

Life at the Top Chapter 441

Old Master Law smiled, his expression lamenting as he took Old Master Turner's outstretched hand and replied, "You're right. Time flies. I can't believe it's already been more than a decade.

"We're both growing old and it's getting difficult for us to move about. With you in Swallow Capital and I in Harbor City, who knows when we'll meet again if not for this?"

Old Master Turner smiled. "Any extra day we have is a blessing considering our age, and every time we meet is one less time for the future. Who knows when the last time we meet will be? We've lost quite a number of our friends since we last met."

Old Master Law then pulled Jasper over and smiled. "In that case, then we've really got to thank this young man here. I wouldn't have had a reason to come to Swallow Capital if not for the beautiful celebratory banquet he hosted. He's the one hosting this dinner as well."

Old Master Turner turned to Jasper, and before the former could speak, Jasper immediately greeted him courteously, "Hello, Old Master Turner. I'm Jasper Laine."

Old Master Turner smiled and nodded before replying enthusiastically, "Good, very good. I've heard of you before. It was a very beautiful banquet you hosted. It's a shame that I was still in treatment and couldn't come to see it for myself, but a few of my old friends told me about you. You've done well, young man."

Jasper smiled. "The banquet was indeed a success, but I can't take all the credit. It was a joint effort with my colleagues, and I wouldn't have been able to host it

so successfully without the higher-ups' help and leadership. There's still a lot I have to learn. I wouldn't dare take all the credit myself."

Old Master Turner chuckled. "A young man like you should've gone to work for the government, not in business."

After a little more small talk, Jasper found an opportunity to suggest, "The wind's a little strong tonight, old masters. Perhaps we could move this conversation upstairs?"

Both Old Master Turner and Old Master Law easily agreed.

The small group made their way into the hotel, and not even the manager of the InterContinental Hotel had the level of importance to approach them. They had no choice but to maintain a distance from the group of stern strong men in black.

They shuddered internally at the identities of the two old masters, knowing that each of these seemingly normal bodyguards was palace guards. Specifically, they were the kind one could not push against, for they could very well legally kill you on the spot.

Looking past the guards' shoulders, they saw the two old masters laughing and joking as they walked in front. They left the formidable figures like Brad and Zachary to walk behind them as their juniors.

However, speaking with the two old masters was a young man like Jasper.

This scene had the managerial level of the InterContinental Hotel remembering Jasper's appearance and name deeply in their hearts. This man was the last person they could offend.

The two old masters conversed deeply throughout the way and there were no signs of any potential conflict between the two families at all.

There were no mocking undertones or targeting subtexts at all.

If anything, the two seemed like old friends catching up with one another.

Jasper listened quietly beside them and added a few comments from time to time when given the opportunity. The atmosphere around them was harmonious.

Between Zachary and Brad who were following behind them, they did not share looks, scoff, turn away, or anything of the like even though the two were not given any chance to join in their fathers' conversation.

If anything, Brad merely looked at Jasper's back with slight uncontrolled envy seeing as how the youth could easily join the two old masters' conversations.

'How did Zachary find such treasure?'

Brad felt his chest clench thinking about how disappointing his son was despite being the same age as Jasper.

It was a relief that Jasper was a Laine and not a Law, or that would give him a true headache.

Entering the Imperial Ballroom, everyone inside collectively stood to greet the two old masters.

Especially Norman and Ian. The two felt their hearts thump erratically when they saw how Jasper stood beside the two old masters when Zachary and Brad could only follow behind them.

'The importance of those two old masters...'

'No one would oppose to considering them national treasures!'

'So just what had Jasper done to be so adored by both old masters?'

"I see that everyone's already here."

Life at the Top Chapter 442

Old Master Turner smiled widely and spoke. Turning to Ian, he suddenly asked, "You're Ian Gardner?"

Ian had not expected Old Master Turner to call out his name and took two steps forward in surprise before replying courteously, "Yes, Old Master Turner. I'm Ian Gardner."

Old Master Turner nodded. "Haddock's Chamber of Commerce has been developing rather well these years. You've contributed a lot to your local economies. Especially the Waterhoof Branch, I heard that you pay hundreds of millions for tax now?"

Ian hurriedly replied, "Thank you for keeping an eye out for us, Old Master. It's thanks to having a good environment and policies from the higher-ups that we're allowed to develop."

Old Master Turner pointed at Ian and smiled at Old Master Law. "See? These people are the backbone of our country's business world. Not bad, right?"

Old Master Law asked intently, "Who's Gale Hurlbutt to you?"

Ian's expression turned solemn as he quickly replied politely, "Old Master Hurlbutt is the spirit of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce. He has already retired because of old age but he'll always be the honorary president of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce nationwide. He's my teacher."

Old Master Law nodded and ignored Ian's politeness, opting to turn to Old Master Turner instead. "Hurlbutt is a very sly man. He promised to send me some superior grade rosemary tea long ago but I haven't received it yet. You ought to ask him for me the next time you meet."

Old Master Turner smiled. "I didn't know you two had such a past."

Old Master Law ushered Old Master Turner to his seat. "It's already been years since then. He was doing business with foreigners and ended up getting kidnapped all the way there. I paid his ransom."

Old Master Turner replied intently, "You saved his life. Hurlbutt isn't being very kind then."

Ian, by the side, and Norman, who could not add to the conversation, felt their knees go weak at the words.

'This was Gale Hurlbutt they were talking about!

'Haddock's first rich businessman!' Both Ian and Norman were still children when the man dominated the business world.

Even though Gale had already retired, the man's students were all over the world. Ian and Norman were just two unremarkable students among all the others.

After the two old masters took their seats, everyone else began to take theirs according to their statuses and identities.

People could not randomly sit as they wished on such an occasion.

The two old masters sat in the middle, with Zachary, Henry, and Anna on Old Master Law's right.

Meanwhile, on Old Master Turner's left was Brad and Erik respectively.

Ian and Norman went to sit with the Turners without another thought.

This left Jasper to take the furthest seat from the old masters despite being the host.

As such, he had Anna on his left and Lisa on his right.

Seeing such a seating plan, Lisa suddenly stood up and said coldly, "I don't want to sit with a broke beggar!"

Lisa did not seem to have registered the dark void-like glares Norman and Ian were giving her.

After all, envy could turn a man crazy while hatred blinded all rationality.

She turned to Old Master Law and spoke, "You're a very respectable senior, Old Master Law, and it's precisely so that I must tell you. You and your family have been deceived by Jasper! He's a liar!"

Lisa then pointed at Jasper and shouted, "This man! While he flirts amorously with your granddaughter, he also has a girlfriend! How could someone like him appear here?"

"He's dating two girls at once. He's treating the Law family like they're a bunch of fools!"

"Wise as you are, Old Master, how could you be deceived by the likes of him?"

Life at the Top Chapter 443

The banquet's atmosphere immediately turned extremely weird.

Brad and Erik, the father-and-son duo, were looking at Lisa with complicated gazes.

Brad glanced at Lisa, then at Jasper, and suddenly felt the urge to thank the man.

Had it not been for Jasper, Erik and Lisa's wedding might have become a reality and he would end up having this thoughtless and brash woman as his daughter-in-law. It would wreak havoc on his peace.

'Thank goodness, thank f*ck!'

Brad let out a sigh of unexpected relief.

Meanwhile, Erik looked at Lisa as if she was a goddess.

Ignoring the words that she had said outside, it was a different story to claim that a wise man like Old Master Law had been deceived by Jasper and before two old masters too, no less.

Frankly speaking, Erik was not brave enough to do so.

Yet Lisa had done so and very clearly too. She seemed to be going all out, hoping to pull Jasper with her as she screwed herself over.

Norman felt the urge to slap this daughter of his, but he could not nor did he dare do so here.

In such a situation, no one dared to speak before Old Master Law spoke.

There was only one sole exception.

Anna.

Everyone watched as Anna slowly turned to look at Lisa and asked casually, "Who are you?"

Lisa stared at Anna, thinking that she had moved the other. She replied excitedly, "I'm Lisa Gardner. I take the same MBA class at Swallow Capital University with Wendy. That's how I know what kind of disgusting things Jasper, this b*stard of a man, have done!

"You would all have continued to be deceived by him had it not been for me! I'm helping you expose his true character!

"This man's just a playboy. He doesn't deserve your affections at all!

"Who is he to deserve them?"

Lisa's rapid-fire accusations came so fast one would think she said it all in one breath. Then, Lisa turned to look at Jasper, hoping to see humiliation and anger on his face.

Yet all there was on Jasper's features was serene calmness, and perhaps a bit of mockery one would have when they watched a clown make a fool of themselves.

Anna spoke, "I just asked you for your name. What's the point in telling us all of this?"

Lisa's maniacal expression froze, and she looked at Anna in disbelief. "Aren't you furious? He's cheating on your relationship!"

“What relationship?” Anna asked.

Lisa’s expression changed drastically.

Anna and Jasper had never once claimed to have an amorous relationship.

All of this was merely Lisa’s intuition and deduction as another woman.

However, she believed her gut feeling for her eyes told her that Anna definitely had feelings for Jasper.

Lisa was a woman, so she was certain of how women looked when they stared at a person they fancied.

That was precisely how Anna looked at Jasper.

She appeared focused and smitten. It was a sign of a woman deeply in love!

Yet she had never thought that Anna would argue with her in front of everyone.

“Jasper and I are just good friends. Wendy is his girlfriend and I knew that long ago. Wendy and I are great friends too, she’s a nice girl.”

Life at the Top Chapter 444

Anna’s voice slowly rang out.

“While I’m very grateful for your enthusiasm, I can’t possibly see how your attitude and actions are supposed to be in my favor. In fact, it seems to me that you’re just using this to attack Jasper. What right does a narrow-minded person like you have to sit here?”

Anna's words made Lisa feel utterly distressed.

Still, there was not a word she could say to refute Anna.

Anna had managed to corner Lisa from all sides.

She looked to Erik hopelessly, hoping her boyfriend could help her.

However, she only saw the man staring at the cutleries before him as if he was not involved in the matter at all.

Brad no longer hinted at Erik anymore either.

After causing such ruckus in front of the two old masters, it would no longer be acceptable for him to pull Norman and Ian to his side.

In fact, doing so might even make Old Master Turner suspect his ability to discern and choose teammates.

Erik's silence broke the last thread of Lisa's hope.

Her heart sank, and she looked at Anna's calm expression as well as Henry's mocking one. It was at that moment Lisa knew that she had pushed herself into the abyss.

Fear, regret, indignation, and anger surged within her, overwhelming Lisa and causing her to tremble.

Both Norman and Ian had gone pale as they sat on their seats. There was not a word they could say.

Just then, Old Master Law finally spoke. His tone was calm, but it was no longer warm and caring but frigidly cold instead.

“This child’s face seems to be injured. Perhaps you should bring her to the hospital to get her checked.”

That was his way of chasing her out.

However, Norman and Ian took it as mercy and quickly stood up. “You’re right, Old Master Law. My daughter really should get her injuries checked at the hospital. We’ll get going first then, goodbye.”

Norman then dragged Lisa toward the door.

Lisa struggled against him maddeningly. “No! I’m not going anywhere! Why do I have to leave? Jasper’s just a b*stard! Who is he to step over me, huh? Because they’re rich and powerful?! I’m not leaving!”

Slap!

Norman raised his hand and slapped Lisa across her face, his gaze looking chilling when he told her, “Shut up!”

Lisa wailed, her snot and tears dripping everywhere as Norman and Ian dragged her away.

It was only until they had left the hotel and sat in their car that Norman and Ian’s taut shoulders finally relaxed a bit.

Norman gave a long sigh as he glanced at his daughter who had broken down in tears. He thought of Ben who was still waiting for surgery. “We should never have come to Swallow Capital!

“Now my son’s lying in bed like a crippled man. Meanwhile, your daughter has gone mad and we even got ourselves into some big trouble!”

Ian clenched his teeth, his gaze filled with cruel fierceness as he growled. “It’s all Jasper Laine’s fault! Things wouldn’t have gotten so screwed if not for him!”

Norman had given up. “So what, Ian? What can we do? Jasper has the Law family supporting him. Didn’t you see how Old Master Law treats him? Not even his own grandson Henry gets that kind of treatment. What are we supposed to do?”

Ian clenched his teeth and spoke, “The Law family can’t protect him all the time. He’s still in the Mainland and the Laws are based in Harbor City. They’re too far away to do anything most of the time.

“And so what if it’s the Law family? There are enough problems for them here in Swallow Capital. The Turner family isn’t easy to deal with either.”

Norman’s eyes lit up as he whispered, “What are you thinking?”

Ian looked intently at Norman and replied deeply, “What, so you’re just going to move on and let him get away with it?”

Norman’s eyes were filled with heartbreak and fury as he glanced at his daughter who had completely broken down. With clenched teeth, he agreed. “Tell me your plan, then!”

Life at the Top Chapter 445

“The Law family is still in Swallow Capital. Besides, an intense struggle is taking place between Harbor City’s business groups and local companies. We must not get involved.

“Not only should we not get involved, but we should get out of Swallow Capital as quickly as possible because Zachary Law might come after us. That old dude was rich and famous 20 years ago, but his son isn’t even half as accomplished as him.”

Ian’s eyes glinted sinisterly as he continued saying, “We’ll return to Waterhoof City for now. The Law family can’t do anything to us while we’re there because it’s in the Mainland and not Harbor City, where they hold immense power.

“There are plenty of ways to deal with Jasper Laine. We won’t attack him directly for now. However, Benny previously tried to get the one named Wendy Schuler to date him. I’ve run a background check on her too. We know everything about her.

“Wendy has already left Swallow City, but Jasper is still there. We can take advantage of this opportunity to go after Wendy!”

Norman’s eyes brightened as he listened to Ian speak. He thought it was a good idea.

“One more thing. What’s Wendy’s background?” Norman asked carefully.

Ian smiled as he said, “She’s the daughter of the richest man of a province. Her father is Dawson Schuler. We would normally never dare to provoke someone of such a powerful background, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Anyway, we’re not afraid of him!

“Moreover, we’ll use some tricks from the dark side. How would he find out if he weren’t already paying attention?”

...

In InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom, the banquet’s atmosphere regained some of its warmth after Ian and company left.

The two old men were still reminiscing about their sufferings in the past while Zachary spoke to Henry and Anna. Brad and Erik were also whispering to each other.

The party seemed lively, but everyone was only talking to those who were in their inner circle.

Except for the two old men, both Zachary and Brad seemed to think there was nothing to say to the other party.

As for Jasper, he ignored both parties and focused his attention on servicing the two old men.

He had brought along two bottles of aged 30-year-old brandy with him tonight. It was good alcohol and not the kind that anyone could get their hands on.

However, they were nothing to both Old Master Law and Old Master Turner.

Jasper poured the two men some brandy. If that tiny cup had been placed in front of him in his past life, it would be worth at least 2,000 dollars.

The two men were elderly and did not take much alcohol.

“This is good wine,” Zachary praised as he took a sip of the brandy.

“It has a mellow aroma and a fragrant taste. No wonder it’s been deemed the pride of Harbor City.”

Jasper smiled as he said, “This brandy is a good thing indeed. I’m feeling optimistic about the market outlook for alcohol and am planning to buy some shares for brandy in the secondary market. I think it’s one of the few shares worth holding on to for a long-term investment. Would you like to join me, Uncle Law?”

In Jasper's past life, the market price for brandy increased by 40% in just three months. With a horrifying share price of 1,400 US dollars per share, not only had it become the most expensive A-share, but it had even overtaken the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Somer to become the number one A-share company with a market capitalization of 1.8 trillion US dollars.

Yet, how much did a share for brandy cost now?

It had just entered the market and did not cost more than 31 US dollars for a share!

Not to mention the fact that it would drop to 20 US dollars per share next year.

In 19 years, its profits would increase by 70 times. That was enough for Jasper to enter the market.

Zachary's eyes lit up.

Even Old Master Law had praised Jasper's intuition in investing. The Law family was not strapped for cash now, but they lacked the opportunity to invest.

Thus, what Jasper deemed feasible was definitely a business that could earn a lot of money.

"Sure. Let me know when you're going to invest and I'll invest in some shares too," Zachary said as he smiled.

If an ordinary person said they were going to invest in shares during this age, they would probably only invest several million dollars. At the very most, they would invest several hundred thousand dollars.

However, Zachary looked at numbers no less than a billion when he decided to invest.

It was impossible to get hold of private capital for brandy when considering the special nature of its market, but it was still possible to get hold of shares worth several million dollars.

Erik, who was sharing a table with them, laughed coldly. The two seemed to be putting on a show for him.