

Life at the Top Chapter 256

“Dad, this was all Jasper’s doing!

“He was the one who contacted the people at Harbor City!

“We’ve all been fooled by him!”

Jasper finally found an opportunity to yell out desperately.

He sounded miserable. It was as if he had finally gotten the chance to bed a beautiful woman but it turned out she had a thicker schlong than him.

Harvey’s eyes widened after hearing that. He stared at Jasper in disbelief.

The expression on his face and the look in his eyes looked identical to the one Mark showed just moments ago.

Then, Harvey laughed.

“Not bad. I’ve been making my way around Brac County for more than 20 years, but this is the first time I’ve had a youngster run circles around me.

“You’re Jasper Laine, aren’t you? Well done. That was wonderfully executed.”

Harvey pushed his bodyguards aside and stared straight into Jasper’s eyes as he said calmly, “You’ve proven yourself by being able to deceive me at this age. Tell me, what do you want?”

Jasper stood behind the couch, using it to rest his arms. He seemed to be smiling as he stared at Harvey and said coolly, "So, you think I'm doing all this to prove my worth to you?"

Harvey's face fell as he said, "Young man, you were still in your mother's womb when I took charge of the Zion family's business. It's worth more than ten billion dollars! I would advise you not to get too snooty."

"Is ten billion a lot?" Jasper asked calmly.

Harvey was angry now. In a cold voice, he said, "Don't be too arrogant. Not even Dawson would speak like that to me."

"That means you're not on that level yet. You might think you're in high society, but those actually in it can't even be bothered to look at you," Jasper said playfully as he shrugged.

"The larger the crowd, the higher the number of idiots. You're one of those idiots. Do you think you're royalty after making a name for yourself in Brac County, which was just a municipality a while ago?"

Harvey's expression stiffened as he listened to Jasper speak. He roared, "The audacity! And who do you think you are? God?!"

Jasper smiled as he pointed at Mark. "I'm not God, but your son is."

Mark's face turned as white as a sheet when he remembered he had uttered those words before Jasper.

Standing in front of the father and son, Jasper took out his phone once again.

Harvey and Mark had a somber expression on their faces when they saw Jasper do that. Steve was so afraid that he shuddered.

Mere moments ago, Jasper had used his phone to make a call that would cause his family's business, Future Industries, to suffer from extermination.

What was he going to do with his phone now?

Was he going to piss all over the Zion family?

Steve shuddered, his eyes wide with fear.

Jasper dialed Dawson's number.

Soon, Dawson's sleepy voice rang out across the line.

"Jasper, what's the matter?"

Jasper smiled as he said, "I've made matters clear on my end. You can begin exerting pressure from the province, Uncle Schuler. I've already dealt with the Zion family's shipyard. You can ask your friends from other industries for help."

Dawson grabbed his glasses from the bedside table and walked toward the study.

He did not ask for a reason, nor did he ask for details about the Zion family. He simply answered, "Alright."

One word was enough.

Schuler Group had recently been transitioning into the real estate industry and causing economic growth. Thus, they were extremely important to both the provincial and city government.

As Schuler Group's fame and power rose, so did the number of people who wanted to curry favors with them.

Thus, Dawson could not care less about who the Zion family was. If Jasper said they were to be defeated, he would make use of his resources to ensure that was done.

After Jasper hung up, he looked at Harvey whose eyes were glinting despite the stony expression on his face. He said calmly, "You were right about one thing."

Both Harvey and Mark looked at him.

"If I did the math correctly, I was indeed still swimming in my mother's womb when you took over the Zion family's business."

Then, Jasper shrugged and walked over to Harvey from the couch. He still had a calm smile on his face.

"However, now that I'm out of my mom's womb, I'm in such a high position that you wouldn't be able to see it even if you incline your head and stand on your tiptoes.

"Meanwhile, you're still rolling around in your business that's worth a measly billions of dollars."

Jasper's words stung Harvey as much as if he had been slapped.

It felt as if a layer of his flesh had been scraped off his face.

Just then, the ear-piercing sound of a phone ringing echoed.

It was Steve's phone.

He felt terrified beyond measure as he answered the call.

His father roared furiously on the other end of the line.

“Where are you?! Hurry back! All our suppliers are demanding payment right now!

“And you’re still loitering?! Get your ass back right now!”

Steve’s lips trembled as he said, nearly on the verge of tears, “Dad, we’re done for. We’re all done for.”

The furious man was stunned for a moment before he said through heavy breaths, “What do you mean?”

Steve lay paralyzed on the floor, his eyes vacant as he stared at Jasper and said, “It’s not just us. The Zion family is done for as well.”

As if it had been a signal, Harvey’s phone rang as well.

Harvey answered the phone with great difficulty.

His brother, whom he had posted at Ambition Corporation as a spy, was on the other end of the line.

“Brother, they know who I am. Xavier Johnson’s men are on the hunt for me now. Brother, what should I do?”

“I just went home, and the entire family is in chaos. All our partners want to dissolve their contracts with us!

“What’s going on!?”

Amidst the chaos, Harvey lost the strength in his arms. As his phone fell to the ground, he could still hear his brother’s desperate voice.

Harvey shuddered and stared at Jasper with wide eyes. “Who the f*ck are you?!”

“Jasper Laine. J for Julius, L for Lord.”

Jasper relayed this coolly to Harvey before he placed his hands behind his back and left the room.

Julian was right behind Jasper. He did not give the room a second glance as he walked after Jasper.

Mark was as white as a sheet as he stared at Harvey, who had a hideous expression on his face. He asked nervously, “Dad, what should we do?”

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Harvey’s face turned a bright shade of red as he curled his hands into fists and roared like a wounded animal.

“What should we do? How am I supposed to know that?!”

Harvey glared at Mark before he raised a hand to give Mark a resounding slap across the face.

“I asked you to come to apologize. Is this how you apologize?! Huh?!”

As Harvey bellowed, his vision went black and he nearly collapsed onto the ground.

In the end, he gritted his teeth and said, “The Zion family will preserve whatever power it can. As for the rest... we’ll talk about them in the future!”

...

Jasper had gotten himself another room to work in so that he would not interrupt Wendy's sleep.

When Jasper returned with Julian, he found Wendy curled up lazily on the couch and watching television.

"Done?" Wendy asked.

"Yes." Jasper nodded and asked gently, "Aren't you going to bed yet?"

"I was waiting for you," Wendy answered in a matter-of-fact tone.

Laughing softly, Jasper said, "It was a success. We should be able to move the project forward tomorrow."

"How are you planning to get rid of the Zion family?" Wendy asked curiously.

Jasper thought for a moment. The Zion family owned several businesses, but only the shipyard was worth something. He did not have his eyes set on anything else either.

"I'll have Mr. Lambert deal with it tomorrow," Jasper answered.

Wendy nodded and looked at Julian who was standing wordlessly at the door. She called out to him, "You're Julian, right?"

Julian, who rarely talked to strangers, let alone beautiful women like Wendy, was startled. He nodded.

His expression was one of surprise and bewilderment.

Wendy giggled, her liking toward the large, down-to-earth guy increasing.

“You can be Jasp’s bodyguard. Your monthly salary will start at 30,000 with a bonus at the end of the year. Your basic salary is 30% of your annual salary. We’ll sponsor two trips per year to any location you like, and you can bring your family along.

“As for the workload itself, it’ll be harder for you at first since you’ll be alone. But I’ll continue adding members to Jasp’s team of bodyguards, and you’ll act as the leader. Your workload will decrease once you have subordinates.”

This was what Wendy had been thinking about before.

Now that Jasper’s status in society was elevating, he needed to start paying attention to his safety.

Especially after what had happened tonight. Who knew what would have happened if they had been more vicious.

Thus, Wendy wanted Julian to stay.

To her, Julian seemed much more reliable and better at combat than her dad’s bodyguards.

Not only was Julian stunned at what Wendy had said, but even Jasper was also on the verge of laughter.

He had once told Wendy that he would like Julian to stay and work as his bodyguard, but he had not expected Wendy to be this many steps ahead of him.

Even so, Jasper was quite touched.

He could tell that Wendy was undoubtedly serious about this matter. She would not have made this decision on her own unless she was convinced it would benefit Jasper.

“But...” Julian said hesitantly.

To be honest, he had no reason to reject an offer with such great benefits.

Moreover, Julian was broke and wanted to find a rich family that he could rely on to earn a living.

However, he could not leave now.

Wendy guessed the reason for his hesitation. “Is this because of your sister?”

“I’ll go visit your sister tomorrow. Don’t worry about her bone marrow transplant surgery. We’ll do our best to scour the entire country to find someone who’s a match. We’ll search the entire globe if needed. And we’ll pay for all the treatment as well.”

Wendy laughed gently as she asked another question.

“What level of education does your sister have?”

Julian’s eyes lit up as he hurriedly answered, “She’s a university student.”

“I can arrange for your sister to work in our company when she has fully recovered. That way, you won’t have anything to worry about.”

Julian was extremely excited, but he still glanced instinctively at Jasper.

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Jasper laughed as he said, “Why are you looking at me? She’s in charge here.”

Julian immediately nodded and said, “You have such high expectations of me. I’ll do my best to protect Mr. Laine!”

Wendy smiled and said, “Alright, that’s that then.”

...

The next day, Brac County found itself in chaos.

Suppliers arrived at Future Industries, demanding payment, whilst banks refused to sign them a loan. Moreover, they had even demanded that Future Industries repay all their loans immediately.

Future Industries’ financial support chain was on the verge of collapse.

Just when things could not get even worse, Ambition Corporation put out the word that the Quare brothers from Future Industries were laundering money from Ambition Corporation.

Xavier claimed that he was going to kill the Quare brothers.

Future Industries collapsed in an instant.

As for the Zion family...

As one of the most famous families in Brac County, their shipyard piqued the attention of many when Harbor City ripped apart their contract.

Then, the various businesses they owned got exterminated.

They suffered an industry-wide closure.

Anyone who had any sort of relation to the Zion family immediately abandoned them to save themselves.

It was as if a large invisible hand had crushed everything the Zion family had built in Brac County over the years.

The members of the Zion family sat in Harvey's house, sobbing hysterically.

Now that the family business was done for, members of the Zion family began stabbing each other in the back. They were hoping to take whatever remaining benefits there were for themselves.

Harvey sat at the head of the table. He seemed to have gone gray overnight.

He smoked cigarette after cigarette, the ashes piling next to his feet like a tiny mountain.

As for the other members of the Zion family, they were arguing over how the money should be divided. They were all preoccupied with securing themselves the best deal.

Just then, a group of people showed up at the front door.

“Good day, Mr. Zion. I'm Mr. Lambert from JW Real Estate.”

Mr. Lambert smiled as he handed Harvey his name card. He felt ecstatic when he saw the chaos the Zion family was in.

Just a few days ago, he had been at the disposal of the Zion family. Anyone in that family could humiliate him.

However, the Zion family was done for now. He felt jubilant as he arrived with the task at hand.

Mr. Lambert was ecstatic.

However, he also had massive respect for Jasper who managed to pull all this off quietly.

That man was horrifying!

Harvey glared at Mr. Lambert as he said coolly, "What are you doing here?"

Mr. Lambert smiled condescendingly at Harvey. He never had the right to do this before, but things were different now. The ecstatic Mr. Lambert said haughtily, "Mr. Laine sent me over to strike a deal with you, Mr. Zion."

"Hah!" Harvey snorted. "What does that *sshole want to talk about? Does he think that he hasn't caused the Zion family enough harm?"

"Tsk, ts, tsk." Mr. Lambert shook his head and said condescendingly, "Mr. Zion, that's where you're mistaken. Mr. Laine can't bear to watch the Zion family beg on the streets, which is why he has decided to give you another chance.

"Mr. Laine says that he's willing to pay 50 million dollars to buy the Zion family's shipbuilding company."

When Harvey heard that, fury consumed him as he stood and roared, "Bullsh*t! My shipyard is worth at least 1.3 billion. Does Jasper Laine think he can get it for just 50 million?!"

Mr. Lambert calmly wiped Harvey's spit off his face and said, "Do you think anyone will want to buy your shipyard now?"

“Do you think there’s a soul out there who doesn’t know that this shipyard has been blacklisted by Harbor City?”

“Moreover, who dares offend Mr. Laine?”

The three questions stunned the entire Zion family into silence.

Mr. Lambert smiled as he procured a check. Gazing at the Zion family, he said, “50 million dollars. It’s your last chance. If you refuse to sell, it’ll stay there and rot.”

The rest of the Zion family stared at each other, their hearts thumping.

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How much was the Zion family’s shipyard worth?

The 800-tonne gantry cranes they had imported from Germany were worth 400 million themselves.

There were also the most advanced computer numerical control machines of the day, each of which had a starting price of 100 million.

The members of the Zion family understood that even if the machines were dismantled and sold as scrap metal, they would be worth way more than 50 million.

Which was why Jasper’s offer of 50 million infuriated them.

Yet, did they have a choice?

No!

The Zion family was in shambles both on the inside and on the outside.

When they left the house, they were confronted with people demanding the Zion family to pay off their debts. When they returned home, every person in the family was calculating how they could get the greatest amount of money.

Most importantly, they understood one thing.

No one besides Jasper Laine would dare buy their shipyard.

It did not matter if there were great benefits or profits if you were not alive to spend them!

Jasper understood that. Which was why he had let Mr. Lambert drop by with a check for 50 million.

If it were any less, there would not be enough money to divide between the family members. They would not take the bait.

Jasper wanted to claim the shipyard without causing any casualties. If the Zion family decided to take the risk and not accept the offer, it would not fit Jasper's consistent approach to maximizing benefits.

This amount of money was just enough to make the Zion family stop and think.

It would hurt them if they agreed.

However, it would hurt them even more if they refused!

"Eldest Brother, I think we should sell it."

Harvey's younger brother, Herman Zion, was the first one to speak.

The minute he spoke, his other relatives turned to glare at him.

The expression on Harvey's face faltered before he yelled, "Are you stupid or crazy? We inherited this shipyard from Old Master Zion. It's our family business and it's worth well over a billion dollars! How could you agree to sell it for 50 million?!"

When Harvey finished yelling, he looked at his other relatives but realized that they did not look angered. Rather, they had sly expressions on their faces.

Harvey's heart sank as he got a bad feeling.

"Eldest Brother, I think Second Brother has a point."

Another woman spoke.

Harvey glared at her, his eyes resembling those of an angered tiger. The woman avoided his gaze but continued saying stubbornly, "Look at the situation we're in now. There's no way the Zion family is going to survive any longer in Brac County. To hell with a family business.

"You might have earned a lot over the years, but we only got a small portion of that money. We have our families and kids to feed."

A murmur of agreement rang out as the woman spoke.

"That's right. Eldest Brother, you should sell it."

"What's the point in staying stubborn? You can even get 50 million if you agree to sell it to Mr. Laine. Do you think anyone else in Brac County will dare buy our shipyard?"

The more Harvey listened to them, the angrier he became. He roared, "If no one in Brac County wants it, I'll go to Greene City and Fortune County. As long as

there's a sea, there will be a shipyard. Does Jasper Laine think he can dominate the world?!"

"Dad," Mark said weakly, "People are demanding we return our debt. They're surrounding the outside now. There's no way you can get out. They won't give us time to raise the money."

The furious expression on Harvey's face melted away as his face turned ashen.

Mr. Lambert dusted his shirt as he looked at the expressions on the members of the Zion family. His respect for Jasper grew by another notch.

How terrifying!

Mr. Laine's calculations when it came to dealing with humans were terrifying.

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Jasper got him to arrive at this time because he knew that the entire Zion family would either be arguing over the money or discussing strategies.

Harvey might be the head of the family, but who would be thinking for the family when they could not even protect themselves during a crisis like this?

Every member of the family had a share in the shipyard.

Now was the time to make off with as much money as possible.

With this interjection, Harvey would not be able to stop his family members' greed no matter how insistent he was.

“Mr. Laine also instructed me to only give you 20 minutes to think about it. It’s been 15 minutes. I’ll leave if you aren’t going to agree,” Mr. Lambert spoke pompously.

That caused members of the Zion family to have an even uglier expression on their faces.

“I’ll sell!” Herman gritted his teeth as he stood and said, “I own 20% of the shipyard’s shares!”

The rest of the Zion family could not sit still after hearing what Herman said.

“I’ll sell too. I own 13%.”

“I have 17%. I’ll sell too!”

A lively discussion took place. Soon, Harvey was the only one who had not spoken yet.

Mark’s face was pale as he tugged on Harvey’s shirt and said chokingly, “Dad, why don’t we sell it? We can go abroad and start again.”

Harvey heaved a long sigh. He seemed to have aged at least ten years as he said listlessly, “I’ll sell. I’ll sell it all.”

Mr. Lambert smiled in satisfaction. As members of the Zion family looked on impatiently, he retrieved a contract that had been prepared earlier from his briefcase and said, “If that’s the case, I’ll need everyone’s signatures.

“The contract will come into effect once everyone has signed their names. Your family will then own an additional 50 million dollars.”

No one hesitated when they saw the check in Mr. Lambert’s hands and surged forth to sign their names.

When Harvey finally managed to sign his name, Mr. Lambert took the contract and placed the 50 million dollar check on the coffee table. He smiled as he said, "It's been a pleasure doing business with you. I hope we never meet again."

Then, Mr. Lambert roared with laughter as he turned to leave.

As he shut the door, he could hear the sound of Harvey roaring in both anger and indignance. He sounded like a wounded beast.

"How dare you fight against Mr. Laine with such capabilities?"

Mr. Lambert smiled coolly as he got into the car and drove off.

...

Brac County was a cryptic place. As the Zion family faced disaster, Jasper and Wendy were at Brac County General Hospital.

"Don't worry. I'll have you sent over to the province where you'll receive treatment from the most elite medical team. Moreover, we'll stick to our promise of helping you find a match for your bone marrow transplant surgery."

Wendy spoke gently to Cathy.

Cathy had an embarrassed, bewildered expression on her face. She could not stop glancing at her younger brother, Julian.

Even though Julian had already introduced her to both Jasper and Wendy, she still felt dubious. She could not believe that such fortune would befall her.

"Thank you... Thank you so much," Cathy said sincerely.

As the two women spoke, Jasper gave Julian a look. The two walked out of the ward.

“We’ll return to the province this afternoon. I’ll arrange for the hospital to prepare an ambulance that will follow us all the way so that your sister can receive the best treatment in the province,” Jasper said.

Julian had a solemn expression on his face. Suddenly, he knelt and said, “Thank you, Mr. Laine!”

That action caused everyone nearby to sneak glances at them as they wondered what was going on.

Jasper hurriedly grabbed Julian’s arm and pulled him to his feet as he said, “I gave you a job where you can work without any additional worries because I need you as my loyal protector. It’s a fair trade.

“Go easy on your knees. Good men kneel only to their parents and God. No one else, not even the king, is worth you kneeling to.”

Julian said solemnly, “Mr. Laine, I owe you my life!”