

Life at the Top Chapter 466

Although Hans was Ben's biological uncle, he had a larger age gap with his father, Ian, than he did with him.

Therefore, in all honesty, the two of them could be regarded as birds of a feather.

Furthermore, Hans was the one who had brought Ben to his very first hook-up.

"Uncle, I wouldn't recommend someone of a subpar quality, would I? She's a woman of excellent quality. This is just her photograph. You are yet to see her in real life. Even I fell for her when I saw her in person."

As Ben spoke, a sinister smile formed on his face. "However, that man called Jasper Laine is Wendy Schuler's boyfriend. He's sort of difficult. As you know, my father and uncle have been going against him lately. Therefore, we will have to resort to tricks to kidnap her," he said.

Hans waved his hand at him. "What are you afraid of? Even if he's that powerful, he's just a young boy. With your father and uncle personally going against him, he'll be defeated for sure. How dare he go against the Hulls and Gardners?" He questioned indifferently.

Ben laughed and exclaimed, "You're really confident, Uncle! We just have to wait for the good news from Aaron now. When I picture the expression on Jasper Laine's face once he discovers that his girlfriend has slept with another man, I get all excited! Hahahaha!"

A vicious and venomous smile appeared on Lisa Gardner's face as well. "Once he realizes that he's been cheated on, let's see how high and mighty he'll be." She added.

Hans snickered as he gazed at the two photographs in his hand greedily. He then tucked them into his coat. It was as if he could feel pleasure by doing so.

His thoughts were now fully consumed by Wendy Schuler. As for Jasper Laine, he could not care less about him.

He was just a minor character. He could get away once or twice, but what was the use of that?

Throughout the years, he did not stop himself from setting his hands on someone else's girlfriend or wife right before their very eyes. Hans did not feel an ounce of guilt when he did something like that. Conversely, he felt beyond thrilled.

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Inside the ward.

After hearing Julian go through the entire incident in detail, a list of all the possible candidates who had sent someone to follow Wendy flashed across Jasper's mind.

It could not be Erik Turner. He was in Swallow Capital, so it was impossible for him have such a far reach. If he had done something like that, he would not have had such great progress in Swallow Capital.

Ian Hull and Norman Gardner?

These two people were the most suspicious as of now.

However, Jasper felt like there were still some problems that he was yet to discover.

Nonetheless, there was too little information at hand. There was no way for Jasper to pinpoint the perpetrator with complete certainty.

Despite this, he had inwardly increased his level of caution toward Ian Hull and Norman Gardner.

There were people who certain people who wanted to bring harm to Wendy. The Zions from Brac County were the perfect example.

This time, Jasper would make the people who wished to harm Wendy suffer more despair than the Zions did!

“Why don’t you rest at home for a few days, Wendy?”

Letting out a soft sigh, Jasper suggested to Wendy.

Wendy frowned slightly and said, “I still have a lot of tasks on hand at the company. I’ve been following up and handling a lot of the company matters. If I stayed at home, how would I be able to work?”

“There are so many people in the company. We will still be able to operate without you. Besides, I’ll be there,” Jasper said.

“We shouldn’t hide from them. They’re just following me, right? Let them follow me all they want. What can they do to me? If a small issue like this scares me to the point that I don’t dare to leave the house, what would I do in the future?” Wendy said in a tough, domineering tone.

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Jasper felt that Wendy made some sense.

Moreover, he did not want to force Wendy to stay at home in light of her insistent stance.

Wendy was one who could be persuaded by reason, but she definitely would not yield to a forceful approach.

After learning that someone was stalking her, there was no way that she would hide at home just because of it.

Dawson had previously told Jasper about an incident that took place when Wendy was sixteen years old. Back then, one of Dawson's business competitors intended to hire someone to kidnap Wendy in order to threaten him.

However, sixteen-year-old Wendy Schuler had insisted on continuing to attend classes with a taser and a knife in her bag.

At that moment, Jasper knew in his heart that although this young lady looked soft, gentle, weak, and appeared like an easy target for bullies, she was definitely not an ordinary woman who could be easily provoked.

If he were to draw a comparison between Anna Law and Wendy Schuler...

Anna Law was just like a poppy flower—she was beyond enchanting and charming. However, she had her means of poisoning others when they least expected it.

On the other hand, Wendy Schuler resembled a rose. She was breathtakingly beautiful, but there were thorns concealed under the fragrant scent of her petals. Anyone who dared to approach her without thinking twice were likely to get pricked till blood ran down their hands.

Jasper felt that he was a pretty lucky man. In front of him, Wendy had always hidden away her thorns and transformed them into a soft and silent layer of gentleness.

“No problem. Julian, you should stay by Wendy's side for the time being. Don't let her out of your sight,” Jasper ordered.

“Alright, Jasper,” Julian agreed with a nod.

However, Wendy had a different opinion. From her point of view, Jasper was in a position that was much more dangerous as compared to her.

If someone was following her around, it was likely that those people would make a move on Jasper as well.

However, just as she was about to express her thoughts, she caught sight of Jasper’s stern gaze, which was directed at her. She instantly swallowed all the words that she had intended to counter him with.

She knew that Jasper would listen to her most of the time. However, once he made a certain type of decision, nobody was allowed to question it.

“Alright,” Wendy said in exasperation.

After deciding on the plan, Jasper left together with Wendy.

Julian left with them as well.

Although Cathy needed someone to look after her during her recuperation period, Julian knew his priorities.

At the hospital, Jasper had arranged for a team of experts to observe and oversee the entire process of Cathy’s recovery. In addition to this, a few of the best nurses in the hospital were looking after her 24 hours a day.

Therefore, Julian did not need to worry about Cathy at all.

The three of them left the ward and soon returned home. Jasper and Wendy did not tell Dawson about this incident.

There was no need to add to his worries.

Jasper now had the ability to handle all the impending problems and crises that he faced. He did not need someone else's protection anymore.

On the contrary, he now needed to bear the brunt of all the problems in order to protect the people by his side.

The next day, Jasper and Wendy were just about to leave the house after having their breakfasts when Jasper received a call from Sean Tucker.

"Mr. Laine, we have a problem!"

Jasper frowned upon hearing what he said.

Sean then proceeded to explain the situation to him. There was a problem with the supply of building materials.

"I'll head over to the company at once."

Jasper arrived at JW Real Estates. The real estate company was yet to have a formal independent working space. Therefore, it currently worked from a temporary office that occupied two floors of Schuler Group's office building.

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As soon as Jasper walked into the company, he invited Sean and a bunch of executives that had rushed over from the construction site to gather for a meeting.

"Mr. Laine, we had originally agreed on the shipment of a batch of cement with Hero Company today morning. However, they didn't send out the shipment. We

tried to contact them by calling them, but they told us that the manager in charge of handling us had gone on a business trip and can't be contacted for now."

A person in charge stood up and announced. There was an unpleasant look on his face.

"Hero Company is one of the country's top large-scale cement suppliers. How can a single manager be in charge of handling the entire shipment? What about the other people?" Jasper asked.

"We couldn't get in contact with them. Meanwhile, the managers that that we did manage to contact after numerous tries told us that the company was facing a production shortage right now. Therefore, they have limited all of their distribution channels, and have no idea when they'll be able to distribute the supplies to us"

Jasper rapped his fingers against the table. His expression was dark and overcast. "Are there any problems with our payment for the goods?" He asked.

The person in charge reported, "There was absolutely no problem with the payment. We adhered to the contract strictly. We pledged two batches of goods, and paid for the first batch of supplies after the third batch was sent to us. There has been no problem until now."

Jasper nodded and said, "In that case, this isn't about money. What about the steel supplies? Are there problems with that as well?"

Another executive let out an audible sigh. "The situation at Stellar Company is pretty similar. We can't get in contact with the person handling our supplies. However, Stellar Company faxed us an official letter," he said.

"The letter said that several of the boilers at Stellar Company are under maintenance, so they are currently shut down and cannot be used for production. They are unsure as to when they can continue distributing the supplies as well.

“That’s right. There are no problems with the payment on this either. We fulfilled all of the criteria mentioned in the contract that has been agreed to in accordance with the market conditions.”

Jasper fixed his gaze on the person in charge of the procurement of materials for the Southface River project.

The person in charge, who was in his forties, did not dare to meet Jasper’s gaze at all. His forehead was beaded with sweat. With a bitter expression on his face, he said, “Not only are there problems with the cement and steel supplies, but our supplies of paint, thermal insulation, waterproof concrete, brick, stone and most of the building materials have almost all been cut off.”

No matter the reason, the procurement manager would be the first to be held responsible if there was a problem with the supply of building materials.

The procurement manager felt like burying himself in the ground right now.

Following his words, the atmosphere in the meeting room fell into a state of heavy, sinister silence.

Everyone directed their gazes at Jasper, who was seated at the head of the table, as they waited for him to come up with an idea.

Right then, Sean decided to bite the bullet after pondering it for some time. “Mr. Laine, it’d be reasonable if there were problems with procuring one or two of the building materials. However, the supply of all our building materials, regardless of the shipment size, have been cut off at the same time. It’s obvious that someone from the upstream supply chain is messing with us,” he said.

Jasper did not reply.

Anyone could understand something simple like that.

This move was not really very smart. In fact, it was rather barbaric.

However, it was still effective.

It was a trick that utilized a predatory pricing strategy to buy up the supply.

If they did this to a weaker opponent, their opponent would have lost all resistance instantly. They would be at the mercy of everyone else.

Previously, Jasper had used a similar method to defeat the Zions back in Brac County.

“It’s Haddock. Ian Hull and Norman Gardner are behind this,” Jasper announced in an even tone.

They were the only ones who go to such lengths in order to disrupt the Southface River project.

Jasper knew that they were about to unleash all their moves on him one by one.

Sean let out a heavy sigh, “Mr. Laine, what should we do now?” He asked.

“How long will the remaining building supplies at the construction site last?” Jasper asked.

Being the competent vice president that he was, Sean answered almost immediately. “The other building materials should be able to last for some time since we still have quite a number of supplies in the inventory. We should have enough to continue for up to ten or fifteen days. However, we use a lot of cement and steel supplies on a daily basis. As of now, our inventory of those will only last another four days,” he said.

“If we don’t receive a new supply of building materials in four days, construction will have to be temporarily suspended.”

“Under no circumstances can construction be suspended. If construction is suspended, a series of harmful chain reactions will occur, alongside drastic financial losses. This is exactly what our opponent wishes to achieve,” Jasper said decisively.

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Sean and a few of the executives looked at each other.

They all understood the reasoning behind their opponent’s actions.

The development of the Southface Riverbank was an enormous project. They would lose millions if they stopped the construction for a single day.

Nobody would willingly want to stop the construction unless the situation was dire.

However, their supply of building materials had all been cut off. It would be impossible not to suspend the construction site under these circumstances.

Nevertheless, Jasper did not leave them waiting for too long. He drew up a plan immediately.

“There’s a building material supplier called Ambition Corporation in Brac Country. The boss of this company is named Xavier Johnson. He’s one of my associates. Later on, the head of the procurement department will have to get in contact with him and ask him to supply us with building materials from the Brac County market.”

The head of the procurement department was overjoyed upon hearing this. “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll handle this task well,” he said immediately.

Jasper massaged his temples and said in a frigid tone, "I've found the person that you need, and I'll give you his contact information later. All you need to do is make a few phone calls and assess the quality of the supplies. If you can't even do something like that, I'll need you to pack up and go home."

The procurement manager instantly flushed a bright red. Overcome with awkwardness, he could not say a single word.

"There's something else as well."

Jasper did not give him another glance. Although it was not his fault that the supply of building materials had gotten cut off, this issue had revealed that JW Real Estates' procurement department was seriously inadequate.

They did not even plan to look for another supplier after the original source cut off their supplies. This was the main responsibility of the department head.

However, this was not the time to penalize them. That would have to wait until everything was resolved.

"Since Stellar Company cut off our supply of steel, we should get in contact with Fortress Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. They are one of the largest steelmaking plants in the country as well. Even without Stellar Company, we can get our steel supplies all the same."

The procurement manager hesitated before saying, "Mr. Laine, we had to get quotations from both of these companies when we were selecting the suppliers. The quotation from Fortress Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. was 20% higher than that of Stellar Company. They didn't give us any room for negotiation either. Therefore, we eventually chose Stellar Company."

"If they find out that we were looking for them after having our supplies cut off by Stellar Company, I'm afraid that it will be hard to get a good price."

Jasper waved his hand and said, "It's alright. Agree to it as long as the price isn't too outrageous. If you aren't sure, you can discuss the matter with Vice President Tucker. Our current priority is to resolve the issue we are facing with our building materials. As for money, or difference of a few million dollars will not have much of an impact."

"Also, is the head of the legal department here?" Jasper asked.

A middle-aged woman, who was wearing glasses, quickly stood up. There was a cold and hard expression on her face. "Mr. Laine, I'm Sarah Lund, the manager of JW Real Estates' legal department," she said.

Jasper nodded. Among the several department heads, he was the most satisfied with Sarah Lund's performance. She had always acted in a calm and collected manner.

"We will go through the proper legal procedures when examining the contracts that we've signed with the original suppliers, regardless of the length of these contracts. There is no need to send them a lawyer's letter. The other party will not care at all, and there is no need to discuss it further. We will sue them, and reject all out-of-court settlements."

"Due to the cut-off of supplies, the losses faced by our company will have to be recovered from their compensation. This lawsuit is going to be a major battle. Don't refrain from causing a huge ruckus. The bigger the ruckus we cause, the better it'll be for us."

After registering what Jasper said, Sarah replied, "Mr. Laine, if we carry out our actions according to your conditions, these lawsuits will be delayed for a long time. We will accrue a relatively large cost as well."

"The lawsuit will just consist of a first hearing, a second hearing, and the final judgment. I have a lot of time on my hand. I have tons of money as well. Through these lawsuits, I want to tell all the companies working together with us that JW Real Estates will never give in to such rogue and lowly methods.

“Anyone who dares to breach their contract with JW Real Estates will have to be prepared to face our lawsuit till the very end.”

After the meeting ended, Jasper returned to his office.

Dawson had allocated an office room to him in JW Real Estates. It was usually empty except for the times that the cleaners would come in to clean up the room. However, the room was furnished with extensive facilities. There was even a brand-new television inside.

He turned on the television. The provincial news channel was playing right now.

As expected, the new content revolved around the development of the north bank of the Southface River.

Norman Gardner was on screen. He was standing with his back to the venue of the foundation laying ceremony, which had just ended. “The main goal we would like to achieve through the development of the North Bank is to revitalize the poor economic areas on the north bank of the province,” he announced with a cheerful smile on his face.

“Besides that, according to our plan, the North Bank will be transformed into a central city that will integrate daily entertainment, and leisure. It won’t lose out to the South Bank!

“I believe that the North Bank will definitely shine brilliantly in the near future.”

The landline phone on the office table suddenly rang.

The call was from the reception.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Ian Hull said that he’s here to visit you.”

Jasper raised his brow. He had originally intended to shut off the television. However, he changed his mind and put down the remote control. "Let him in," he said.

Not long after, Ian Hull entered Jasper's office under the guidance of an employee.

Ian entered the room with a joyous smile splayed across his face. After catching sight of the news being broadcasted on the television, his smile instantly grew broader. He extended a hand toward Jasper and said, "Mr. Laine, are you interested in our North Bank project as well?"

Jasper laughed. "I was born and bred in the Southeastern district of the province. Meanwhile, you have come a long way from Andros to develop the relatively underdeveloped North Bank here in the province, Mr. Hull. Since you're bringing benefits to the Southeastern district, I have no reason not to turn a blind-eye to the project," he said.

Ian smiled cheerily and gave him a thumbs up. "As expected of you, Mr. Laine. You're a generous person indeed," he remarked.

"Mr. Hull, you didn't come here just to tell me this, right?" Jasper asked.

Ian sat down on the sofa and patted the armrest. "You sure do know how to enjoy yourself, Mr. Laine. This sofa must have been imported from overseas. It isn't cheap," he commented.

Jasper looked at Ian calmly without uttering a single word.

Ian laughed upon realizing that Jasper was not playing along with him. "Actually, I came here today to ask if you were interested in selling me your project on the South Bank, Mr. Laine," he told Jasper.

Jasper raised his brow and chuckled. "You have a pretty large appetite, Mr. Hull."

“After all, business is business. At first, I came over just to survey the scene without any other intentions. However, the more I looked around, the more I realized that the South Bank project really has large commercial value. In any case, it’d be difficult for your construction site to proceed with its construction work now,” Ian said indifferently.

“Why don’t you sell the project to me instead of holding on fruitlessly?”

“What makes you think that it’ll be difficult for my construction site to proceed with its construction work?” Jasper asked in an even tone.

Ian guffawed loudly. “Mr. Laine, we’re both smart people. Let’s speak in a straightforward manner. Without the building supplies, does your construction site intend to carry out the construction with rocks collected from the roadside?” He questioned.

“Mr. Hull, so how much do you plan to acquire my project for?” Jasper asked.

Ian thought for a while before replying, “300 million dollars.”

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300 million dollars.

At first glance, it sounded like a lot.

It would be considered a lot even twenty years into the future in the era Jasper had been living in before his reincarnation.

300 million dollars was enough for a family to achieve financial freedom. They would be viewed as admirable millionaires in everyone’s eyes.

Nevertheless, however he looked at it, the price of 300 million offered by Ian Hull sounded like a huge insult.

“I won’t say much about the value of the project’s development rights. Putting that aside, I have already invested 800 million dollars in the project alone, and I’ve made a follow-up investment of more than 1.5 billion dollars. Despite all this, you telling me that you’re going to buy this project for 300 million dollars. Mr. Hull, you have such immaculate decision-making.”

Ian chuckled at Jasper’s words. “Mr. Laine, I’m much older than you are. At first, I thought that you were really capable and wouldn’t need many tips on what to do. However, I’d have to teach you a thing or two today,” he said.

“The value of a commodity often isn’t based on its monetary value alone. Some things will end up being a bad project when placed in your hands. You simply don’t have the ability to make it work.

“In that case, it’ll be worthless burden to you.

“However, it’d be different in my hands. I can make it work. This is my personal ability. This is my capital. You can’t include this in the value of a commodity.”

Seated behind his office desk, Jasper fixed a calm and heavy gaze upon Ian.

After Ian finished speaking, Jasper questioned him in an indifferent tone, “From your perspective, is there no doubt that I’ll screw up this project, Mr. Hull?”

Ian let out an inward laugh as his gaze gradually hardened. “Stop being so pretentious, Jasper Laine. Isn’t it meaningless to do so? Your supply of building materials have been cut off, and I’m telling you that you won’t be able to purchase any building materials no matter where you go or who you look for!” He said.

“This is the definition of networking! This is what you call a resource pool!

“After all, I’m regarded as a prominent individual in Andros. Besides, given the reputation of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, who would dare to get on my bad side? Who would choose to supply you with building materials under the risk of offending Haddock?”

“How is the construction site going to proceed with its construction work without the building materials?”

Ian chuckled lightly. He looked at Jasper with a satisfied expression on his face. “In this world, you can’t do whatever you want just because you have the potential and have once received a few words of praise from others,” he said.

“If I gave a young man like you ten or twenty more years, or once you’re at my age, you may really become more powerful than me.

“However, you’re still way too young right now. You haven’t gone through the torments of society. You wouldn’t know how high and mighty the outside world can be. This incident should teach you a lesson.”

Ian got up as he spoke. He placed his hands on the office desk and stared down at Jasper from above. “You can only blame yourself for being way too reckless in Swallow Capital. You may not have thought about this, but although I may not have the ability to go against the Laws, it’s beyond easy for me to defeat you,” he said while snickering.

“Admit your wrongdoings in front of me, and apologize to my son. After that, hand this project over to me. I will let you keep your other businesses. Otherwise, I’ll make sure to take away everything that you have and turn you into a penniless loser!”

“Your threats are rather frightening,” Jasper remarked in an even tone.

“Young man, it’s important to know your own limits. Do you really have the ability to go against your seniors in the industry?”

Ian chuckled as he stood up and looked down at Jasper.

“Don’t be so conceited to the point that you forget your last name just because you’ve received some praise in the past. This type of behavior is dangerous. You’ll be faced with a huge problem sooner or later.

“You’re lucky that you met me. I tend to appreciate talented people, so I’m willing to give you a chance. Otherwise, do you think that you’d still have the opportunity to talk to me right now?”