

# Life at the Top Chapter 156

Anna and Henry arrived at the hotel in the early afternoon to pick Jasper up.

You would never drive yourself to such formal events, which was why the Law siblings had their chauffeur drive them in the family's other Rolls-Royce.

Henry, also dressed in a suit, widened his eyes in surprise when he saw Jasper stepping out of the hotel.

"Why bother buying an entertainment company when you look like that? Might as well go star in a movie and gain instant fame," Henry said with jealousy.

Jasper laughed as he got into the car. "Starring in a movie is such tiring work. How could it be as easy as being a CEO?"

Henry clicked his tongue and was about to say a reply when he noticed something. He stared intently at the suit Jasper was wearing.

A couple of seconds later, Henry wailed and said in equal parts anger, jealousy, and woe, "Anna Law, isn't this the suit you designed?!"

"You wouldn't let me wear it no matter how much I asked. Were you waiting for Jasper?!"

"I'm your brother! Your brother! Besides your mom, dad, and grandpa, I'm the person closest to you! How could you do this to me?!"

After listening exasperatedly to Henry's wails, Anna said stiffly, "What are you yelling about? Are you scared that the tabloid journalists won't be able to hear us?"

Henry had a vengeful expression on his face.

Excelsior Hotel was a top-notch five-star hotel in Harbor City best suited for these high-end charity balls.

The red-carpeted area outside the hotel was already filled with people when Jasper and the others arrived.

The press, crowd, and bodyguards had been arranged on both sides in an orderly manner.

Every once in a while, a luxurious car would pull to a stop near the red carpet and the passenger inside would step out of it.

It was just like an awards ceremony.

However, stars were the main characters of an award ceremony.

These stars were only an accessory to tycoons at places like these, where the rich and famous mingled with each other.

No matter how famous you were or how large your fanbase was, you had to be careful here, lest you say or do something wrong and offend the wrong person in the community.

Tragedies like these had happened in the past.

Modern stars were not much different from the playwrights of the past in front of the powerful.

As one of the top four most powerful tycoons, the Law family required an elaborate entrance.

A time period of an extra five minutes had been allocated both before and after the time slot the Law family was supposed to arrive.

For those not in the know, there was nothing new about the Law family. They were all old-time friends or rivals. They were much more interested in Jasper, who had been growing close to the Law family.

Especially Bob, who heard that Jasper would be attending the charity ball with the Law family.

“Jasper Laine is coming tonight.”

Bob spoke quietly to Zane who was standing beside him.

Zane’s mouth twitched, and a gloomy expression came over his face when he heard Jasper’s name.

“I’ll head in first to socialize with some old friends. Find a chance to humiliate him if he has arrived. Count it as interest.”

Bob patted his female companion on the arm when he was done speaking and motioned for her to follow him.

A famous, beautiful female movie star was standing beside him.

Zoelle Griffin.

Zoelle Griffin might be the most famous star in Harbor City now, but at this moment, she was nothing more than Bob’s female companion.

Zoelle had also gone through various hurdles and defeated many people to be his companion.

The entertainment industry was far more complicated than outsiders thought it to be. Female stars had to pay painful prices that one could not even begin to imagine to advance through the ranks.

Seemingly posh and elegant before the masses, they were nothing more than a tool to earn profits in a capitalist society.

Zoelle glanced in another direction. It was another female star who was in the same rank as her, Queenie Shaw.

At that moment, Queenie was standing beside Mitch, who was gazing silently at the approaching Law family's car with a solemn expression on his face. No one could tell what thoughts were going through his mind.

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As the crowd stared, the Rolls-Royce pulled to a stop at the red carpet. Someone immediately came forth to open the door.

Lights immediately began flashing wildly. It was as bright as if someone was shining a large searchlight.

Henry was the first one to get out of the car.

The wealthy son was well-known by both the tabloids and the crowd.

Then, there was a face that most people did not know.

"Who's that?"

Someone asked curiously as they watched Jasper getting out of the car.

Even though they had no idea who he was, everyone understood that any person who could enter a venue in the same car as Henry Law would be someone important.

He would have to be at least an esteemed guest of the Law family to have such eligibility.

Both Zane and Mitch's blood were boiling as they stood some distance away. They were wishing they could charge forth and pummel Jasper to death.

Under the flashing lights, Jasper turned to stand by the car door in a gentlemanly manner. He reached out and elegantly helped Anna out of the car.

Anna's slender, soft hand nestled in Jasper's palm. The minute she got out of the car, Harbor City's passion for both beauty and gossip heightened to new levels.

Dressed in a red evening gown, Anna grabbed the attention of every male at the scene the moment she got out of the car.

Bright red was a picky color. Not every woman would be able to pull that color off. Moreover, the evening gown demanded a perfect figure.

However, not only did Anna pull off the dress beautifully, but she even managed to make it seem even more beautiful.

When a person was truly beautiful, it was not their clothing that made them look even better, but the other way round.

She had a long, slender figure, and her long hair was pulled into a simple bun at the back of her head. Several strands of hair bounced around her pale neck.

She seemed as regal as a swan and as flirtatious as the devil.

At that very moment, no one dared challenge her title as the most beautiful woman in Harbor City.

The venue was filled with movie stars and gorgeous girls galore, and none of them gained their looks through plastic surgery. They were all gorgeous in their way.

However, Anna's appearance had caused their beauty to fade.

Jasper smiled as he extended his right hand toward Anna for her to hold on to as they walked forth.

Anna smiled as she placed her arm in Jasper's. The two smiled as they stepped onto the red carpet and walked toward the hotel.

A strange man had arrived in the same car as the Law siblings.

The young lady of the Law family seemed to have a boyfriend.

The journalists had adrenaline coursing through them as they looked at the lovely couple. They had even already crafted the next day's headline in their minds.

Henry felt jealous as he walked behind them, a stiff expression on his face.

"Stupid. He doesn't even look that good, but he's good at what he does. He even got my sister to be his date!"

Henry gritted his teeth. He might have changed his opinion of Jasper, but he still felt annoyed!

He was the young master of the Law family but seemed to only be an accessory to Jasper. He could only be his student!

Besides, this was not the first time he had felt that his identity as the young master of the Law family was worth nothing when he stood next to Jasper.

“Young Master Law, who is the man next to your sister? Is he your future brother-in-law?”

A brave journalist extended their neck out to pose the question.

“You’re talking about him?”

Harry pursed his lips. “He’s from Mainland. But if he’s alright with it, my grandpa and dad might even wrap my sister up like a present for him!”

Boom!

Everyone nearby felt their heads imploding!

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Who was Anna Law?

She was recognized to be the most beautiful lady in the upper circle of Harbor City.

She was the apple of Old Master Law’s eye.

The number of people who wanted to date her could form a line that stretched from Victoria Harbor to Causeway Bay!

They were all sons of rich families too.

However, they were now hearing this from Henry Law?

The journalist who asked the previous question seemed to think that they had struck gold, but by the time they wanted to ask another question, Henry had already walked off.

He was finally free from the flashing lights once he had crossed the red carpet and entered the hotel.

However, the socializing that came after was also a pain.

The differences between various cliques were exceptionally obvious in vanity fairs like these.

The four big shot families formed a clique of their own, and no one else was allowed in it.

When the four big shot families were done socializing, they would scatter off to look for those who were on good terms with their families.

The rival circles would have a clear-cut separation from each other.

However, no matter who you were, you would put on a smile for everyone.

New acquaintances popped up continuously before Jasper as long as Anna stayed beside him.

He had met members from the other three big families. They were mostly elegant, well-spoken people.

They had an obvious interest in Jasper. However, it did not seem right for them to pose the question.

However, Jasper could feel the crowd's attention shifting toward him as his name spread throughout the venue.

"Master Boyle, I heard your wife is pregnant. We'll be looking forward to your invitation once your child is born," Anna said as she smiled at the head of the Boyle family.

The man, who was several years older, blushed as he laughed and said, "Of course, of course. I'll make sure yours doesn't get lost in the mail."

After a round of greetings, Jasper had gotten to know several people and even more people had learned his name now.

No one knew where it started, but news of what Jasper had done awhile back traveled through the crowd like the plague.

"Mr. Laine, you were the one who purchased our company on the stock market the other day?" Kayden asked as he looked at Jasper in surprise.

Jasper smiled and said, "I didn't expect that to surprise you, Mr. Langdon."

"The amount of shares you hold now makes you eligible to enter the board of directors. Rules state that you must be notified the next time the company meets with the board of directors," Kayden said as he smiled.

Jasper said to Second Young Master Langdon, who was a refined man, "As an investor, I'm merely optimistic about your company's future and intend to make a profit while I can. I don't think I'll be needed in the company's meeting with the board of directors."

Kayden smiled meaningfully as he said, "I must compliment you on your fine taste, Mr. Laine."

Their conversation seemed peaceful, but there was a hidden agenda to it.

Kayden was worried about the intentions Jasper might be holding toward his company. If that was the case, the two would have to fight then and there, but Jasper had no interest whatsoever in the Langdon family's business, and he made sure to give an honest explanation.

His honesty had gotten him Kayden's appreciation in return.

"Here's my card. Let's talk again when we have the chance." Kayden smiled as he handed his card over.

"Of course."

Smiling, Jasper took the card from Kayden and offered his in return.

Taking the card from him, Kayden glanced at it and said in surprise, "Mr. Laine, you have an investment company in Mainland? JW Capital... Is that the one that's investing in Terizone?"

"Yes!" Jasper was not surprised that Kayden had heard of Terizone.

In his past life, Hudson had asked Kayden to invest in the company, and he had indeed done so.

"Haha, seems like we'll have a lot to talk about in the future," Kayden said playfully.

The two conversed for a little longer before Kayden said goodbye and headed elsewhere. People like him could not talk to any one person at an event for too long.

Kayden had just stepped away when Jasper heard a piercing voice behind him.

"Hey, look at what I've found. A Mainlander trying to mix into high society. You actually have the nerve to come in?"

Mitch scoffed as he walked over with Queenie.

“Was 100 million dollars too little for you to be considered as a punishment?” Jasper asked coolly.

The expression on Mitch’s face stiffened as he scoffed and said, “Don’t be too proud. You were just lucky. I refuse to believe that you’ll always be this lucky. One day, you’re going to end up worse than a dog.”

“I don’t know how I’m going to end up in the future, but I do remember clearly that I ended up with 100 million dollars from you the other day,” Jasper said as he laughed lightly.

Mitch gritted his teeth as he said angrily, “Do you have nothing else to talk about besides that 100 million?”

“Indeed, I have nothing else to say to you,” Jasper said coolly.

“Young Master Langdon, the banquet has not started. No need to get into conflicts with other guests,” Queenie hurriedly said when she saw the expression on Mitch’s face.

Mitch scoffed and said, “You’re right. Getting angry at someone like him does nothing but taint my reputation. That Mainlander ought to take a look at himself. He won’t fool anyone into thinking he’s a king even if he has the royal mantle draped over him!”

Queenie glanced curiously at Jasper. She had done several jobs in Mainland this year and also shot several commercials there, which meant she had a vague understanding of Mainland.

What she was sure of was that a man as attractive as Jasper was hard to come by both in Mainland and Harbor City.

Even without mentioning anything else, Jasper's gentlemanly and elegant demeanor on the red carpet just now had already attracted countless women.

"Queenie, I hear that many of your fans are Mainlanders." Mitch scoffed as he raised his chin toward Jasper. "See that? The movie star who you Mainlanders don't even dare dream of meeting is my date tonight."

"Ms. Shaw, you're under Gladness Entertainment, aren't you?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Yes."

Queenie nodded, not understanding why Jasper asked that question all of a sudden.

Smiling, Jasper turned and said to Mitch, "The world is a miraculous place because you can never guess what's going to happen in the next second. For example, your date who you're so proud of, a famous movie star with countless fans, might have a new boss in the next second."

"What do you mean?" Mitch narrowed his eyes and glared threateningly at Jasper as he spoke.

"Nothing," Jasper replied calmly.

"Jasper, my dad's looking for you."

Just then, Anna walked over and spoke quietly to Jasper.

Mitch was handsome, and Queenie was naturally gorgeous.

However, they paled in comparison to Jasper and Anna.

Jasper smiled as he extended an arm toward Anna and then pointed to their interlocked arms.

He smiled at Mitch and said, "My date, Anna Law."

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Mitch stared at Jasper's retreating figure. He felt blood pooling at the base of his throat, but he could neither swallow it nor spit it out.

He had just been gloating over the fact that Queenie was his date, and Anna Law suddenly appeared beside Jasper the very next second.

Queenie was pretty and famous enough.

To be honest, one could not be embarrassed bringing Queenie along to any event.

She was on par with his status as Mitch Langdon too.

However, one was always worried to be compared with.

A man's success was measured by the woman beside him.

Queenie was fine, but could she and Anna be compared side by side?

They were miles apart.

Mitch felt his face burning, and that translated to him feeling annoyed as he stared at Queenie.

“Young Master Langdon... You...”

Spooked by the look in Mitch’s eyes, Queenie was just about to speak when she heard Mitch saying, “F\*ck off!”

Queenie stared at Mitch, flabbergasted.

“I said, f\*ck off!”

Mitch turned after speaking coldly to Queenie and strode off, leaving her stranded at the venue. Tears filled her eyes.

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Jasper and Anna entered a smaller hall in the hotel.

The hall outside was for the younger generation to mingle and form connections while this smaller hall was where the real vanity fair was. It was where the actual bosses gathered.

The majority of the richest in Harbor City had arrived.

This was not a scene that everyone would have the opportunity to witness.

When Jasper entered, he saw Zachary approaching him with a smile on his face.

“Jasper, come over. I want to introduce you to a few of my old friends.”

Zachary grabbed hold of Jasper's arm affectionately and laughed loudly as he led him forward.

He was doing this on purpose for the others to witness.

He wanted the others to know that he, Zachary Law, approved of this young man. They all needed to pay their respects to him.

Zachary could do that with the status and power he held.

Sure enough, everyone immediately looked at Jasper with a different glint in their eyes.

They had to have a certain amount of power to be let into this room. News traveled much faster among them here, and Jasper's identity was already no longer a secret.

Bob, who was nearby, got Zoelle to talk to the other women. When he got rid of her, he turned toward the middle-aged man who looked somewhat similar to Mitch.

"Kennedy, what's Jasper's relationship with the Law family?"

Kennedy said calmly, "Big B, you should stop using all your attention on those movie stars and pay more attention to other matters.

"Zachary got to know Jasper in Mainland some time ago. I don't know what exactly happened between them, but Zachary thinks very highly of him. Even Old Master Law can't stop praising him."

The expression on Bob's face faltered when Old Master Law was mentioned. "So, this Jasper Laine is not going to be easy to deal with."

Bob raged inwardly when he remembered how he had taken a fall in front of Jasper even though he was Jasper's senior.

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Just then, Zachary had already led Jasper over to a modest-looking middle-aged man who had a pair of round glasses on.

"Jasper, this is Michael Lane, otherwise known as Mr. Lane. He's the CEO of Gladness International Corporation."

"Mike, this is the wonderful young man I've been telling you about, Jasper Laine."

When Zachary was done with the introductions, Jasper extended a hand and said while smiling, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Lane. I've heard a lot about you."

Michael smiled as he shook Jasper's hand. "I've never heard about you in the past, but Zach's been talking about you for the past few days."

The fact that Zachary and Michael had nicknames for each other proved that they were on close terms.

After exchanging pleasantries, Jasper said, "Mr. Lane, I won't beat around the bush anymore since Uncle Law is here. I'm interested in purchasing Gladness Entertainment, which you currently own."

Michael glanced at Zachary before he smiled at Jasper and said, "I do intend to sell it. However, in terms of its pricing, I understand that it's not exactly cheap, but I don't plan to lower the price."

Michael might be a good-tempered man who was easy to talk to, but he was a force to be reckoned with in the business world. After all, he had managed to build the empire that was now Gladness International Corporation.

“You can’t deny the fact that Harbor City’s movies are declining in popularity. I’m worried that you’ll struggle to find a buyer as sincere as I am if your price is too high.”

Jasper was not one to spend mindlessly and thus would not just agree to whatever price Michael had set. As such, he did not hesitate to retaliate.

Michael said calmly, “But Gladness Entertainment has the best assets in the entertainment industry. That’s a fact. Jasper, how much effort would you have to put into creating a company like mine from scratch if you wanted to enter the entertainment industry?”

“I would not be standing before you if I didn’t agree that Gladness Entertainment has the best assets, Mr. Lane,” Jasper smiled as he said that.

Michael laughed and thought for a moment before he shook his head and said, “I had put my heart and soul into Gladness Entertainment. I wouldn’t be selling it if I had a choice. No more negotiations regarding the price.”

Jasper said calmly, “If that’s the case, there’s no need to continue this conversation.”

With that, he turned and left.

Not only was Michael stunned at that swift exit, but so was Zachary.

Who did business like that, turning around and leaving the minute a disagreement surfaced?

Given Jasper’s assertive attitude, it did not look like he wanted to buy Gladness Entertainment but more like Michael was begging him to buy the company.

“Jasper, wait.”

Zachary had not interrupted thus far. He was merely a middleman for this transaction, and his role was to ensure things wrapped up nicely. Now that the deal was about to fall apart, he called after Jasper.

Just then, a waiter walked over with a tray. Zachary took three glasses of wine and gave Jasper and Michael a glass each before he took a sip. He then said while smiling, “What’s a business deal without a little compromise? Mich, you’re the senior here. Why don’t you express your attitude first?”

Michael frowned as he said, “I’m not explicitly demanding cash. You can also seal the deal with shares.”

“What if it’s a tip that can prevent Gladness International Corporation from losing 40% of its value in the market?” Jasper suddenly asked.

Michael’s eyes lit up as he gazed seriously into Jasper’s eyes and asked, “Young man, do you hear what you’re saying?”

Zachary’s expression turned solemn.

Jasper’s choice of business jargon had already crossed the line from being impolite to being insulting.

In his past life, Gladness International Corporation, which shifted their focus into the finance industry, had met with the burst of the dot-com bubble. They had suffered major losses at the end of the year 2000.

Memories of Gladness International Corporation played in Jasper’s mind as he said calmly, “The burst of the dot-com bubble is starting in the west. It might be as fast as a week or as slow as half a month. Either way, something will definitely happen. Most of Gladness International Corporation’s investments are in internet companies, right?”

Michael shuddered.

“Do you dare take responsibility for your words?” Michael asked solemnly.

Jasper glanced at Zachary before he said calmly, “Mr. Lane, I’m willing to bet a billion dollars with you if you don’t believe me.”

Michael barked out a laugh as he said, “No need for a bet. I can sell Gladness International Corporation to you for 15 billion dollars, but you have to promise me one thing.”