

Life at the Top Chapter 291

As such, he needed to prepare and think about a lot of things.

Easy Media was definitely the most reputable entertainment company. If they could buy it, it would be very helpful to the entertainment group section of Jasper's plan.

This was why Jasper had never considered buying another company.

Although the current Easy Media was far less powerful than in his previous life before he was reborn, it already had a rudimentary form and held a lot of contracts with celebrities who would be popular in the next two years.

This alone was a huge hidden wealth.

If he considered another company, Jasper would need to spend ten times or even 100 times more effort and capital in order to achieve what Easy Media had now.

Therefore, Jasper had made plans. If Easy Media was really not available, he would directly expand Advent Entertainment Group in Harbor City and use Harbor City as a springboard to directly enter the market in Mainland.

However, he still needed to think and carefully weigh his decision regarding this. Otherwise, if he made a mistake, he would lose everything.

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The core business district was near Workers' Stadium in Swallow Capital. It had always been a paradise for the hedonistic sons of Swallow Capital's rich families to eat, drink and have fun.

There was a small shop where one could drink for 100 Somer Dollars, and there was also a high-end club with bottles of wine selling for 100,000 Somer Dollars each.

Here, the luxury cars and beautiful women were the most indispensable, as well as sons from rich families.

In a high-end clubhouse without a sign, a group of men and women were huddled together. They were chatting in the innermost private room.

After the door of the private room was pushed open, a sturdy and impressive-looking young man in a white suit walked in.

He looked very handsome. The only flaw was his hooked nose that destroyed his face with a sunny disposition, making him look sinister and vicious.

“Mr. Combe.”

“Mr. Combe.”

The moment he came in, everyone in the room greeted him respectfully.

Hector Combe nodded and took out a cigarette to dangle it between his lips. A nearby young man quickly took out his lighter to light up the cigarette for him.

“Mr. Combe, that middleman named George has been waiting for you for quite some time now. He said he has something important to tell you.”

Hector lifted his eyebrow and said nonchalantly, “I asked him to do something and he’s taking his sweet time, yet he’s always running to me to take the credit for other people’s achievements. Let him come in.”

After a while, George walked in from outside. He needed to nod, bend down, and smile whenever he saw someone.

When George saw Hector, he bent down and walked at a faster pace. He got in front of Hector and called out respectfully, "Hello, Mr. Combe."

Hector glanced at George and said, "You have a wound on your face. Did you get into a fight?"

George's sadness came pouring out of him as he said with a bitter expression, "Mr. Combe, you have to stand up for me."

Hector said in annoyance, "What do I have to do with you getting beaten up? What do you mean by standing up for you?"

George said, "You have no idea. I ran into Jim Yapp today and coincidentally, the person who entrusted Jim to steal Easy Media from you was there too.

"He's a young man who looks like he's in his 20s. He even had a bodyguard with him. He was insufferably arrogant like he was above the law and natural morality."

George tried to make himself look pitiful and kept adding in details as he said, "I ran into them so I planned to scout out some information. However, after a while, that person named Jasper Laine started yelling at me.

"I said I'm working for Mr. Combe but I guess it would've been better if I didn't tell him because after I said your name, Jasper became even more arrogant. He said you should go talk to him yourself if you have the balls. He said you have such an exaggerated opinion of your ability for fighting over Easy Media with him."

George carefully glanced at Hector's face and realized that the man was without an expression. As such, he continued, "How would I be able to endure listening to that? So, I fought back, but before I could even say anything, he asked his bodyguard to hit me until I became like this."

After telling the story with some additional details, George tried hard to make himself appear as a poor man who got beaten up just because he stood up for Hector.

After he said that, Hector laughed.

He leaned against the sofa, and his fingers were fiddling with the cigarette. He said to George, "Are you done?"

George nodded and answered vigilantly, "I'm done."

Hector then violently slapped George across the face and roared, "You're a f*cking piece of trash!"

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His sudden roar that came without a warning sign shocked everyone in the room. Everyone turned around to look at them bewilderedly. Then, they looked at George who was holding his face with pain and grievance with pity in their eyes. They shook their heads at the same time.

Mr. Combe was hot-tempered and arrogant. This was not the first time he hit someone without any warning signs.

"You said you're working for me and those people named Jasper and Jim hit you. It means they're indirectly slapping me across the face! And you just came back after getting f*cking beaten up? How do you even have the guts to come back?"

Hector grabbed George's collar with sinister eyes.

"Don't you know how to get a few people to kill him?"

George trembled as he looked into Hector's icy gaze. He said with a shaky voice, "Mr. Combe, I-I was wrong."

"You good-for-nothing!"

Hector pushed George away, and his eyes were twinkling with an icy glint.

"Jasper Laine? I've never heard about this rat before and he dares to fight over this with me? How ballsy."

After he said that, Hector took out his phone to make a call with a gloomy look on his face.

After a while, the call went through.

"Mr. Combe, is there anything I can help you with?" Jim's neither obsequious nor supercilious voice sounded from the other end.

Hector smiled sinisterly and said coldly, "I don't care who you or that son of a b*tch Jasper are, but if you want to fight against me in Swallow Capital, you need to know your place!"

"Today, I'm having dinner with Easy Media. Don't you guys want to buy Easy Media as well? Alright, don't say that I'm not giving that son of a b*tch a chance. Ask him to show up if he has the guts!"

"In Swallow Capital, nobody dares to fight me for what I want. Tell that son of a b*tch what I said. If he has the balls to show up tonight, I'll respect him for being an honorable man before I kill him. If he doesn't have the guts to do so, then I'll kill him directly!"

On the other end of the phone, Jim had a complicated look on his face after he hung up.

How would he not know that this was a banquet set up to attack a guest?

However, this was the chance for them to meet the King brothers. He had to tell Jasper no matter if he was going or not.

As such, he immediately called Jasper and told him about Mr. Combe's phone call.

"Jasper, this is a trap."

While listening to Jim talking on the phone, Jasper stood in his hotel room while facing the bustling night view of Swallow Capital. His face looked as calm as water.

"I'll go!"

Jasper only said these two words.

Jim's words were all stuck in his throat after Jasper's two words. He could not speak after a very long time.

"Jasper, have you thought about this? This is a dinner with a dangerous agenda, not an ordinary dinner. It's obvious that Hector wants to do something bad to you tonight. I'm afraid it's going to be troublesome... Don't be impulsive because you're being blinded by anger." Jim was still trying to talk him out of this.

Jasper said flatly, "Uncle Yapp, I'm not going because of my so-called dignity, but if we don't go tonight because of this, the King brothers might think we've given up. Hector would then be able to get Easy Media without lifting a finger."

Jim heard that and sighed. He said, "Jasper, to be honest, I suggest that you look for another company. You won't be able to buy Easy Media so easily. Hector is... not that easily defeated."

Jasper chuckled and said, “Uncle Yapp, give me the address. I’ll go alone.”

Jim said angrily after he heard that, “What are you talking about? Do you think I’m afraid of death?”

“Uncle Yapp, this is my business. I don’t need to involve you in this for no good reason,” Jasper said.

Jim said in a deep voice, “Enough. I’ve already been involved right from the start. How will I be able to face other people if I run away the moment we’re faced with danger? Wait for me at the hotel. I’ll drive over and pick you up.”

After Jim said that, he hung up the phone.

Half an hour later, Jasper got into Jim’s Audi.

After getting into this high-end Audi, Jasper laughed and said, “Uncle Yapp, I guess you made quite a lot of money these few years.”

“Are you mocking me?” Jim glared unhappily at Jasper and said, “Compared to you and Dawson, what my consultant agency makes is just pocket money to you two.”

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Jasper smiled and said, “We’re making money, but Uncle Yapp, you’re making connections. You may not be able to do a lot of things with money, but it’s easy with connections.”

Jim smiled and said, “Do you know about consultant agencies?”

Jasper said after shrugging, "I know a little bit."

The two chatted, and after about an hour, they arrived at the place where Hector and the King brothers had arranged to have dinner together.

"The Prince Mansion?"

This place was not a star-rated hotel, nor a well-known restaurant, but a private guild with the characteristics of Swallow Capital.

Looking at the tall vermilion gate in front of him and the large stone lions sitting on both sides of the door, for the first time ever, Jasper felt the difference between the life of the upper-class in Swallow Capital and other cities.

If one were to say that the gentries in Harbor City were mostly known for indulging in a life of modern luxury, then at Swallow Capital, there was a solid foundation here.

At least, modern metropolises such as Harbor City and Waterhoof City certainly did not have places like Prince Mansion.

"At the end of the 16th century, this was the old house of a Scandinavian prince. Hagen was his last name. It was originally a tourist attraction but was later bought by a businessman with an extensive background to build a private guild."

Jim was very familiar with this place, and his tone sounded inexplicably complicated. "In Swallow Capital, it's not uncommon to be able to go to a hotel to eat a meal worth tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands. However, it's true power when one can enter such a place.

"The chef here worked in the kitchen of a palace before and he's not open to the public. Only naturalized members can come in. The annual fee for a membership card in this place is one million Somer Dollars, and yet it's still an ordinary card of the lowest level."

Jasper asked, "Do you fit the requirements to be a member here?"

Jim quickly chuckled and said, "You think too highly of me. How would I fit the requirements? If you want to join as a member in this place, one million is just a base fee. The most important thing is that you need to have an invitation from a member who's in the middle level or above before you can enter.

"With your father-in-law's assets, he only can barely join as the lowest ranking member if he's not in another city but in Swallow Capital.

"You have to know that if you're in another city and you have a billion Somer Dollars' worth of assets, it's a different concept from if you're in Swallow Capital. A billionaire in Swallow Capital has resources and connections that people in other cities can't match."

Jasper understood.

In his previous life, there were a lot of rumors about the various clubs and clubhouses for the rich and powerful among the upper-class in the country.

For example, there was Club Tarzan in the business circle. Wayne, Hudson, and Warwick's chairman at that time were all members.

Club Gelb was another supercilious club. Most of their members were from Swallow Capital Residence. It could be said that it was where the bigwigs gathered.

Jasper remembered that Henry was a top diamond member in Club Gelb and held a very high rank.

After they stepped into the door, the place was decorated like a classic courtyard of a mansion in Swallow Capital. A staff member came up to them to politely ask if they had a reservation or a member card.

Jim mentioned Hector's name and said they were invited here.

The staff then led the two of them into the inner courtyard.

The winding corridor was circuitous, leading them to a secluded and quiet place.

Aside from Prince Mansion's historical and cultural value, its floor area in the main district of Swallow Capital was enough to give it an astronomical price.

If one could make this place a private guild, then one could only imagine how powerful the boss behind it was.

Jasper and Jim pushed the door open and walked in after they were brought to a small separated courtyard.

The courtyard was deep.

In this extravagant courtyard, the scenery was refined and there was also meticulously decorated greenery. Under the sky roof in the middle, there was an interesting and appealing round table.

Hector was sitting in the main seat, and on his left, there were two middle-aged men in their 40s who looked kind of similar.

On his right, it was George whom they had met before. He was carefully sitting on the stool with just half of his buttocks as he laughed along with Hector.

Jasper's eyes scanned past the King brothers and George before finally landing on Hector.

On the other hand, Hector was also looking at him up and down.

When George saw Jasper, his eyes went red. He suppressed his anger and hatred to say to Hector, "Mr. Combe, that's Jasper."

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Hector glared coldly at George and said, "I'm not blind."

George nodded and bowed to agree with him. Then, he turned around to look at Jasper with rancor in his eyes.

George laughed malevolently and said to Jasper, "I thought you wouldn't have the balls to come. Not bad, you're pretty ballsy."

Jasper said calmly, "I'm doing legal business in the capital and didn't do anything to violate the law, so why would I be afraid to go anywhere?"

Jasper peered at Hector who was sitting at one side. He knew he was the young master of the Combes. He chuckled lightly at George, saying, "I said that you're a hired thug and you didn't admit it. From the looks of it now, you have no choice but to admit it"

"You!"

George's face was flushed red, but he did not dare to do anything impulsive. He quickly turned around to look at Hector. "Mr. Combe, it's this guy. Not only is he disregarding you, but he even wants to steal Easy Media from you!"

After he said that, George looked at Jasper with a pleased look on his face because he knew that after this, Hector might crush Jasper under his foot.

What did it matter if Jasper had the strength? Mr. Combe was the local young master of Swallow Capital. He could crush Jasper under his foot at any minute.

After Hector heard this, he scoffed. He looked at Jasper and said, "Since you know he's my hired thug, then you should also know you need to see who the

dog's owner is before you hit it. I don't care that you beat George up, but you still dared to beat him up even after he said my name. That means you're disrespecting me."

Hector picked up a wet tissue to wipe his hands. His eyes looked sinister as he said gloomily, "And anyone who disrespects me in Swallow Capital will pay a terrible price."

Hector's arrogance and audacious character caused Jim and the King brothers who were silent the entire time to have subtle changes in their expressions.

Jasper was the only one looking nonchalant.

"Of course, I won't bite back at a mad dog that wants to bite me. Instead, I'll kick a few of its teeth away. As for how the owner feels? You're the one who didn't tie him up properly so I just kicked him."

"F*cking bullsh*t!"

George was livid. He stood up suddenly and pointed at Jasper before roaring, "Who do you think you are? You keep repeating the word mad dog. Who are you calling a mad dog?"

"The one with the biggest reaction," Jasper said insipidly.

George felt his breathing become hitched as he stared fixedly at Jasper. He chuckled coldly and said, "You're still so arrogant now that you're here. You're really heedless of consequences!"

"Do you know where this is? Do you know that people like you will never be able to eat here if it isn't for Mr. Combe?"

"Do you know how big of a disparity you have with Mr. Combe?"

“You’re just a person with limited vision. Don’t think you’re at the top of the world just because you have some coins. There are more people better than you in this world. There are no disadvantages to going out to see the world to gain more experience.”

George had a pleased look on his malevolent face. He displayed a look as if he was towering above everyone while he looked askance at Jasper.

“Mr. Combe was right. You’re just an idiot. Mr. Combe is the one who’s so generous in giving you a chance to see him. If it were up to me, I’d just crush you to death with a flick of my wrist. Do you even think you’re worthy of speaking to Mr. Combe?”

Hector had a satisfied look on his face while he listened to what George said.

Why did he need a hired thug like George? It was to speak on behalf of him when he was in situations where he was unable to.

It was obvious that he felt amazing after George kept sucking up to him.

Jasper sighed and said, “It’s rare to see someone feeling so superior as a dog.”

George was pleased, but in the next second, his expression froze. The changes in his expression looked very interesting.

“You little b*stard, what did you say?!”

George’s face looked so malevolent it was scary. He wanted so badly to swallow Jasper whole.

“Did you not hear Jasper calling you a dog?”

Jim smirked and said, “As someone in the same industry as you, this is the first time you’re making me feel so f*cking embarrassed to be in this industry. Look at

your spineless self. You want so badly to lie on the floor and lick Hector's shoes clean, right?"

What Jim said almost caused George's lungs to explode from anger. He looked at Jim with bitter resentment and roared wildly, "What are you so pleased about? Is it your turn to speak?"

"Enough."

Hector said insipidly.

He looked at Jasper and Jim with an astonished look in his eyes. He said, "Don't ask for a mile when we've already given you an inch. This is Swallow Capital, do you understand?"

"Um, Mr. Combe, Mr. Laine, since we're here to talk business, why don't we get into the topic?"

One of the King brothers, Leo King, said awkwardly to help to resolve the dispute.

To be honest, he really did not want to get between them. At this moment, he was secretly feeling remorseful for waiting for a better offer.

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If they knew Hector would be so demanding, then they should have just immediately sold it.

For now, it would be very difficult for him to get away from this situation.

He could not afford to offend Hector and he did not want to know who Jasper was anymore because from what he could see right now, Jasper was definitely not Hector's rival.

That was why he did not even consider getting in contact with Jasper. He even made the decision that if Hector did not cut the price down too low, he would just sell the company.

Leo was thinking this while bracing himself as he saw that the two of them were already in a state of mutual hostility.

It was none of his business if these two fought to their deaths, but since he was here, he would be undoubtedly involved in it too.

Leo could not afford to provoke these men.

Hector laughed at Leo's statement and said, "Right, we don't want word about this to go out and have people call me petty for not allowing someone to eat."

After he said that, Hector waved his hand. "Serve the food."

The servers quickly brought out all kinds of food. They all smelled, looked, and tasted great. It would be difficult for them to find such food elsewhere.

However, no one at the table had the appetite to eat.

Hector said, "I'm determined to get Easy Media so please, Mr. Kings, give me a good price."

Leo and his brother, Noah King, looked at each other. They had already thought of a price on their way here.

"500 million."

To be honest, the maximum market price for Easy Media right now was approximately 400 million.

By asking for 500 million, they were giving themselves a huge leeway.

However, Hector frowned and was dissatisfied to hear the price.

He expected to take down Easy Media with 200 million.

Even though he was one of the members of the Residence and his family was pretty powerful, when it came to money, he did not have that much.

His family would only be able to handle 200 million.

However, Hector did not care. He was clear that the King brothers were not idiots. As long as he said something, they had to sell and even if they did not want to, they would have to sell it to him all the same.

“Deal.”

When Hector was about to say something, Jasper’s one word shocked everyone at the table.

His clear and sonorous voice was filled with unquestionable certainty. Everyone looked over, their eyes all on Jasper.

Jasper looked calm and was even in the mood to enjoy some duck breast. Yes, the food cooked by a chef who previously worked in a palace was indeed amazing.

At this moment, Leo, who just proposed the price, saw Hector’s face getting darker and darker. He looked as if he was going to explode at any second, and at the same time, he looked as if he was going to start crying internally as well.

'Damn it, my asking price is obviously fake. Jasper, do you have too much money that it's starting to burn a hole in your pocket?'

Jasper was willing to spend 500 million to buy Easy Media, and of course, Leo did not have any opinions about that. However, Hector was still here and if he were to reach a deal with Jasper, this would not be a matter of 500 million.

"Mr. Laine, I..."

Jasper immediately interrupted Leo and said with a raised eyebrow, "Didn't you just say 500 million, Mr. King? I think this price is very reasonable so I can make a deal with you right now. We can sign the contract now and I can transfer the money to you immediately."

"..."

To be honest, this was the most straightforward business transaction Leo had done in his 40 years of living.

If Hector was not sitting here, he wanted so badly to hug Jasper and kiss him a few times.

However, he only wanted to stand up and run away now.

He did not dare to offend Hector.

With a loud slam, Hector slammed his fork on the table and looked at Jasper with dark eyes. He said frigidly, "Laine, are you sure you want to fight me over this?"

After slowly taking a sip of the lobster bisque, Jasper did not even raise his head before saying insipidly, "Since we're doing business, of course, there will be buying and selling. Mr. King proposed a price and I'm willing to pay it. What's the problem with that?"

“Mr. Combe, if you’re not happy, you can compete with me. Just name your price!”