enter Sunrise again. Is that it?”

Echo clapped once, the clear sound cutting through the air, and he replied with a large smile, “Correct. I believe there’s this Somer saying, about how a smart man can read the situation and act accordingly. I’m sure you’re a smart man, right, Mr. Laine?”

“It seems like you’ve got a very in-depth understanding of Somer culture, Mr. Welch. But I wonder if you’ve heard this other saying: amicable until attacked and ruthless in our counters.”

Jasper looked at Echo calmly and asked, “Are you so confident that you’ll manage to crush me, Mr. Welch?”

Echo chuckled and replied, “I don’t need to be confident about crushing you when it’s already a given that I will. Or are you telling me that you still have a plan to counter Softwin in Sunrise Land? Are you daydreaming?”

At that moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

Jasper glanced at the number and chuckled. “This will be an interesting call. Perhaps you’d like to listen in, Mr. Welch? Something tells me that it’ll be of your interest.”

Echo frowned despite feeling proud of himself. He watched confusedly as Jasper accepted the call; He had no idea what the man was planning to do.

A moment later, the call connected.

Chad’s excited tone echoed through the speakers.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve successfully signed the contract.

“Sentel Corporation has agreed to partner with us. They’ll construct a new branch in Coreana and Sunrise Land, and use their channels to manufacture and sell our licensed MP4s and future MP5s. All that is left for us to do is to wait for our cut of the profits to roll in.”

Jasper chuckled at these words while Echo’s expression changed dramatically.

Life at the Top Chapter 993

“Good, you’ve done well,” Jasper praised Chad.

Chad laughed and replied, “All I did was sign the contract—you’re the one who negotiated the partnership, Mr. Laine. Sentel was really kind to us too.

“They’ve been treating us with the highest standard of respect ever since we got off the plane. There wasn’t any unnecessary talk during the finalizing process either. There’s no way we can take the credit when all we did was come over to sign the contract.”

Jasper replied with a smile, “Still, you’re the ones who went all the way there and did the job.

“Since you’ve already signed the contract on the first day, then stay and have fun in Coreana for the remaining two days. The company will cover your costs as a reward.”

Chad laughed out loud and replied, “We’ve already booked the earliest flight out tomorrow morning. We might’ve already signed the contract, but there’s still quite a bit we need to prepare. Like the sharing and transferring of technical research, as well as make the specific arrangements for manufacturing. Can we postpone our vacation until everything’s done?”

“Sure. We’ll talk more when you get back, then.”

Jasper ended the call with a smile.

Jasper then turned to look at Echo. As expected, the latter’s expression had darkened.

Echo stared intently at Jasper and said coldly, "What's with this act that you and your subordinate put on for us? Aren't you afraid that I'll mock you, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You think too highly of yourself, Mr. Welch. You're not important enough for me to put on an act. This is big news, isn't it? How about you go and ask for confirmation yourself?"

Echo narrowed his eyes and his gaze burned fiercely into Jasper.

As far as he was concerned, Jasper did not have the wit nor the capability to come up with a plan to counter him within just a day.

Not to mention, he had done so by partnering with Sentel Corporation.

Sentel Corporation.

The only large industrial conglomerate that controlled Coreana's economy.

Sentel's status in Coreana was equivalent to Trider and Triton Financial Group's status in Sunrise Land.

Not every group could be considered a financial group, and not every financial group could be considered a conglomerate.

Sentel was someone not even Trider or Triton dared to provoke lightly, let alone Softwin.

Rony and Tochiba had only tried to probe Sentel back then thanks to Trider and Triton's support. The probe had then resulted in Trider and Triton arriving at a secret agreement with Sentel, and its contents were something neither Rony nor Tochiba were qualified to know.

Therefore, Echo refused to believe that this Sentel would actually form a partnership with Jasper.

At that moment, Echo and Yona's phones vibrated at the same time.

The same message lit up both their phones.

Echo and Yona pulled their phones out at the same time and looked down at the screen. Both their complexions instantly paled.

There were countless eyes on a large industrial conglomerates like Sentel Corporation at all times.

No matter when, and who signed a partnership with, news of it would still immediately reach the ears of many powerful people.

Because of this, Echo and Yona had just received the latest news of Sentel Corporation partnering with JW Electronics Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

This piece of information was immediately sent to Sunrise industrial conglomerates by their network of spies. Softwin, of course, had their own information channels to find out about this.

Life at the Top Chapter 994

Yet, Jasper's heart sunk when he watched the duo's expression change upon reading the text on their phones.

It would be unwise for him to look down on these large investment banks. It had only been a few minutes since the contract was signed and they had already been informed of it.

New businesses like JW could not possibly compare to these large investment banks when it came to gathering information.

JW had almost no intel sources at all.

At this moment, Jasper officially placed the topic of gathering information as one of the most important agendas in his mind.

He had to establish an information network for JW as fast as possible.

Otherwise JW would not be able to take the initiative in conflicts as they would be dead before they knew it.

Reading the message, Echo was certain that Jasper had not put on an act just to frighten him. Echo looked up at Jasper seriously and suddenly smiled.

"I have to admit, Mr. Laine, I've underestimated you."

Jasper replied, "If that's a compliment, then thank you."

"But you don't understand. Even if you've partnered with Sentel, I've already achieved my goal."

“You’re forced to partner with Sentel just to continue holding a stake in Sunrise’s market.

“You’re still earning fewer profits when all I had to do was make a few phone calls and send a report to Headquarters.”

Echo looked at Jasper pridefully and said, “As I said, either give Abbylon up, or Softwin will continue to attack JW.

“This will continue until you give up the partnership with Abbylon, or... until JW dies.”

Echo stared at Jasper aggressively and with overwhelming pride.

“You might be furious now, Mr. Laine, but the weak have no right to feel angry. All you can do is accept reality, Mr. Laine, so please give me your answer.”

“You’re a great negotiator, Mr. Welch,” Jasper looked at Echo calmly. “I’ve already resolved your obstacles yet you’ve somehow managed to spin it into your victory. You make it sound like you’re in the right, Mr. Welch, but you seem to have forgotten something.

“This is Somerland and both JW and Abbylon are Somer companies. So what if Softwin’s powerful? What power do you think you have over JW or Abbylon?”

Echo immediately shot to his feet at Jasper’s words and said coldly, “Then there’s no point in further negotiations.”

Jasper did not even look up at him as he spoke, “You’re free to leave if you’re busy, Mr. Welch. The door’s that way.”

“Hmph!” Echo harrumphed and suppressed the fury within him as he spat icily, “I hope you don’t regret this. Once I leave this room, I won’t back down easily even if you beg me.”

“I’ve never begged anyone before,” Jasper replied calmly.

“Fine!” Echo huffed a sharp laugh and turned to walk to the door. “Until we meet again.”

Furious, Echo walked to the door and was about to raise his hand to push open the handle when someone opened the office door from the outside.

Wendy wanted to talk to Jasper about something when she was met with the two men standing at the door. She was about to speak when Echo suddenly cursed—the fact that a woman blocked his path had only infuriated Echo further. “You idiot! F*ck off, b*tch!”

Having remained silent throughout the entire interaction in the office, Malcolm’s features twitched when he heard Echo curse.

He did not even need to look at Jasper to know that Echo, this Sunriser, was screwed today.

Life at the Top Chapter 995

Forced to suppress his anger, Echo had not taken a good look at Wendy's appearance or figure at the very beginning. It was only after cursing her out that he realized how beautiful Wendy was.

The man chuckled evilly and said, "What a pretty Somer woman, not even women back in Sunrise Land are prettier than you. What a shame that you've joined a company that's about to close down.

"How about you come back with me, beautiful? I'm a Sunriser and you Somer women love foreigners the most, right? I can move you back to Sunrise Land and arrange a nice job for you in our biggest investment bank, Softwin."

Echo was evidently trying to humiliate Jasper.

He did not know who this woman was to Jasper, but at the very least, she was still the man's employee. Hunting for an owner's employees in front of them was the biggest form of humiliation.

However, it had not crossed Echo's mind that Wendy was Jasper's girlfriend.

Therefore, Echo's efforts were for naught.

He just had no idea of it yet.

Wendy was the first to fire back at him.

Wendy stared frostily at Echo and said, "I don't see what's so good about short Sunrisers like you, nor am I interested in talking to one of you anyway. Your appearance disgusts me, now please move out of my way!"

Echo's expression changed.

Having had enough from Jasper, Echo now had to endure a scolding from a Somer woman while she pointed her finger at him.

The glee from humiliating Jasper immediately vanished and Echo roared at Yona in mortification, "Yona, teach this Somer b*tch the strength of Sunrise men!"

Yona shouted his agreement and walked toward Wendy with a wretched snicker as he growled, "You Somer women were nothing more than venting tools for us Sunrise men decades ago. I'll have you learn today that the noble Sunrisers are not people you b*tches can insult!"

After he finished speaking, Yona reached out for Wendy only for a hand to clasp his shoulder.

Following that, a large burst of energy from that hand spread through his arm such that Yona lost his balance. The man's upper body twisted and before his frightened expression could even change, a fist smashed into his face.

The bone-chilling crack of a fractured nose bridge, followed by Yona's pitiful cry, cut through the room.

Blood splattered in all directions and Yona immediately cupped his face. Blood continued to drop from the gaps between his fingers, leaving spots of blood on the floor.

Jasper moved his hand and reached out to pull Wendy behind him. Then, he glanced frigidly at Yona and an utterly shocked Echo before he said, "Looks like you two don't want to leave my company in one piece."

Echo had not expected Jasper, a successful and wealthy business owner, to start physically attacking people.

He glared at Jasper and roared, “Do you know what you’re doing?! How dare you hit my subordinate!”

“Hit? Killing him would already be a light punishment considering what he said and wanted to do,” Jasper spoke coldly.

Echo felt his heart race and he pointed at Jasper and shouted, “So you’re choosing to go into full-out war with Softwin? You’ll pay an unimaginable price!”

“Fine, we’ll go to war then! I’ve fought my way to where I stand today with my own two hands! You think I got here by begging people?”

Jasper fired back without hesitation, “Your pitiful arrogance means dog sh*t to me!”

Echo’s complexion paled further, but he also recognized that he was in Jasper’s territory. Thus, he reached out to grab Yona, who was still whimpering and bleeding, and spat wretchedly, “Fine, then. Just you wait! You’ll come to me begging me for mercy very soon!”

Echo then turned to leave.

However, he was greeted by a strong and expressionless man standing in his way once he turned around.

The man was at least one-eighty centimeters tall, and while he was not exceptionally buff, the man’s body was toned and every curve of his body was indicative of exceptional strength.

His presence was enough to overwhelm and suffocate Echo.

This was an aura Echo had only seen in true top-notch fighters back in Sunrise Land.

Echo's heart thumped erratically as he turned back to growl at Jasper, "What is the meaning of this? Have your dog move!"

Jasper replied calmly, "You're going to leave without apologizing?"

Echo snapped, "Apologize? You were the one who hit my subordinate! Why do I have to apologize?!"

"I want you to apologize to every Somer descent in the room, including my girlfriend!" Jasper looked at icily frostily as his powerful voice stated his demands.

"For the insults both of you Sunrisers fired at Somer descents in general, and my girlfriend in particular. I'm already being very merciful by merely asking for an apology, do not force me to do something no one here wants to see."

Echo grit his teeth while his gaze burned with rage as if he wanted to engulf Jasper in fire.

This was the first time in years since he had faced such humiliation.

As a noble Sunriser, he would rather die than apologize to the people of the poor, underdeveloped, and lowly Somerland.

However, considering the situation, Echo knew that he would not be allowed to leave today without apologizing.

Greatly conflicted, Echo softened his tone. "Look, Jasper, there's no need to strain our relationship like this. We can still smooth things out. We're all businessmen, after all, and it's not worth it to go on full-out war because we were both acting rashly.

"As for the matter of you becoming Abbylon's shareholder, we can always talk about that at a later date. If I persuade the headquarters, I'm sure Mr. Shon will be willing to let you invest in them as well. You'll get to take a portion of the shares as well, okay?"

Despite what he said, Echo was internally cursing Jasper out like mad. He was going to do everything he could to get rid of Jasper the moment he walked out of here.

Like hell was he going to persuade Myles for Jasper's sake.

Jasper smiled in reaction to Echo's softened tone.

The smile seemed to have soothed the atmosphere.

Echo let out the breath he was holding as well.

He was about to speak when Jasper's smile suddenly vanished and the man barked at Echo coldly.

"I said apologize!"