

Life at the Top Chapter 541

The futures for the price of cotton suddenly began to increase after it had fallen from the peak.

The rise in trend was even steeper than its drop.

In a quick moment, the price had already increased by 1,800 Someer Dollars. Not only did it surpass the previous peak, but it seemed to be going strong as it continued to rise.

“It’s rising! It’s rising!” John shouted in surprise.

Kai stared at the market. Not only had all his losses returned to his account, but he had earned a few hundred thousand dollars as well.

If he sold his futures now, his 800,000 capital would become 1.48 million excluding procedural costs.

“It’s been less than an hour since the market opened. In only a few minutes, less than 20 since I entered the market...”

Kai stared at Jasper with disbelief.

As a man who worked in finance, he was no stranger to the stock market and futures.

However, despite working in it for so long, this was the first time he found out how much fun the futures market could be.

In less than 20 minutes, he now had almost twice his capital.

Not even by printing money could he earn so much so quickly!

“How... How are you so certain that it'll rise?” Kai was stunned and truly impressed with Jasper. His tone when he asked the question was humble and polite as if he was asking his teacher for help.

“Domestic cotton production has been expanding these years, and this year's output has accounted for 23% of the world's total cotton production.”

Jasper clicked on the statistics on the authoritative statistics website. Pointing at a report, Jasper spoke coolly, “So a 40% decrease in cotton production this year would directly cause a shrink in worldwide cotton production.

“The previous increase was a reaction within the domestic market, but the international market hadn't reacted yet.

“So we just needed to wait for the prices in the international stock market to rise. The funds and hot money will then flow toward the source of this entire incident, that is our domestic futures market.”

Jasper chuckled before continuing calmly, “If the country has enough funds to raise the price of cotton by 16% in around 20 minutes, how much do you think it'll rise when the international funds enter?”

Jasper's words stunned the entire office.

After a long while, Samuel ground his molars and broke the silence in a dark voice, “You're just lucky this time!”

“He managed to turn a 98% loss in the account to a profit of twice the amount lost in an instant. I'm pretty sure this is more than just luck,” John sneered at Samuel and spoke.

Samuel harrumphed silently, but he was internally stunned by Jasper's ability to turn the tables around. However, he still put on a stubborn front. "Don't forget that Jasper is supposed to earn six million today, or he'll still be the one losing."

Samuel glared at Jasper and scoffed. "Don't look so happy so quickly. Do you think prices can grow seven times from what they started as? What a joke!"

Jasper ignored Samuel and stared at the market changes on the screen before him. He was trying to recall everything he could about this incident from his past life.

From what he remembered of his past life, the domestic futures had reached a peak of 23,800 for the price of cotton. Later that afternoon, after the country came to an agreement with a few others about cotton import trade, the prices began to drop in retaliation."

If this were shares, then such a huge amplitude in a day would surely earn a lot of money.

After all, shares bought today could only be sold tomorrow. It was the only procedure.

Yet the futures market was different. Purchase and selling could be done at any time, regardless of its precedence.

As a result, huge amplitudes in price would generate a huge profit margin.

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"Keep increasing your positions. Use the funds you just earned to form a pyramid chain of positions," Jasper suddenly spoke.

The futures market had a very unique trading rule, which was investors were allowed to buy futures with the profit they earned—if any—even though they had not closed their positions yet.

In one way, this greatly increased their profits. Yet at the same time, it also added to their risks.

For example, after a revenue total of 1.48 million with his capital of 800,000, Kai had earned a profit of 680,000. He could use his profits to buy more futures.

However, doing so meant that Kai was putting himself at a higher risk.

After all, the moment the prices dropped beyond the position line, then Kai would end up having to liquidate as well.

Jasper's instruction had Kai's heart lurching in his chest.

While he was afraid of risks, Jasper had also just displayed his skills. As such, Kai stopped hesitating and clenched his jaw, doing as Jasper instructed.

Beside them, Samuel scoffed. "What kind of f*cking idiotic tactic is this? I've never seen anyone so unafraid of death like you. You're going to have to liquidate the moment the prices drop by 500 Somer Dollars if you buy in now.

"Listen to my advice, Jones. Just close your position. Leave now and you'll still have your 680,000 profit. Or you'll end up losing that 800,000 capital in a bit."

Already high-strung, Kai was easily pissed. He coldly replied, "I don't need your opinions about how I'm supposed to use my money."

Kai had already completed the buy-in by the time he finished speaking.

After that came Samuel's sarcastic comments while Kai and John watched in fear as the cotton futures price continued to rise steadily.

There were slight jumps and drops, but the price remained at around 16,000 Somer Dollars the entire time.

It was around noon when Jasper stood to stretch. "Time for the market to take a break. Everything else will continue in the afternoon. Let's eat first."

Samuel scoffed. "I'd like to see how you're going to die later!"

"I can't help but feel excited thinking about how you're going to pay me six million Somer Dollars this afternoon."

Kai glared at Samuel coldly and turned to Jasper. "Should we eat lunch in a nearby hotel, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper shook his head with a smile. "It's alright. I don't have the habit of leaving the area when I'm trading, so let's just order food in the office. Have someone send three portions of food in, please."

Kai was stunned. He had planned to treat Jasper to something nice, so he was a little lost now.

Take-out food seemed too sorry a meal.

However, John interrupted with a smile, "Just listen to Jasper, Kai. Take-out food for three."

Kai glanced at Samuel who was flushing bright red at the moment and understood. Laughing aloud, he agreed. "Alright. I'll have someone get it done."

Still, there was no way Kai would actually order take-out, so he had an employee head over to the booked hotel and order the dishes from there.

In no time, delicious dishes were placed all over a table that had been put together in the office.

However, there were only three sets of cutleries even though there were four people in the room!

Seeing how Jasper, Kai, and John had each found a seat for themselves and began to happily chat with one another while eating, Samuel paled in envy and anger. He had been purposely left behind!

“How dare you humiliate me like this?!” Samuel roared with his jaw tight.

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Jasper picked up a piece of fish and placed it into his mouth. He looked at Samuel who was furious and spoke in a shocked tone, “Why are you still here, Mr. Ray? Did you want to eat with us too? Oh, why didn’t you say so earlier, Mr. Ray? We would’ve prepared a set of utensils for you too.”

Kai almost laughed aloud. Although he was joyful, he pretended to look sad. “That’s right. I would’ve brought you to a large hotel for a meal if I knew you were eating with us, Mr. Ray.

“How could someone as formidable as Mr. Ray eat take-out with people like us?”

John asked Samuel mirthfully, “Are you hungry from watching us eat, Mr. Ray? While I do want to let you sit, we don’t have another chair or another set of cutleries. If you don’t mind, Mr. Ray, you could wait until I’m done to use my chair and cutleries?”

Bang!

Samuel slammed a palm on the table and glared at the three of them furiously. He was seething, and he spat out the words from the gaps in his teeth. "Have your fun now, but I'd like to see if you three can still smile this afternoon!"

"There's no way you can earn six million. I've been investing for more than a decade and there has never been a time since I started working in this line of business that I've seen a seven-fold increase in prices! You're going to screw yourselves over, just you wait!"

"If you don't welcome me here, fine! I can leave. But I will be back when the market reopens in the afternoon. I'm gonna claim that six million Somer Dollars from you!"

With a furious expression, Samuel turned to leave.

"Hold on, Mr. Ray."

Jasper's voice sounded.

Samuel halted and turned his head to sneer at Jasper. "What's this, begging for mercy now? Sure, it's not too late yet. Kneel before me and beg and then hand me the six million. I can consider leaving you alone if you do that."

Jasper took a sip of his drink and spoke calmly, "You've misunderstood, Mr. Ray. I wanted to remind you to bring your checkbook when you come back in the afternoon. Six million and not a cent less."

The corner of Samuel's lips twitched as his gaze grew cold. His furious expression was slowly darkening as well.

"How about you worry about yourself first?! You'd better be able to take that money out later or I won't be blamed for f*cking you over!"

Samuel then turned and walked out the door.

Kai quietly asked Jasper after Samuel left, “Mr. Laine, are you certain about later?”

Jasper asked calmly as he ate, “Why, are you scared?”

Kai replied solemnly, “Of course, I’m scared. I’m putting my entire net worth and my life on the line here, but I won’t doubt you anymore, Mr. Laine. This is just pure nerves.”

Jasper smiled. “Before today, you two probably thought that it’d be impossible to earn six million with 800,000 in a day, right?”

Kai shared a look with John and replied in embarrassment, “Indeed. After all, I’ve never heard of such a thing.”

Turning 800,000 into six million was nothing. In two years, a venerable master would appear in the futures market, turning 1.2 million into 40 million in the short span of half a month. This was a record no one managed to break even until Jasper reincarnated.

Not that Jasper would tell the two of them that, of course. The man merely smiled and replied, “But you have hope now, don’t you? I’d say it’s worth the gamble if you’re hopeful. Miracles won’t happen to you if you’re not willing to take the risk or pay the price.

“Taking a step back, let’s ignore your 800,000 dollars for a moment. I have six million Somer Dollars and my dignity on the line here, so I’ve got this.”

Kai exhaled deeply at Jasper’s words and replied firmly, “Alright then, Mr. Laine. I’ll do whatever you say later in the afternoon. I won’t hesitate anymore.

“I know that I lost out on a few hundred thousand this morning when I hesitated for two minutes, but it definitely won’t happen again later.”

Jasper nodded. “It’s good that you know.”

The market had a lunch break of two and a half hours. Lunch took up about half the time, leaving more than an hour left before the market reopened.

Jasper lay on the sofa and spoke, "I'm taking a small nap. Wake me up when it's time."

Jasper then closed his eyes to rest.

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Looking at this scene, Kai pursed his lips slightly and asked John, "Is... is Mr. Laine always this laid-back?"

John gave a wry chuckle. "Perhaps extraordinary people have extraordinary traits."

As he spoke, John lay down on another sofa and advised, "You should also rest for a little. We still have business to handle in the afternoon."

Kai grimaced and replied, "I'm not in the mood for taking a nap. Both of you go ahead and rest; I'm going to look up some news on the internet."

Kai sat down in front of the computer as he said this. He began checking through and scrutinizing every bit of news related to the poor cotton harvest.

When the groggy Jasper was woken up by Kai, it was already 1.29 pm, just one minute away from the markets opening.

At practically the same time that Jasper woke up, the office door was pushed open, and Samuel walked in with a sneering face.

He took out a cheque from his breast pocket and slapped it down onto the table noisily, saying with lofty arrogance, “Open your sorry eyes wide and take a good look at this. It’s a cheque worth 6 million dollars. Take it if you think you have the chops.”

As he spoke, Samuel then sneered at Jasper. “It’s not too late right now for you to admit defeat and beg for mercy. If not, when you lose everything in just a little while, I won’t let you off so easily!”

Jasper did not even spare Samuel a glance. He turned to look at Kai and asked, “Has the market opened? What’s the price?”

Kai began eyeing the screen nervously. When he heard Jasper’s questions, he immediately responded, “The market’s open. It’s gone up by 20 bucks. It’s not that big of a margin.”

Compared to 16000 dollars, an increase of 20 bucks increase was, in truth, rather mediocre.

Jasper was about to say something when Kai suddenly shrieked, “There’s a long green line—it’s rising. A large buy order just came in—it’s still rising! It’s 17000 now!”

Jasper furrowed his brows. He walked over to the computer and saw that at present, the price of cotton futures had surged to 17050 dollars for every tonne and it was still going up.

In his previous life, the cotton futures had finally stopped at a price of 18980 dollars. It was then followed by an announcement and a sudden drop. The closing price that day had ended up being 12600 dollars.

Firmly remembering these crucial numbers, Jasper ordered, “Use the profits to keep buying in and adding to the position.”

They had already pyramided once that morning. If they were to do it again, the risk would be extremely high.

This time, however, Kai did not hesitate at all and used the profit they made from the surge in price to buy in again.

Samuel eyed Jasper coldly. He did not say anything this time; he merely bided his time patiently and waited to see when this young brat would lose everything.

This was such a high-risk venture that even a veritable god of stocks and shares would not dare play in the market. Did a callow youngster like Jasper think that he could?

Right after that, the price continued going up, from 17000 dollars to 17500 dollars, and then to 18000 dollars. It was like a slap in Samuel's face.

With one resistance point after another being broken, it was as if the flow of capital had gone mad, and everyone was beginning to rush into the futures market to get a piece of the pie.

Samuel stared at the 18800 dollar price and felt his heart race with trepidation and alarm.

In disbelief, he looked at Jasper, who had been calm and composed since the very beginning. His own heart was beating wildly.

At this moment, Samuel was not the only one—Kai and John were also about to lose their minds.

An hour into opening and their initial capital of 800,000 had grown to 3.9 million!

While Kai and John were trying to find words to express how much they worshipped Jasper, Jasper himself still maintained a tense expression.

“Now, close the position and sell it all off. Then, start shorting it..”

Jasper’s words hit all three people present like a lightning bolt from the blue.

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In Jasper’s previous life, the ceiling price of the cotton market this time was locked at 18,980 dollars then.

However, the price now was 18,800 dollars.

It seemed that there was still about a 200-dollar profit margin, but Jasper had never been an overly self-assured person.

This was because he found that his influence in the present time and space was becoming increasingly greater as he made use of his memory from his past life.

He had no way of guaranteeing that the price of cotton would be locked at 18,980 dollars this time around. If they missed the opportunity, leading to a monumental crash in the price, it would be difficult even if they wanted to sell it off by that time.

Regardless if it were his own investment or if he were helping Kai to ride out his difficult time, he would not rely on his past memories anymore.

When it came to profits, it was enough to be able to gain the most of it. One should never become too greedy for the leftovers.

At this moment, however, Jasper’s decision had stunned the three of them including Samuel.

Seeing the price suddenly spiking exponentially, Jasper informed them that they should close their position.

They could take it as safekeeping by taking the profits into their pockets.

Going against the trend and short selling, however, what the heck was this move?

Samuel's heart was drumming at first, afraid that he would lose his say, but when he heard what Jasper said, he could hardly resist the frenzy he felt. He let out a hearty laugh.

"Have you gone mad? You want to short sell at a time like this? Hahaha, what a joke! You really think you can predict the future?"

Samuel's expression was taunting and showed his delight. "Don't tell me you're afraid that you're unable to earn six million and will lose the bet, hence why you're now deciding to take a wild risk? Hahaha, young man, I may not like you but I have to say that you're courageous."

Taking in a deep breath, Kai looked at Jasper with a questioning gaze.

Jasper furrowed his brows and said out loud, "Did you forget what you told me before?"

Kai was filled with excitement from head to toe. He had indeed made up his mind back then that he would do whatever Jasper asked of him.

In this present situation, however, anyone with a discerning eye could tell that there would be an increasing trend. Jasper, on the other hand, wanted to act against the trend. Kai was in a dilemma.

"Kai, listen to him!" John said eagerly.

He was the one who had the most faith in Jasper, given he had seen Jasper perform miracles with his own eyes before. He could very well make it happen again.

With a sigh, Kai cursed before immediately doing as Jasper said.

“You’re mad, you’re all mad!”

Samuel looked at Kai as he closed their position before quickly selling it short. At last, he let out a hysterical laugh. “Though it’s good that you’ve gone mad. How would I win otherwise? This is so ridiculous, to actually be selling short at a time like this. Hahahaha!”

Regardless of what Samuel said, Kai had already completed the entire transaction.

Meanwhile, the entirety of the futures market had not fluctuated at all despite Kai’s entry of millions of dollars. It was like a drop of water in the ocean, there was not even a splash.

The transaction had been successful, but at this moment, the price of cotton was still rising.

Even though the increase was no longer exponential, people with discerning eyes would be able to tell that a rising trend like this would continue for a period of time.

Kai looked at the backend of his account. The numbers were red and in the losses. His complexion was pale.

In just a short moment after he closed his position, he had lost 400,000 dollars from his 3.9 million capital.

Although they were all profits, Kai still felt his heart bleed.

So much so that his thoughts were constantly churning. If he had not forcibly liquidated the position and held onto the remaining 3.5 million, he could have sustained himself through any of the imminent difficulties.

However, these were all just thoughts. If he had really done that, John, the only friend he had left, would definitely be the first to turn against him.