

Life at the Top Chapter 436

InterContinental Hotel had been operating for nearly a decade now and had received a lot of big shots in the past, but never had anyone booked the entire hotel for an entire day.

This was not just a question of money, but a question of status and identity.

At this moment, both the Gardners and Hulls felt a mixture of emotions.

Norman and Ian exchanged glances with each other, noticing the regret and unease from each other's faces.

When they received the invitation today, they had been so frightened that they nearly ran away from Swallow Capital.

That invitation was sent by Old Master Law himself!

If this invitation had come some other time, then it would no doubt be a great honor. Even the invitation card would be worth being framed and mounted to the wall.

Now was not the time, though!

The Turners and the Laws, both representing the local faction and Harbor City's business group, were currently fighting each other!

All the other magnates had hidden for fear that they would suffer, not to mention both of them who were only a tad bit bigger than a shrimp at best!

"Sigh, we really shouldn't have meddled in this in the first place."

In the elevator, Norman sighed with an obscure expression.

Norman felt a deep sense of powerlessness when faced with the two behemoths, the Turners and the Laws. He did not have the slightest courage to go against them at all.

However, now that he had chosen to stand with the Turners, Norman simply had no idea how he was going to respond to the banquet invitation.

“It’s too late for that.” Ian was calmer than Norman.

“Whatever happens later during the banquet, we will both remain transparent. Don’t make your stance easily no matter what both parties say later!”

After hearing what Ian said, Lisa said nonchalantly, “You’re making a fuss, Uncle Ian. The Laws must’ve deemed us worthy and that’s why they sent us an invitation. There’s no need to be so careful around them.

“Besides, you know how close I am to Erik. The Turners won’t just stand on the sidelines and watch the Laws bully us.”

Lisa’s words made Ian frown. He said flatly, “If the other party is really afraid of the Turners, then Ben wouldn’t be lying in the hospital right now.”

When he mentioned that Ben was currently lying in the hospital, Lisa’s expression sank. The fury in her eyes flashed as she gritted her teeth and said, “Ben is injured and I won’t let this matter drop so easily!”

As she spoke, the elevator door opened.

They were swept by a tense atmosphere.

Norman, Ian, and Lisa looked up and saw Erik and Brad confronting Henry and Zachary.

Although they had no idea what had just happened, everyone present on the scene was no fools and could easily tell that the air hovering over their heads was extremely tense.

“Erik!” Lisa called out to him, eager to show everyone that she shared a unique relationship with Erik. She rushed up to Erik and took his arm, asking softly, “Are you okay? ”

Erik was extremely annoyed, but he found it inappropriate to remove Lisa’s hands in front of Norman and Ian, hence he said with a cold expression, “I’m fine. I just bumped into an annoying man, that’s all.”

Lisa turned to look at Henry and sneered, “Look, you invited us and we came. Is this how you treat your guests? By blocking them at the door?”

Henry glanced at Lisa. “Shut your stupid mouth, witch. Know your place. Who says it’s your turn to talk?”

Lisa’s face changed abruptly. With the Turners as well as her elders around, Lisa was filled with a surge of confidence that she had never experienced before. She said at once, “The Laws invited me, so why can’t I speak?”

“Your grandfather sent the invitation, so who are you to criticize me? You’d better stop putting on airs and talk to me nicely. Otherwise, when I see your grandfather later, I’ll ask him what went wrong with his family education!”

As soon as she said those words, the expression of everyone on the scene changed abruptly.

Especially Norman and Ian. They knew that Lisa was in trouble and were eager to cover her mouth.

Was this the kind of thing that one could say casually?

Even Erik and Brad looked at Lisa as though she was an idiot.

Brad, especially. In order to gain support from Norman's Haddock Chamber of Commerce, he had even planned to make Lisa his daughter-in-law, but right now, it seemed like this woman was too risky to be married into the family.

Zachary looked at Lisa. Judging from his status and identity, nothing Lisa said could infuriate him, let alone make him strike or lecture her himself.

That did not mean that Zachary could tolerate it when Lisa insulted the Laws.

"There's something wrong with the Laws' family education? I suppose the Gardners have really good family education then?" Zachary asked mildly, looking at Norman.

Norman's complexion paled abruptly. He had already grown accustomed to all kinds of storms out there, yet even so, his legs still continued to shake and quiver.

"I can explain, Mr. Law. I've failed to discipline this young lady. I will teach her a lesson right away. I kindly ask you to let this matter drop. Take no offense at a child's babble—"

Before Norman could finish his sentence, Lisa said loudly, "You don't need to apologize, Dad. Do you remember how Henry treated us when he came to our house? He infuriated you so much and nearly put you in the hospital. He's even more arrogant out there!

"Since the Laws' elders are here today, I will say it!"

Henry narrowed his eyes at Lisa and asked, "I'm arrogant? How?"

Having said that, Henry raised his hand and struck Lisa's face without warning.

The slap came down so hard that half of Lisa's face nearly twisted out of shape.

There was a loud and crisp sound, followed by Lisa's ear-piercing scream.

Henry stared at Lisa and said coldly, "You witch! Do you really think I won't drag you to the back of the mountain and bury you alive, huh? You think I won't lay a finger on you just because your father and Erik are here?"

After the slap, there were strings of blood hanging on the corner of Lisa's mouth. She covered her face, her head ringing. Under the tremendous humiliation and pain, she felt as though she was about to go crazy.

"You're hitting me again, Henry Law? Are you going to put me in the hospital after hitting my cousin?"

"You witch! I guess you're not that dumb after all!"

Henry lifted his leg and kicked Lisa's stomach, cursing and roaring, "I don't usually hit women. But you're really something, aren't you? You forced me to make this exception for once. Motherf*cker, how dare you say that the Laws are uneducated?" InterContinental Hotel had been operating for nearly a decade now and had received a lot of big shots in the past, but never had anyone booked the entire hotel for an entire day.

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No one stopped Henry from slapping and kicking Lisa.

Even Norman himself could do nothing but suppress his heartache and fury.

After all, Lisa was the one who said the wrong things first, and Harbor City's top-notch aristocrats were right in front of him. Norman had neither the qualification nor the guts to go against Zachary.

Though when he noticed that Henry was planning to kick her a few more times, Norman had no choice but to step in regardless of his fear of the Laws.

He stepped in front of Henry and begged for leniency with a smile on his face, saying, "Calm down, Mr. Law. Calm down. My daughter doesn't think before she speaks. Don't argue with the likes of her."

"It's a great day today, let's not ruin our moods for trivial matters like this, shall we? I will apologize on behalf of my daughter."

When Henry saw how Norman was relentlessly apologizing, he sneered and said, "If your daughter was half as smart as you, things wouldn't have gotten to this point either."

Norman gritted his teeth in secret. The anger in his heart was boiling, but the smile on his face remained. "Please forgive my daughter, Mr. Law. Look, why don't we all go in first?"

Henry narrowed his eyes a little unwillingly. He had planned to use this opportunity to teach Lisa a lesson.

Henry had done many evil deeds since childhood, hence it was impossible for him to feel sorry for a girl, let alone appreciate her.

When fury tore through him, he did not care who the other party was and would hurl punches first thing itself.

What was more, Lisa had provoked and annoyed him over and over again.

Henry had tolerated her for a really long time now.

Just as everyone thought that this was all over, Imperial Ballroom's door opened.

Jasper and Anna walked out while talking and laughing.

"Why are you guys standing here and not going in?" Jasper swept his gaze across the scene and could roughly guess what was going on. Yet, he still asked the obvious.

When Lisa saw Jasper, her eyes turned scarlet.

In her opinion, Jasper was the culprit for all the things that had happened.

If it were not for Jasper, she and her cousin would not have provoked Henry, let alone be dragged into this series of events.

Now, her cousin was lying in the hospital unconscious while she was humiliated in public. Even her father was insulted by Henry.

Jasper was the culprit of all these things!

When she saw how intimate Jasper and Anna were, Lisa stood up immediately and screamed at Jasper's face, "Jasper Laine! Why are you still flirting with Anna when you're already dating Wendy? What kind of a man are you?"

Jasper frowned slightly, staring at the wretched-looking Lisa who had gone insane. He said indifferently, "Ms. Gardner, I don't think you should attend the banquet tonight in this state. I don't want you to startle both old masters or you'll be committing a huge sin."

Lisa sneered. She pushed away Norman whose face had changed as he made attempts to stop her. She screamed, "Stop pretending! Do you think I don't know that you're seducing women to climb the social ladder?"

"You approached Wendy in Mainland and Anna in Harbor City, both of whom are daughters of aristocrats. You're pretty smart, aren't you?!"

"I feel sick to the stomach when I see shameless men like you. Who are you trying to show, acting as if you're morally better than other people?"

"When a woman has fallen, we call her a loose woman. Do we have a term for a fallen man? A loose man?"

Lisa's sharp and maniacal voice reverberated throughout Imperial Ballroom's corridor.

Everyone fell silent.

Even Henry was staring at Lisa as though she had gone crazy.

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If he put their grudges aside, Lisa impressed him, actually.

She must have a death wish to speak to Jasper like that.

The last person who spoke to Jasper like that was probably buried in a grave with grass that was three feet high by now, right?

Lisa seemed to have gone all out.

She cared for nothing and pointed at Anna, saying, "Do you think this man is really that outstanding? It's all just for show!

"I'm sure you don't know this, but he's dating another woman other than you and her name is Wendy Schuler! You? You're just a spare!"

Lisa's face was filled with maniacal resentment and thrill. It seemed as though she would never grow tired of smearing Jasper's name.

"How ridiculous! I can't believe that you, the Laws' daughter, actually got deceived by a man from the Mainland and don't even know you're an intruder in someone else's relationship. Don't you feel embarrassed at all?"

Norman's face was ashen, and even Ian looked ghastly pale.

They knew that this was all over now.

Anna looked calm. There was a bone-piercingly cold frost in the depths of her eyes.

“Are you a dead man, Henry?” Anna said faintly.

Henry quivered and pushed Norman away without a word, choking Lisa by the throat while sneering, “You really know how to seek your own doom.”

Knowing that things were going in the wrong direction, Norman pounced forward and yelled, “Don’t, Mr. Law! Please don’t. Stop for my sake.”

Henry pushed Norman away and sneered, “Do it for your sake? Who do you think you are? If you have the energy to beg me for mercy, why didn’t you use it to educate your daughter properly instead?”

Suddenly, Erik spoke, “Know when to stop, Henry.”

Henry turned around while narrowing his eyes, looking Erik up and down. He then grinned from ear to ear. “Are you trying to defend her?”

Erik’s mouth began twitching. He had no intention of intervening actually, but his father Brad gave him a look just now so he had no choice but to step forward.

“The Laws are the host for this banquet tonight and we’re just your guests. As the host, I think it’s a little too much for you to beat your guest. If you have anything to say, we can always talk after our meal, don’t you think? The old masters are waiting,” Erik said.

Henry sneered and said, “Stop talking nonsense. Why should I wait just because you tell me to? Who do you think you are?”

Erik’s expression sank. He was infuriated. Staring coldly at Henry, he said, “Our elders are here, it’s not your place to teach me what to do!”

Henry was just about to retort when Jasper walked up and patted him on the shoulder, beckoning him to let go.

Although Henry was displeased, he was willing to listen to Jasper and let go of Lisa's neck.

However, only seconds after Henry let go of her, a slap landed on Lisa's face.

Jasper was the one who hit her.

Lisa cried out. Henry had slapped the left side of her cheek, and now Jasper slapped the right side of her cheek. All of a sudden, her face was so red and swollen that it looked like a pig. Her gaze when she glared at Jasper was vicious.

At the sight of Jasper's cold eyes, however, Lisa was forced to swallow her resentment back in.

"This slap is to stop you from saying nonsense," Jasper said flatly.

Having said that, he did not spare Lisa another glance at all and turned around to say to Zachary and Brad, "It's almost time. Why don't we enter the Imperial Ballroom first?"

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Jasper's words eased up the tense atmosphere a little.

Zachary smiled, leading Henry and Anna into the room first.

Brad and Erik followed closely behind.

When Brad walked past Jasper, he stopped in his tracks and sized Jasper up and down. He suddenly said with a smile, "Would you like to come to the Turners' to have tea some time?"

Everyone else put on a skeptical expression as soon as Brad said those words.

What was that supposed to mean?

Was he trying to draw Jasper over to his side?

Was he trying to mess with the Laws?

Zachary, who had not walked too far yet, smiled without a single care. He then walked straight into the Imperial Ballroom.

If Brad's method was that useful, then he, Zachary, would have been doomed a long time ago.

Besides, the relationship between the Laws and Jasper was not a simple partnership that outsiders thought it to be. After going through so many trials and errors together, the Laws and Jasper had already become one.

Among the three other richest families in Harbor City, it was common knowledge that if anyone laid a finger on Jasper, then that person was also going against the Laws.

In other words, 'I, Zachary Law, have a gorgeous and outstanding daughter like Anna. What the f*ck do you have, Brad?'

Norman and Ian both looked at Jasper with a complicated expression.

They did not expect Jasper to be so outstanding that even Brad would extend an invitation to him.

This qualification was so rare that even the two of them who were from the same generation as Brad had never enjoyed such privilege before, let alone their peers.

When Brad finished his sentence, he stared fixedly at Jasper, seemingly looking forward to his answer.

Jasper was not surprised. He smiled and said, "Thanks for the invitation, Uncle Turner, but I have too much to do lately. If I can find the time to make a visit, I would love to drop by and have tea with you."

He was not disrespectful when he said those words.

It was enough to not make it too embarrassing for Brad as his 'elder', but at the same time, Jasper was not accepting the invitation either.

Speaking was an art, and Jasper had clearly gained full proficiency in this art.

Brad was not surprised when Jasper declined his invitation. He had even prepared himself for Jasper's curt rejection.

On the contrary, he now saw Jasper in a new light because his words did not leave him feeling humiliated at all.

He then smiled and patted Jasper amiably on the shoulder, saying, "Not bad. You're pretty outstanding compared to your peers. I'll be waiting for your good news then."

Brad left after saying those words.

He was, after all, at the same level and status as Zachary, so there was no need for him to be too affected by Jasper.

In Brad's opinion, Jasper and Erik's quarrel earlier was nothing more than a fight between children. It was not worth mentioning at all.

Generals would fight against generals, soldiers with soldiers. There was no reason for him, a general, to deal with a soldier like Jasper himself.

Following behind Brad, Erik twitched his mouth before walking ahead. He then said in a low voice, "You don't know how to appreciate what's good for you."

Jasper was still wearing a faint smile on his face as though he did not hear what Erik said.

When the Laws and Turners had entered the Imperial Ballroom, only Norman, Ian, and Lisa were left at the scene.

"Please enter," Jasper said to Norman and Ian flatly.

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Norman's expression shifted, and he stared at the embarrassed expression on his daughter's face with heart-wrenching pain. He took a deep breath and decided. "We won't be joining you for dinner later."

Jasper replied calmly, "Why not come in for a seat since you're already here anyway?"

Norman had a complicated expression on his face. "Benny's still in the hospital and he has an operation waiting for him. My daughter doesn't seem up for it today either, and I wouldn't want to make a fool of myself in front of the two old masters."

Jasper looked at Norman indifferently. "It's too late for you to regret it now that you've already chosen your stand. Did you think that retreating now will keep you out of the problem?"

Norman growled. "What do you want, then? A fight to the death?"

Jasper smiled. "Your words are a little too harsh for my liking. I much prefer peace, and I'm sure there's nothing that we cannot negotiate."

Just then, Ian walked over and stared intently at Jasper. "What do we have to do for you to leave us alone?"

Jasper smiled. "Isn't it too late to ask me this question? Plus, say that I let you off, what makes you think the Turners will too?"

"Then that is still a problem between us and the Turner family. What I'm talking about right now is your attitude!" Ian bellowed.

Jasper turned to Lisa and saw the utter resentment in her eyes before he suddenly spoke, "No room for discussion then."

Jasper never had the urge to bully people unwarrantedly, for he had always lived with the motto 'peaceful unless provoked'.

Yet that did not mean he was some saint.

He knew that if he did not completely destroy people who bore grave distaste for him, they would only cause him more trouble in the future.

Especially when it came to people like the Gardners and the Hulls. These people had both money and power and could create issues for him at any turn.

He knew that Lisa and Ian would not thank him for his mercy if he kindly forgave them but would only take advantage of it to recover and take revenge.

To prevent further complications, Jasper had to make sure that he completely removed any ability they had left to fight back or take revenge.

A flurry of expressions flashed through both Ian and Norman's faces when they heard Jasper's words.

There was regret, indignation, and most importantly, fury.

They felt that Jasper was looking down on them.

"If you think that you've already crushed both our families, then leave." Ian's expression calmed as he looked at Jasper coldly.

Jasper smiled and turned to enter the Imperial Ballroom.

Pushing open the door, everyone could be seen sitting scattered on the sofa in the magnificent and shimmering Imperial Ballroom. The round table had already been repaired after the fight last night, and there was no sign of any damage.

Once everyone was there, Jasper then notified the rest.

There was no way the old masters would wait for others at the hotel, so they would only arrive once they knew that everyone else was there.

More than ten minutes later, Jasper received a notification and relayed it to Zachary and Brad. Then, the three of them went downstairs together.

Jasper and Zachary conversed happily along the way, leaving Brad to glare at the two coldly and silently.

The three waited for a quick moment downstairs before two cars arrived, one closely behind the other.

Old Master Law and Old Master Turner alighted their cars at almost the same time. Both Zachary and Brad went to greet their fathers.

This was the first time Jasper had seen Old Master Turner. Age-wise, he appeared to be six to seven years older than Old Master Law. However, the man would live a long life. From what he remembered of his past life, Old Master Turner only passed at the age of 105 years old.

Now in his 80s, Old Master Turner was still a very lively man and there was no sign of senescence despite his head that was full of white hair.

Old Master Turner was the epitome of 'old but vigorous.'

Old Master Turner smiled and walked toward Old Master Law, reaching a hand out. "It's been over a decade since we last met, Tom. How have you been?"