

Life at the Top Chapter 266

In the office building of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments located in Cavern City.

Dane Warren, the chairman of Sena, and William, the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, each signed their respective agreements.

Dane laughed as both of them shook hands. "William, I hope that Colossal Investments can help us achieve our plan of getting publicly listed as soon as possible," he said.

William chuckled in return. "Now that we've signed a contract, we're even more eager than you are to get Sena publicly listed. We can only cash in our investment and earn money after Sena gets listed," he said.

Dane snickered and said, "I am in urgent need of funds to acquire Terizone as well. During this period of time, I have been carrying out the relevant preparations required for the acquisition of Terizone."

William shrugged. "Warren, I don't actually understand why you're being so insistent on taking down Terizone. You need to know that Sena's public listing is our top priority right now," he said.

Dane laughed. "There's something you don't know. Sena's public listing is already set in stone. However, Sena is merely one of the four major Internet portals right now. What would happen if I also acquired Terizone and managed to get my hands on the largest online chatting software in the domestic market?" he explained.

William's gaze perked up in interest when he heard this. "There will definitely be a major spike in Sena's stock price," he said.

Dane grinned in satisfaction. "That's right. One of the reasons I intend to do so is to get back at Terizone for defeating Sena Chat with their platform, but this is a relatively minor point. My true goal is to acquire their company after defeating them," he said.

"You're indeed the best Internet merchant in your country, Warren," William praised him.

Chuckling, Dane replied, "Those few young men are still way too inexperienced and naive to found a start-up company. They don't know anything about the harshness of the business world. It's only natural for them to experience such an outcome."

William asked his secretary to open a bottle of champagne. Handing a flute of champagne to Dane, William raised his glass and made a toast. "To your wealth and prosperity," he said.

Dane and William clinked their glasses together. "To our wealth and prosperity," they laughed while making a toast.

Half an hour later, below the office building.

Dane narrowed his eyes and looked at the magnificent office building. He snorted coldly, seeming extremely unhappy.

"Mr. Warren, you don't seem too happy. Isn't it a good thing that the contract has been signed?" His secretary walked forward and asked him.

Dane's expression darkened. "These people are vampires. They want to acquire 25% of Sena's shares in exchange for helping us list the company on the Nasdaq. They're scoring a huge bargain!"

His secretary shrunk into himself. He did not dare to interrupt Dane when he was talking about important affairs. "Mr. Warren, are we going back right now?" he asked cautiously.

"Go back? Since we're already in Cavern City, we can't miss out on the opportunity to pay a visit to our former competitor," Dane said. His lips twisted into a cold sneer as he ordered, "Let's head to Terizone!"

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Everyone in Terizone received the news about Dane Warren's visit immediately.

Hudson and Logan were sitting in the meeting room with troubled looks on their faces while Jasper stood by the side.

Jasper looked at the solemn expressions on their faces and let out an inward laugh. It seemed as if they were preparing for a battle. "Relax, guys. Dane Warren is just paying us a visit. Do you guys intend to beat him up once you see him?" he asked.

"Zaine and the others are still in the operations room. If they were here, they may really beat up Warren," Logan said in distaste.

Hudson glared at Logan. "Can the problem be resolved through fighting? We are businessmen now. We should focus on business alone. Everyone will treat us as a joke if we start a brawl," he said in annoyance.

Logan scratched his head and huffed in anger. "I simply can't get over it. How dare he greet us and tell us that he's coming over to get acquainted with us? Acquaintance, my *ss! Why is he acting so courteously toward us? Don't we all know that he's the one who brought all this sh*t upon us?"

"Those in the business world have their own way of solving problems. Being expressive of your emotions will only allow people see through you at a glance.

As Hudson said, everyone here is an adult. Don't act in a childish manner," Jasper said in a calm and controlled tone.

Logan nodded and fell quiet after hearing what Jasper said.

Not long after, the door to the meeting room opened and Dane Warren walked in with his secretary following closely behind.

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No matter how unhappy Hudson was, Dane Warren was still paying a visit to his company as the chairman of Sena. As the host, he had to accommodate him out of common courtesy.

Therefore, Hudson stood up and plastered a smile onto his face. He then walked toward Dane Warren.

"You took time out of your busy schedule to visit us, Mr. Warren. It's a huge honor," Hudson remarked politely in a relatively neutral tone.

Dane burst out into laughter. He had a booming voice and hearty laughter. One who did not understand him would have thought that he was a bold and simple-minded man. However, under the facade of his honest and straightforward persona, he was a vicious man with an extremely cruel heart.

"You're being way too courteous, Mr. Moore. I had to attend a public meeting surrounding the Internet industry in Cavern City, so I stopped by your office to look around," Dane said as he clasped Hudson's hand in a tight grip.

“Right, didn’t you get invited to the meeting, Mr. Moore?” Dane asked while feigning doubt and uncertainty.

Hudson’s face stiffened. He drew back his hand and said matter-of-factly, “There has been a lot of company affairs lately. You should understand, Mr. Warren. That’s why I wasn’t free.”

Dane could not help but sneer in his heart upon noticing the somber gaze in Hudson’s eyes. Alas, these young people were way too inexperienced. They could hardly hold it in after receiving a few taunts.

Scanning through the crowd, Dane side-eyed Logan before finally setting his eyes on Jasper.

“And this is?”

Jasper stood up lightheartedly. With a calm demeanor, he gently extended his hand. “I’m Jasper Laine, the president of JW Capital,” he said.

JW Capital!

Dane’s heart lurched. He glanced at Jasper in amusement.

If he wanted to acquire Terizone, JW Capital, who owned more than half of Terizone’s stocks, would be an inevitable hurdle.

“Mr. Laine. I’ve heard all about you.”

Dane said as he extended his hand toward Jasper. A smile that did not reach his eyes formed across his lips.

Jasper shook his hand and chuckled. “You have an extremely well-known reputation, Mr. Warren. Juniors like us have a lot that we can learn from you,” he said.

Dane laughed at his choice of words, which reflected the bare minimum of politeness. Despite this, he did not mind at all.

From his perspective, Terizone had already lost. Losers would inevitably hold some grievances after the battle.

Their insinuating words were more like a compliment to him.

Only winners deserved to accept a loser's derision and mockery, was it not?

Dane took a seat on the chair in a calm and collected manner. "I heard that Terizone faced quite a number of difficulties over these two days," he said cheerily.

Logan clenched his hands into fists upon hearing what he said. He could hardly stop himself from aiming a blow straight at Dane's head.

Everyone already knew that the problems faced by Terizone were caused by Dane himself. Nonetheless, he still came over to feign compassion and gloat about it in front of them.

Without paying any heed to Logan's fuming gaze, Dane continued speaking. "You guys are still young. You have no idea how ruthless the business sector can be. Operating a business isn't an easy feat. As your senior, I would like to give you guys a reminder. It's important to quit while you're ahead," he said.

Hudson sat down and stared at Dane impassively. "Mr. Warren, if you have anything you want to tell us, just say it to us directly. Young people like us don't have much experience, and I'm afraid we don't quite understand what you're trying to imply," he said.

Dane chortled gleefully. "In that case, I'll just say it directly."

Dane then beckoned his secretary over. His secretary immediately took out a document from his briefcase.

Dane waved the document in front of them and announced, "Since Terizone is facing so many hardships, I'm here today to lend a helping hand. Sena would like to acquire Terizone."

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After hearing what he said, Logan could not contain himself anymore.

"What bullsh*t are you going on about? Warren, you were the one who stirred up all these problems in the first place, and now you're saying that you want to acquire our company. What do you take us for?! Let me tell you, there's no way that that'll happening!"

Dane sneered. "Young man, first of all, I don't understand what you mean by 'stirring up problems'. I have never done anything to Terizone. The hardships that you're facing are all due to your own incapability," he said.

"On the other hand, a wise man submits to his circumstances. Terizone is barely surviving right now. Is there still a need to continue struggling? Sena is giving you a way out by acquiring the company!"

Hudson glared at Dane. He was trying his best to control his fury. "We reject your acquisition. If this is the only thing you're here for, please leave. We won't see you on your way out," he said stiffly.

Dane's expression darkened. "Appreciate my act of kindness while I'm still offering it graciously. How long can Terizone persist under such circumstances?" He asked icily.

“As the leading portal among the four major portals, Sena has reached an agreement with Colossal Investments and is about to get listed. Once Sena becomes a public listed company, we will have a market value of at least several billion US Dollars.”

Dane then narrowed his eyes at Hudson. He continued rambling on haughtily, “What about Terizone? God knows when you guys will be able to get Terizone listed. If Sena wanted to crush you guys, it would be easier than stomping an ant to death.

“I’m giving you guys a chance right now, so you’d better appreciate my kindness. Once Sena gets listed, I won’t bother to look your way even if you guys stand before me asking for help!”

After speaking, Dane looked at Hudson with a proud, overbearing gaze.

He believed that anyone with a decent head on his shoulder would carefully consider what he had said.

“Mr. Warren.”

Jasper interjected abruptly. The calm tone attracted Dane’s attention.

“You’ve been talking for a long time, but I’m curious. How much do you intend to acquire Terizone for?”

Dane chuckled in response to Jasper’s question. “You’re a smart person, Mr. Laine. It’s no wonder that you have such a precise vision and decided to invest in Terizone so early in advance,” he said.

“Sena has prepared 20 million dollars for a full acquisition of Terizone.”

After that, Dane threw the agreement on the table. He seemed pretty full of himself.

It was the year 2000. How many millionaires were there in the country?

20 million dollars was a monumental price for the acquisition of a company like Terizone.

It meant that these few young men were about to become millionaires.

Jasper had previously invested 10 million into Terizone in return for 51% of the company's stocks. This incident had largely boosted Terizone's reputation. This was no secret.

Dane figured that Jasper could completely withdraw his investment within a few months. This deal was evidently a huge bargain.

"20 million is a large sum of money," Jasper said, letting out an inward laugh.

Dane snickered. "Young man, you need to understand the circumstances that Terizone is currently facing. If you continue operating the company like this, how long can Terizone survive? It may even go bankrupt tomorrow," he said contemptuously.

"When that day comes, your 10 million dollars will vanish into thin air. However, you can still withdraw your full investment right now. Shouldn't you thank me for giving you this excellent opportunity?" he asked.

Jasper sighed. "My apologies, Mr. Warren. I'm someone who doesn't act until I see the incentives. I'd rather lose everything than settle for a compromise," he said.

"It's just 10 million dollars. I can afford to lose that much."

Dane's expression darkened after hearing Jasper's words.

"Jasper Laine, how dare you turn a blind eye to my good intentions!"

“I will gladly turn a blind eye to your good intentions!”

All of a sudden, Jasper stood up and placed both of his hands on the meeting table. He leaned forward and pinned a predatory gaze upon Dane. “I’ll address you by your name if I want to show my respect to you as a senior in the industry. However, if I look down upon you, you’re nothing in my eyes,” he articulated each of his words clearly.

“Quit acting all mighty because of your experience in the industry. I don’t care about those two measly steel bars of yours.

“How dare you come over to Terizone and appear before me to tell me that you want to acquire Terizone. Aren’t you afraid of biting off more than you can chew?”

“Bang!”

A loud slam resonated through the room.

Incandescent with rage, Dane slammed his palm onto the surface of the meeting table. “Jasper Laine, are you challenging me?!” He yelled.

Jasper let out a soft laugh as he stood upright. “You’ll know very soon if I’m challenging you or not,” he said indifferently.

Logan, who was right beside Jasper, stared at him in awe. He retracted his gaze from Dane, who was consumed with rage, and turned to look at Jasper. His admiration for him instantly soared.

Damn, he was standing up for the company like a real man!

Dane looked at Hudson with an icy gaze. “Hudson Moore, is this how you guys do things in Terizone?” he asked in a low voice.

Hudson shrugged nonchalantly and said, “You’ll have to excuse us. Mr. Laine is the controlling shareholder of Terizone. He will be the chairman of the board of directors once the board is established in the future. Therefore, his words represent the will of Terizone.”

“Well, well, well! Very well!”

Dane was so infuriated that he insistently repeated the same words. He raised his hand and pointed at Jasper. “You guys will eventually submit to us, even after rejecting my good intentions!” He shouted angrily.

Jasper arched his brow slightly. “Will you be the one submitting to us, or will we be the ones submitting to you?” He questioned.

Dane scoffed. “Young man, don’t think that you can act so recklessly just because you have some money. You’re a lowly junior in the internet industry. How dare you challenge me?”

“I’ve said everything that I’ve wanted to say today. I’m showing you guys a sign of respect by acquiring Terizone. However, since you guys refuse to be respected, you’ll bear all the consequences on your own!”

“This goes for you as well, Jasper Laine. All you have is an investment company. How great do you think you are? I’m sorry, but you’re not worth sh*t in front of Sena!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Dane. He then took up the document on the table and tore it into pieces!

Pieces of paper billowed through the air...

“Mr. Warren, small transactions like this don’t catch my eyes. Why don’t I add another 0 behind the 20 million? Shall I acquire Sena for 200 million dollars?”

Dane cackled maniacally. “Acquire Sena? Hahaha, you’re being way too full of yourself! Why don’t you look at yourself before talking big like this? What do you take Sena for? Sena is the largest website portal in the country. Do you think you can acquire it just because you want to?”

“Mr. Warren, don’t look down on the younger generation! Let’s wait and see what happens!” Jasper said in a frigid tone.

An overcast expression formed on Dane’s face. He looked like he wanted to devour them alive.

“Your sharp tongue is not something to be proud of. You guys are smiling happily now, but I’ll make sure that you won’t be able to cry even if you wanted to in a few days’ time,” Dane said.

“Mr. Warren, we still don’t know for sure who’ll be the one crying then.”

“What goes around comes around. The time for you to cry will come on the day I show up before you to acquire Sena,” Jasper said calmly.

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The expression on Dane’s face morphed into one of all-consuming rage. He glared at Jasper and shouted, “It seems that you’ll only submit under force. Just wait and see!”

Dane stormed off angrily after saying this.

After Dane left in a state of fury, Hudson looked at Jasper and smiled bitterly. “What shall we do now, Mr. Laine?”

“There’s no rush. Let’s just do what we need to do,” Jasper said calmly.

“It’s just Dane Warren. He can’t raise hell upon us!”

“Mr. Laine, what you said just now was so cool!” Logan exclaimed in excitement while staring at Jasper.

Jasper chuckled. “Although Terizone is indeed below Sena right now, we shouldn’t just take his insults since he took it this far. We must talk back and defend ourselves when we need to,” he replied.

Hudson nodded, seemingly lost in thought.

Right then, Dane made his way out of Terizone with a dark expression on his face. He roared out in anger, “They’re being way too much! How dare this bunch of shameless b*stards treat me like that?!”

Dane’s secretary trembled in shock as he stared at him. The secretary stood by the side, not daring to utter a single word.

Dane panted loudly. A venomous glint flashed across his eyes as he turned around to gaze at Terizone’s office building. He then pulled out his phone with a sneer on his face.

The call went through soon after.

“It’s me, Dane Warren.”

A courteous voice spoke on the other end of the phone, “Mr. Warren, how can I help you?”

“Launch a second attack on Terizone right now. Let them get a taste of despair through this attack! Do everything that you can. It’d be best if you could defeat them all in one go!” Dane growled.

“How dare this bunch of jokers stand up against me? I’ll teach them how to behave today!”

The person on the other end of the phone was evidently stupefied for a moment. However, there was no delay in his reply. “Alright, Mr. Warren. We will do exactly as you wish,” he replied immediately.

Hanging up the phone call, Dane grinned. He then bent down and got into the car.

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Back in Cavern City, Jasper, Hudson and the others had just returned to the company after having their meals.

Although Zaine and the others had pulled an all-nighter, they were still young. Hence, they sprung back into action after getting a few hours of sleep.

Hudson brought up the issue of their funds during the meeting.

After moving to a new building and hiring so many employees in addition to the server bandwidth expenses, they had been spending hundreds of thousands on a daily basis. Furthermore, they had upgraded their server and bandwidth after the attack the night before. Another one million dollars had been spent on that.

Therefore, they had less than 10 million dollars left right now.

“If you don’t have sufficient funds, I can invest a bit more. We need to go up against Sena right now,” Jasper said.

The meeting room fell pin-drop silent after he spoke.

Jack spoke up as well, “I’ve got a grasp of Dane Warren’s personality back when I was working at Weresoft. He’s extremely good at doing business, but his

biggest specialty is his cruelty. His cold-hearted methods and unscrupulous way of handling affairs was a major contributor to the rise of Sena.”

“During the early days of Sena’s development, a lot of his competitors were defeated by him through disreputable means, so he had a pretty poor reputation.”

“What should we do?” Logan asked worriedly.

Jasper looked at Theo and said, “We will need your help, Theo.”

Theo had a solemn expression on his face. “Since I’ve already joined Terizone, I will do everything I can to the best of my abilities,” he said.

Jasper nodded and said, “We can’t let our guard down during these next two days. Sena could launch their attack on us at any time. We must be sufficiently prepared this time around.”

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“Sure!”

After agreeing to Jasper’s instructions, everyone left the meeting room to work on their respective tasks. Only Jasper, who was consumed by his thoughts, remained in the room.

Sena was a bomb that would eventually blow up in their faces one day if they did not get rid of it.

Terizone was still too vulnerable right now. It would not stand a chance against any harsh blows. If this problem was not resolved as soon as possible, Terizone’s future development may be severely delayed.

In his past life, Sena rushed to obtain a public listing due to a major shortage of liquidity. Sena had now delayed its listing for such a long time. Furthermore, the internet economy bubble had burst, making it even more difficult for Dane Warren to obtain investments within the country. Therefore, Sena should be short of funds as well.

However, Jasper knew very well that the progress of Sena's public listing would not come to a standstill. On the contrary, it would be fast-forwarded instead.

Jasper called Jack over after thinking about how Sena succeeded in obtaining a public listing through its connections with Colossal Investments.

"Jack, do you know anyone from Colossal Investments?" Jasper asked.

Jack was momentarily stunned. He then nodded and said, "I know William, the president of the Terra regional branch. We don't know each other very well, but Celine Maynard, the general manager, was my classmate. She's also from Harbor City, so we're quite closely acquainted."

Celine Maynard.

Jasper knew this name very well.

In his past life, he had also been involved in the financial industry. Therefore, he had been greatly influenced by the Queen of Investment, who was widely renowned within the global financial circle.

According to the timeline, she should have just gotten married right now. At the same time, she had just taken up the position of general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments. Four years later, she would advance further up the hierarchy and become the president.

When Jasper got reborn, the Queen of Investment had gotten promoted to the position of executive chairwoman at Colossal Investments.

“Sure, can you make an appointment with her for me?” Jasper asked.

Jack nodded and said, “Alright, wait for a while. I’ll contact her through a phone call.”

A few minutes later, Jack returned. “She happens to be in Cavern City for a business trip right now. She will be returning to Harbor City tomorrow afternoon. She said that she’s free to meet up with you anytime,” he said.

Acting decisively, Jasper stood up and said, “Give me the address.”

Jack told him the address of a hotel, then proceeded to ask him curiously, “Mr. Laine, may I ask if you know her?”

“If I knew her, why would I bother to ask you to help me set up an appointment?” Jasper asked in amusement.

Jack thought that this reply made sense. “Initially, I told her that you would like to meet her, but she didn’t agree. This is expected because, as you know, a company like Colossal Investments with a large-scale business tends to be haughtier and more arrogant. However, she immediately agreed to meet up with you once I told her your name and that you owned JW Capital,” he said.

Jasper did not find this surprising. If Colossal Investments, which ranked the highest among the top four investment banks, did not know anything about what he had done in Harbor City, they ought to just close down.

“Maybe she managed to sense my domineering stance through my name alone,” Jasper joked.

Silently, Jack watched Jasper leave the company in a hurry.

The hotel that Celine Maynard was staying in was quite a distance away. Jasper received a call from Hudson while he was still on the way there.

“You guessed correctly, Mr. Laine. Sena has launched their second attack on us,” Hudson said in a heavy tone.

“I’m on the move right now. Hold on over there. Make sure what happened yesterday doesn’t repeat itself,” Jasper said calmly.

“Understood,” Hudson said with a nod.

“Hudson, what did Mr. Laine say?” Logan, who had an overcast expression on his face, immediately asked Hudson once he put down the phone.

“Mr. Laine wants us to persevere through it to the best of our abilities. He has begun taking action over there. He won’t allow Sena to continue acting so recklessly,” Hudson said.

“F*ck it, Dane Warren is such a b*stard! We’re all operating our own respective businesses. He’s just messing with us just because he’s more experienced and owns a larger company than us!” Logan yelled angrily.

Logan’s words represented everyone else’s innermost thoughts.

Hudson’s gaze deepened as he voiced out, “Weakness is not an excuse! This is a lesson that each and every one of us must remember. The more aggressive Sena and Dane Warren are, the more we have to bear it and protect ourselves. The day will come when we’ll grow bigger and stronger than them. When that day comes, everyone will look highly upon us!”