

# Life at The Top – Chapter 1381

When Jasper received the call from Ryder, he was busy listening to Sean's complaints.

"Mr. Laine, I am not crying about how poor I am. However, over the past few months of the second half of the year, most of land price in first tier cities rose by about 30%, causing the budget within our real estate company to become very tight."

"We're unable to buy the two pieces of land that we're after and had planned to buy after you took out the funds back then."

"After this period, the headquarters will have to consider our project department. We're not willing to abandon those projects just yet. You have to remember that the real estate industry requires a lot of money to play in. We won't be able to show you any results if we don't have any money."

Jasper took a sip of water and said bluntly, "Stop complaining to me. I know what you're thinking. Also, you're a little too late. The electronics company and the person in charge of Abbylon have already said something similar to me."

"If we're so well off, do you think we'll take out the funds from your company? Soon, some of the funds will be returned to the company, but all of you are saying right now is that you're in a difficult position and that this is hard on you. Money is tight, so who do you think I should help and not help?"

Sean gritted his teeth and said, "Lance looked cheerful all the time but I know he's a bad kid. And Wayne too! Damn it, he's so ugly and has so many tricks up his sleeves."

Jasper waved his hand in exhaustion and said, "Enough. Stop your act. All of the branches are growing right now so they all need monetary support. I know this very well. I'll allocate the funds after we procure more stable funds in the headquarters."

When Sean heard this, he grinned.

At this moment, the phone on the table rang. Jasper lifted his head to tell Sean to go out before picking up the phone.

"This is Jasper Laine."

"Mr. Laine, it's me, Ryder Lawrence."

When Jasper heard that voice, he lifted his eyebrow and smiled. He said, "Don't tell me you're here to cry about being poor too."

Ryder chuckled bitterly and said, "Mr. Laine, I have more important things to report to you."

Jasper stopped being playful and asked seriously, "What's going on?"

Ryder immediately told Jasper what was going on in Advent Entertainment Group in detail.

After he reported this to Jasper, Ryder told Jasper what he thought about this.

"Mr. Laine, from what I can see, someone is sabotaging us. Also, I've never seen such an aggressive attack before."

"I've collected information on some of the companies that terminated their contracts with us at the same time. They come from different industries, ranging from fashion, cosmetics, and sundries. There's also one that's in the aquaculture industry."

"According to my experience, either the other party is someone who has more power than the Harbor City government, or they are gathering a group of people from different industries to target us."

When Jasper learned about the attack on Advent Entertainment Group, he subconsciously figured that Fabian was behind it.

By pairing it with Conrad's text from a while back, he was able to connect the term 'Empire Meet' with the clues he was being given now. Thus, everything immediately made sense.

However, Ryder had no idea about any of this. Therefore, when Ryder deduced a conclusion that was not too far away from the truth, Jasper could not help but feel impressed.

This experienced entertainment manager from Hallavu was more competent than he thought.

## **Life at The Top – Chapter 1382**

"It's Fabian," Jasper said flatly.

Ryder's voice paused for a while on the other end of the phone.

Obviously, Ryder, who had stayed in Harbor City for so long, could already be considered as someone from the upper class circle. Because of this, he was not unfamiliar with that name.

With a bitter chuckle, Ryder said, "Mr. Laine, if it's him, I'm afraid only you can settle this."

“I know Fabian will do something, but his speed and aggression surprised me. He’s truly a young master from the Atticus family. He’s so different from the ordinary people.”

Ryder could detect the complimentary tone in Jasper’s words, hence, he said sullenly, “Mr. Laine, we’re losing money with every minute that passes. Also, if we don’t take care of this soon, the company’s reputation will be greatly affected.

“You should know that the artists make money from their reputation. If they don’t have any publicity for a very long time, even the most popular artists will lose their jobs. How are you still in the mood to mock him?”

Jasper chuckled and said, ‘Don’t worry. This is not a big deal, yet you’re already so anxious.’”

“Do you already have a solution, Mr. Laine?” Ryder said in shock.

Jasper explained patiently, “According to our long term plan, we will abandon the market in Harbor City sooner or later.

“There’s nothing left in this market anymore anyway. It’s not stagnant yet, but the entertainment industry in Harbor City can’t support so many artists anymore.”

“Because of this, we’ve always been targeting the market in the mainland ever since the company was founded.”

“Total annihilation by Fabian’s hand right now might not be a bad thing. It’s just in time to prompt us and our artists to completely shift over to the mainland market.”

What Jasper said frightened Ryder. He could not help but say, “Mr. Laine, you’re right. With Easy Media helping us, we were able to do our jobs without any obstructions in the mainland for the past year.”

However, I’m afraid we’re still not prepared enough to leave Harbor City completely and enter the mainland.”

“Prepared? It’ll be too late if you need to be fully prepared before you do anything.”

“You have to go in steadily and strike hard when it comes to business. oftentimes, there’s nothing in this world that’s completely risk free.” Jasper shot down Ryder’s hesitation bluntly.

Ryder became more confident after he heard that.

In any case, the tall people would die first if the sky fell. Moreover, Jasper never made a wrong decision before this, and something great would always come from his leadership. For example, not only did they not fail when the company attempted to enter the market in the mainland before this, they even made a lot of money. This made everyone in the company, including Ryder, trust Jasper completely.

“So, Mr. Laine, what should we do now?” Ryder asked.

“There’s only one plan. If the cinemas in Harbor City won’t screen our movies, then we won’t go to them. What’s the use of those tens of millions of viewers in Harbor City? When are we supposed to make money if rely solely on them?”

“We should go to the cinemas in the mainland. Right now, the cinemas in the mainland lack high quality movies so you don’t have to worry about underperforming in terms of ticket sales.”

“If they don’t give us a venue for our productions, then we’ll do it in the mainland.”

“If they won’t endorse our artists, then we’ll go get endorsements from the businesses in the mainland. You can go and read up on the branches of JW. We’re all on the same team so it’s going to be much easier to negotiate these things.”

“The artists in Harbor City are more well known than the ones in the mainland. Moreover, they have more fans too. As long as the price is right, they’ll know what to choose.”

“In short, if Fabian won’t let us do business in Harbor City, then we won’t do it. We’ll do it in the mainland. After all, the mainland has more clientele and can provide us with a brighter future. Yes, Harbor City is Fabian’s territory, but he has no say when it comes to the alternative.”

## **Life at The Top – Chapter 1383**

What Jasper said caused Ryder to feel an intense and passionate fire in his chest.

That was right, even though Fabian was very influential in Harbor City, so what? His power was only limited to Harbor City.

Harbor City was too small, and Advent Entertainment Group was not interested in this place anyway.

The mainland was the future.

However, Jasper was not the one who wore the pants in the mainland. If Fabian wanted to put his foot in the mainland, he would be lucky if his foot was not chopped off by someone else, let alone if he wanted to cause trouble for JW.

“I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll ask my subordinates to get on it now.”



“The change of our target market is a core strategic decision and it’ll affect all operations of the company. You’ve been managing the operations of Advent Entertainment this whole time, so I can only give this to you. You also have to be responsible for this, so I’ll be monitoring your performance.”

When Ryder heard what Jasper said, he answered loudly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I won’t let you down.”

“Good, call Ted after this and ask Easy Media to cooperate with us on all aspects. Advent Entertainment doesn’t have as many resources as Easy Media in the mainland. So, you guys will need Easy Media to lead you in the early stages.”

“I’ll ask Ted to work with you on this. We can keep the current business in Harbor City for now, but remember, it doesn’t matter what difficulties the people who abandon Advent Entertainment are facing right now, we will not consider working with them again in the future.”

Ryder hesitated when he heard the last sentence.

“Mr. Laine, there are multiple decision makers in a company’s hierarchy. Is it necessary to be so extreme? After all, we’ll still be able to make money if we continue working together in the future.”

“Are you trying to say that I shouldn’t give up on money because I’m frustrated?” Jasper said insipidly.

When Ryder sensed the dissatisfaction in Jasper's voice, he quickly answered, "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine."

"You don't have to apologize. I understand what you're thinking. You're considering this from the perspective of the company."

Jasper sighed.

This was the natural difference in mindset between an experienced manager and a boss.

The two of them would look at a problem from almost completely different angles. He had to remind Ryder about this.

"Ryder, you can never make enough money, nor all the money in the world. Of course, abandoning preconceptions and making sure all parties enjoy mutually profitable partnerships is what a mature company should do."

"However, have you ever considered that a company without moral integrity will never be respected?"

“If people respect you, you become an enterprise. On the contrary, a company is a place where profit is the only decision maker.”

“You’ll only be qualified to fight for the position of the head of the entertainment business department after you understand this problem.”

After Jasper said that, he hung up the phone.

When Ryder heard the beeping of a busy line, he became lost in thought for a very long time.

He thought deeply about what Jasper said. At the same time, he was surprised that Jasper was giving him a chance.

However, he was not the only one eyeing the entertainment company under JW. Ted from Easy Media was also eyeing it hungrily.

Currently, he had the resources of the entertainment industry in Harbor City, so he could defeat Ted easily. However, Advent Entertainment Group was going to enter the market in the mainland, at which point he might have to exchange positions in his relationship with Ted.

One had to know that Ryder and Ted had been longing for the position of the president of the entertainment company for a very long time.

Meanwhile, most of the major departments under JW, aside from the less experienced Lance, who was temporarily replaced by Chad as the president of the electronics equipment manufacturing company, already had individuals occupying their highest positions.

All except for the entertainment company.

Ryder suppressed the excitement in his heart and picked up the phone again. He said in a deep and steady voice, "Tell all of the people who are ranked manager and above to come to a meeting immediately."

Nauritus City in Southeast Province.

## **Life at The Top – Chapter 1384**

After Jasper hung up the phone, he had an unpleasant look on his face.

He was not scared of Fabian shutting out Advent Entertainment. After all, the market in the mainland was so big that Advent Entertainment would fit in with no problems.

However, this could not change the fact that Fabian had forced him to exit the entertainment market in Harbor City while he was too helpless to stop him.

At this moment, someone pushed the office door open. No one in the company dared to enter Jasper's office without knocking.

Even Wendy would not do that because she placed a lot of importance on maintaining Jasper's authority and prestige in the company. Therefore, she would always knock before she entered the office, as was the established standards.

From this, one could tell that the person who did this must be someone that did not belong to the company.

After Henry entered the office, he sat opposite Jasper and crossed his legs. Then, he chuckled and said, "Fabian took action against you, huh?"

"You heard about it?" Jasper asked.

"Damn, I'm the top young master in Harbor City, okay? This is such a big piece of news which I only just heard about. I came to you the moment I understood what's going on."

“So what are you going to do? Are you going to go back to Harbor City to drag that son of a b\*tch out to parade down the streets?” Henry said with excitement on his face.

“Go back?” Jasper chuckled coldly. “There’s another way to hurt him more, so why should we do so much?”

“Fabian only reacted so strongly because we hurt him too much yesterday. So, it’s up to him if he wants to use all of his tricks on us. However, we’re still the ones in charge when it comes to the stock market.”

Jasper had no expression on his face. Then, he grabbed his phone and called Jake.

After a short while, the call went through.

“Once the trading commences in the afternoon, watch Fabian’s funds closely and destroy them.”

Jake shuddered and answered immediately, “I understand, Mr. Laine.”

After Jasper hung up the phone, he grinned at Henry and said, “See, it’s that easy.”

Henry gave Jasper a thumbs up. “Very aggressive.”

Throughout that day, Advent Entertainment Group was shut out by every establishment in Harbor City because of someone with bad intentions. This piece of news spread all over Harbor City like it had sprouted wings. This was the first time this had happened In Harbor City. After all, this was a place where the entertainment industry was booming.

Back then, shutouts would only happen to one specific artist.

However, this time Fabian was shutting the entire company out. Moreover, he was targeting Advent Entertainment Group, who was arguably the strongest figure in Harbor City’s entertainment industry.

A lot of people were impressed by what Fabian was doing while all this commotion was going on.

Things were fine while he did not move, but the second he did, he caused an uproar.

“Mr. Atticus is really something else. A Mainlander is still too inexperienced to fight with Mr. Atticus.”

This was what a lot of the people in the industry thought.

The sun set and it was soon nighttime in Harbor City. Meanwhile, it was the next morning in the United States. The trading had commenced.

“The Dow Jones Index is still falling drastically after the trading commenced!”

Fabian’s stock trader howled one minute after the trading commenced.

“Mr. Atticus, Jasper is targeting us!”

Fabian’s face turned cold and he said, “Hold on. We got 1.3 billion US Dollars from the fundraising yesterday, so it’ll be enough for us to fight back.”

“We can’t, Mr. Atticus. Jasper is like a lunatic! He’s coming in strong!”

“Gosh, Mr. Atticus, Jasper is taking the lead to attack us. A lot of the organizations are after our position. They want to devour us!”



# Life at The Top – Chapter 1385

The Dow Jones Index currently looked like a horrifying scene from a battlefield.

Under the influence of the market, the short selling party was making triumphant progress. However, the number of funds held would also make a difference on a battlefield like this.

Even though Fabian had tried everything to hide his position, he could not stop Jasper because Jasper had already thoroughly hunted him down.

The two parties maintained this intricate dance for a very long time. Both sides already understood each other inside and out.

Jasper soon led the attack as he began targeting all of Fabian's positions.

Jasper's attack left no means of escape, as Fabian's disguise was ripped off and he was left completely exposed.

In that moment, the eyes of all the hungry establishments that were busy looking for a free meal lit up.

They did not expect such a big fish to be hiding in such a chaotic battlefield.

To those agencies, they did not care if you were Fabian Atticus or Atticus Finch, as long as there was profit and returns, they would take you down even if Winston Benett himself was standing in front of them.

Which one of the bosses or stakeholders from those agencies was not a big shot that were in the top 500 of the world when it came to power?

Fabian was mighty in Harbor City and his family was powerful indeed.

However, if he was thrown into the Nasdaq's battlefield, the Atticus family was just a squire from a small town. It would be impossible to make those establishments halt their attack.

Thus, a smokeless financial massacre immediately skipped the mild prelude and leaped into the most exciting bit in which people suffered terrible financial losses.

They were competing to find out who had among them had the most money and most power.

"Mr. Atticus, this is too much, We can't hold on any longer!"

“Mr. Atticus, we have to come up with a plan soon! If Jasper was the only one hitting us, we might have been able to hold out, but the problem is that the entire market trend is plunging too violently.”

“Jasper keeps attacking us with such great fanfare and he has attracted at least six other organizations to encircle us. We won’t be able to hold on!”

“Mr. Atticus, the warning line of the position funds continues to fall below the critical value. If this continues, our funds won’t be able to take it!”

Fabian felt his head aching when he heard the panicked exclams of his subordinates.

“Alright, quiet! Shut up!”

Fabian roared, causing the noisy room to fall into an eerie silence.

What was left was muffled and rapid breathing.

“How much funds do we have left now?” Fabian asked through gritted teeth.

“About 1 billion US Dollars.” One of Fabian’s subordinates reported carefully.

“How long has it been since trading commenced? It’s only been 10 minutes and you lost 300 million US Dollars?” Fabian bellowed.

The subordinate that answered him just now did not dare to speak anymore.

At this moment, another subordinate said in a low voice, “Mr. Atticus, you can’t blame us. Jasper is too despicable. He purposely does this with great fanfare hoping to attract those organizations scrounging for a free meal to come attack us.”

“Atticus, let’s back away a little.”

At this moment, Morrison stood up from his desk. His expression was stern.

“As things stand, at least 6 agencies looking for free meals all over the world are taking aim at us. Their combined funds exceed 6 billion US Dollars. If this continues, all of our money will be gone in under 30 minutes unless we back away.”

“Damn it!”

