

Life at the Top Chapter 646

To be honest, it was not considered cheap for two people to spend 200 dollars on a meal in these times.

However, it was not the case if they were at Golden Pedestrian Street in Waterhoof City, a lively and bustling place.

Flynn Herrett's hands had been cramping from the amount of money he handled each day ever since he opened up this restaurant. He had a relative working as a property manager who was initially against him opening up a restaurant here, but they were now on their knees begging him to extend his lease.

After all, for every customer they served, they would order at least 600 or 700 dollars worth of food that cost less than 100 dollars to prepare. These huge, sudden profits had naturally led Flynn to look down upon seemingly poor people who were taking up space like Jasper.

With his sudden surge in wealth combined with the fact he had a property manager backing him up, Flynn was never scared of customers complaining or finding fault with him. Had there been anyone who he failed to deal with?

Jasper gazed calmly at Flynn as he asked, "Do you treat all your customers like this?"

Flynn said exasperatedly, "F*cking hell, you two foreigners are trying to put yourselves on a pedestal now? I've always had this attitude. What are you going to do about it? You can eat here if you want to, or get the hell out if you can't wait any longer!

"You'd best believe that I'll get someone to throw you out if you don't get the hell out right now!"

“I’m going to remain sitting here. Why don’t you try getting your men to kick me out?” Jasper asked calmly.

“Hey!”

Flynn laughed oddly as he said, “Have I met someone who doesn’t know what’s good for them today? Where’s security? Security!”

Two security guards appeared behind Flynn.

“Drag these two dumb foreigners out. F*cking hell, how dare they behave atrociously in my territory? They must be blind.”

Upon hearing Flynn’s orders, the two guards immediately walked toward Jasper so they could drag him down the stairs.

Just then, Julian placed himself in front of Jasper and grabbed hold of the two guards’ wrists with one hand. In a few simple moves, he had the guards howling as they knelt on the floor.

The expression on Flynn’s face turned ugly as he watched his guards clutch their wrists and howl.

“You hit them?! You dare hit my people in my restaurant?!”

Flynn yelled in surprise as he pointed at Jasper and shouted angrily, “Just wait, you stupid foreigner! We’re not done here. You’d best stay here if you have the guts to do so!”

As Flynn spoke, he fished his phone out of his pocket and began making a call.

“I haven’t even had my meal yet, why would I run off?” Jasper asked calmly.

Those who could start businesses on Golden Pedestrian Street all had some level of connections and power. After a moment's thought, Jasper asked Julian to call and inform Victor of what was going on.

Dealing with the city hall was different from dealing with the usual forces. It was best to take care of things from the city hall's level instead of utilizing brute force.

Besides, Jasper planned to publicize what had just happened. Else, bad morale would spread throughout Golden Pedestrian Street if other stores all began imitating them. It would be difficult to remedy the issue if that happened.

Flynn had strong connections. Several uniformed men walked up the stairs after a mere ten minutes.

A calm and composed middle-aged man was among them.

"What's going on?" Scully Herrett asked the minute he arrived.

"Uncle, this is the guy who caused a ruckus in my restaurant and injured two of my guards. You must punish these foreigners severely, or I'll never be able to do business here! They'll all climb over my head!" Flynn immediately ran over to Scully and began complaining.

When he saw that many of the onlookers were tourists, Scully immediately frowned and berated, "Nonsense. Stop pinning the blame on foreigners all the time. How bad could their influence be?"

Then, Scully walked over to Jasper and asked in a low voice, "Did you beat up those two guards?"

Julian stepped forth. "I did."

Scully sneered. "Alright then. I'm in charge of both the property and the security in this area! You two come with me."

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Then, two employees came forth to grab Julian.

Julian frowned and turned to look at Jasper.

Jasper stood and stared at Scully as he said, "Are you going to arrest him without even clarifying the situation first? How high and mighty of you! Besides, what gives you the right to arrest him? Is it because you manage the property here, or because you work as the security here?"

Scully said angrily, "I don't care what reason you had. No matter the situation, hitting people is never the right thing to do, and you should take responsibility for your actions! If your attitude improves after you come with me, I can choose not to phone the police. Else, you're going to spend at least a couple of days in jail!"

Flynn became delighted and sneered as he said, "That's right, did you think you're God? Don't think you can leave here intact!"

Jasper glanced coldly at Scully as he said, "Think twice before bringing me away. You'll have to take responsibility for this."

Scully stared at Jasper and smiled coldly as he said, "From the looks of it, I'm guessing you have some sort of powerful background? I'm dreadfully sorry, but that doesn't mean a thing to me. I don't care who you are. How am I supposed to lead my team in the future if I don't teach you a lesson today?"

Scully had just finished speaking when an angered voice rang out behind him.

"Scully Herrett, just how are you going to lead your team?"

The expression on Scully's face changed when he heard that voice. Turning around, he saw Victor walking toward him with a dark expression on his face. He hurriedly said, "Director Gul, what are you doing here?"

Scully was panicking now because he knew Victor would not have come here for no apparent reason. Could it have anything to do with the young man before him?

What power did this young man hold to be able to summon Director Gul?

Scully immediately felt that things were going to get troubling.

"You would've been in deep trouble if I hadn't come!"

Victor's finger nearly poked Scully in the nose.

He had been present the entire time Jasper was negotiating with the deputy mayor, and he knew how much the deputy mayor had praised Jasper after the latter left.

Without taking other matters into account, the whole city hall would be having a meeting tomorrow to place their support on everything Jasper had invested in Waterhoof City.

Who could receive such treatment?

It would not be an exaggeration to say Jasper was Waterhoof City's God of Wealth now. Not even the deputy mayor would dare insult him.

Yet, Jasper was nearly arrested due to such trivial matters. Many people would be out of luck if a fuss was made over this.

"Director Gul, this is all a misunderstanding," Scully hurriedly explained.

Flynn panicked as well when he assessed the situation and instinctively said, “Director Gul, you might not know this, but these two were causing a ruckus in my restaurant. They even hurt my guards.”

“Bullsh*t!”

As Victor yelled, Flynn received a shower of spit on his face.

“Mr. Laine has already told me what happened just now. You neglected to serve him and spoke rudely because you disliked how he only ordered a few cheap dishes. You were going to kick him out of the restaurant and have him arrested because of this. Flynn Herrett, who gave you the guts to do this? Was it you, Scully Herrett?!”

The expression on Scully’s face changed as he hurriedly said, “No, Director Gul. How would I dare to do that?”

Victor glared at the two before he turned and smiled apologetically at Jasper. “Mr. Laine, I’m so sorry you had to go through that due to our inadequate management. We will definitely take this matter seriously and ensure you’re satisfied.”

Both Scully and Flynn were stunned when they witnessed Victor’s attitude toward Jasper.

They had initially thought Victor was supporting Jasper because he was a youngster he had set his hopes on. However, they had not expected Victor to treat Jasper so respectfully.

“Who on earth are you?” Flynn managed to choke out the words as he glared at Jasper.

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“Who am I?”

Jasper smiled mischievously. “In your eyes, aren’t I just a stupid foreigner from the countryside who has never experienced the outside world?”

Jasper’s words were more effective than a slap as Flynn’s face turned bright red with a sting.

As he watched the color change on Flynn’s face, Jasper said calmly, “However, this country bumpkin might very well be your landlord as well!”

Then, Jasper turned to Victor and asked, “Director Gul, is this property included in my batch of commercial properties as well?”

Both Scully and Flynn were stunned when they heard that question.

What did he mean by his batch of commercial properties?

Could the word ‘batch’ be used as a measure word for commercial properties?

Victor nodded and answered, “Yes, it is.”

“That settles it, then. I’m your landlord,” Jasper said to Flynn.

Then, he narrowed his eyes slightly and turned to Victor as he said, “Director Gul, why don’t you sit down and have a meal with us since you’re already here?”

Victor smiled awkwardly as he said, “Mr. Laine, I can treat you to a meal if we go elsewhere. I don’t think this is a suitable place, do you?”

“Of course, it’s suitable. Why wouldn’t it be?”

“I’ve even ordered four dishes that haven’t been served yet.”

Helpless, Victor could only nod and sit down. At the same time, he glared at Scully and Flynn, his anger apparent in his eyes.

“Aren’t you going to serve the dishes Mr. Laine has ordered? Are you waiting for me to walk to the kitchen myself?”

Scully was smarter. Turning around, he slapped Flynn across the face and scolded him.

Flynn did not dare make even a peep although he had just been slapped. Frightened tears appeared in his aggrieved eyes as he ran down the stairs.

Jasper did not pay any attention to Scully, who did not know if he should sit down or remain standing. After a moment’s thought, Scully brazenly walked up to Jasper and poured him a glass of water. Smiling bitterly, he said, “Mr. Laine, I’ve spoiled my nephew to the point where he’s become arrogant. I hope you don’t mind.”

“He wouldn’t hold a grudge against me and poison my food, right?” Jasper seemed to be holding back a smile as he spoke.

Scully hurriedly answered, “No, no. He would never have the nerve to do that.”

“Mr. Herrett, I wonder how much money your nephew pays to rent this shop?”

The expression on Scully’s face changed abruptly when he heard that question. Smiling awkwardly, he answered, “Well, his circumstance was rather special, which is why he’s only charged 70,000 to 80,000 dollars rent.”

“Any two-floor shops in Waterhoof City would cost more than 70,000 to 80,000 dollars, right? Not to mention the fact that it’s on Golden Pedestrian Street,” Jasper said calmly.

Scully looked to Victor for help.

How could Victor not understand what the look on Scully’s face meant? Due to special circumstances, the commercial properties on this street required their own property company to manage and maintain order.

Scully was one of the people in charge of this company, but who would have expected for him to not only offend Jasper but also drag him into this mess?!

Victor coughed drily as he said to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, the city hall considered various factors back when the commercial properties were first put up for rent, which was why the rent was so cheap in those early stages. After all, the main focus during the early stages was to attract more businesses so we could drive up the area’s popularity and economic conditions.”

“I understand. After all, it must not be easy to work in the city hall.” Jasper was even more fluent than Victor in talking business, and he smiled as he spoke.

Victor was stunned. He had no idea what Jasper intended to do by drawing the conversation in this direction.

Just then, Flynn had hurriedly assembled a group of waiters and got them to serve the three dishes and one stew that Jasper had ordered as quickly as possible. He had also included seven to eight expensive dishes.

Both Scully and Victor cursed inwardly when they saw the seven to eight free dishes that were wildly expensive.

Sure enough, Jasper halted the conversation when he saw the additional dishes and asked, “Chef Herrett, did you think I didn’t order these dishes because I couldn’t afford them? Are you taking pity on me?”

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A trickle of cold sweat appeared on Flynn's forehead as he hurriedly explained, "No, I would never dare to do so. I'm just trying to make it up for how I offended you just now, Mr. Laine."

"Making up for a mistake is a must, but these aren't necessary. They won't solve the problem," Jasper said coldly.

"Stupid fool! Aren't you going to take them away?" Scully gritted his teeth as he bellowed at Flynn.

Flynn had no idea what he had done wrong. However, the only thing he could do was get his staff to remove all the dishes that had been added before he stood at attention on the sidelines.

Jasper used his fork to get himself a meatball and said to Victor, "Director Gul, let's eat. Don't be shy."

Victor laughed bitterly. He had no choice but to pick up his cutlery and begin eating, even if the food tasted bland to him.

"Let's continue with our previous conversation," Jasper said as he ate.

"I don't care how the leases for these commercial properties were worded previously. Either way, the previous leases will naturally all become invalid now that I've bought these 266 commercial properties. I wouldn't want any complicated relationships getting in the way of the area's advancement in the future."

“I spent so much money buying these commercial properties, there’s no way I’ll rent them out for 70,000 to 80,000 dollars. I wouldn’t be able to get even the interest back. Director Gull, I trust you guys would be able to understand, right?”

The expression on Victor’s face changed as he hurriedly said, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll take care of the relevant work to clear out all the problematic contracts.”

“That’s good. I won’t have to trouble anyone above you if that’s the case. After all, they have a lot of matters to take care of every day, and I would be embarrassed to trouble them with such trivial things,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Victor finally breathed a sigh of relief.

What Jasper said sounded soft and gentle, but in reality, it was an iron fist in a velvet glove.

He had made his meaning clear. Victor could be in charge of this if he was capable enough. If he was not, Jasper would look for his superiors.

How would Victor have the guts to let the deputy mayor know about the sh*tshow that had happened today? All the praises he received this afternoon would have been for nothing, and he might even end up getting punished instead.

Flynn felt his knees go weak when he finished listening to the conversation.

He was sure of one thing.

Jasper was really his landlord.

Not only was he his landlord, but he was the landlord for all 266 commercial properties on Golden Pedestrian Street!

266 commercial properties!

How f*cking much would that cost?!

Flynn did not even dare imagine how huge that figure was. However, he knew that even if every person he had met since he was born were to give him 100 dollars, he still would not have enough money to buy 266 commercial properties.

Face ashen, Flynn nearly fell to the ground. God knew what sort of big shot he had offended.

“There’s one other thing.”

Flynn shuddered instinctively and looked fearfully at Jasper when he spoke again. He had a feeling that whatever Jasper was going to say would be directed to him.

“I can’t control the other places, but I want all 266 tenants on Golden Pedestrian Street to view everyone as equals and treat each other with the same level of enthusiasm.

“To a lesser extent, the 266 commercial properties on Golden Pedestrian Street are my, Jasper Laine’s, property. But they represent the prestige of Waterhoof City to a greater extent. If the business operators here are all like Flynn Herrett, who serves customers based on the number of dishes they order and screams to have tourists kicked out of the place...

“...this pedestrian street would be ruined sooner or later. I will never allow my industry to be ruined by black sheep.”

Jasper slammed his fork down onto the table when he finished speaking. Standing, he took 200 dollars from his wallet and threw the bills down as he said, “Chef Herrett, I’ve paid for this meal. However, you have to take responsibility for your actions.”

As Jasper spoke, he smiled at Victor and said, “Director Gul, I’m going to have to trouble you.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I know how I should take care of things. I’ll definitely give you results that you’ll be satisfied with.”

Victor had a solemn expression on his face as he nodded.

“Alright, we’ve finished eating. Julian, let’s go!”

Jasper stood and walked down the stairs with Julian. Those who stayed back had unusually complicated expressions on their faces.

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Julian seemed to have something he wanted to say to Jasper on the way back.

Jasper asked, “What’s up? You can say anything that’s on your mind, Julian. No need for formalities between us.”

Julian scratched his head as he said, “Jasper, will the person you called Director Gul be dissatisfied with the way you treated him just now? It might be a problem if he decides to make things difficult for you in the future.”

Jasper smiled as he said, “Julian, I realize that you’ve learned how to read people now.”

Julian said rather shyly, “I’ve slowly picked up on some things after spending time with you, Jasper. But there are some things I still can’t understand.”

“Well then, I’ll explain it to you.”

Jasper looked out the car window at the scenes of Waterhoof City that were flashing by and said, "We cannot treat Victor Gul as an individual when we deal with him.

"He represents the city hall of Waterhoof City. As businessmen, we only engage in legal trading and make our earnings via legal methods. Our relationship is a cooperative one rather than subordinative. Of course, I'm willing to cooperate with the workings of Waterhoof City Hall, but at the same time, they can't merely stay on the sidelines without lifting a finger when we're in trouble.

"The way I treated him tonight will be documented in a detailed report that will appear on the mayor's desk tomorrow. Thus, this is my way of making my stand known to Waterhoof City Hall."

Julian only understood half of what Jasper meant, but he still nodded. He did not know that what Jasper had just told him would be the real reason why JW Consortium could take the lead and dominate the market in the future.

"Jasper, how do you manage to think of so many things?" Julian asked curiously.

He sometimes thought that Jasper's brain was different from the average person's. He saw things as they were, but Jasper could manage to think outside the box.

"You learn to take more things into consideration after suffering losses," Jasper said slowly.

He had suffered multiple losses due to his simple mind in his past life.

Julian was even more confused now. He had never seen Jasper suffer losses ever since he started working for him. His opponents would always be the ones suffering losses... However, Julian did not ask any further questions. He knew he would never attain the same level of success as Jasper in his life.

Jasper got a call from Henry when he returned to the hotel.

“F*ck, are you having the time of your life in Waterhoof City?”

Henry, who was nearly drowning amidst a sea of project documents in his hotel room at Nauritius City, asked with a jealous expression on his face.

Jasper clicked his tongue as he said, “The streets of Waterhoof City are filled with beautiful ladies. It’s a pity you didn’t come along.”

Henry was even more distressed and had a bitter expression on his face as he threatened, “Don’t mess around. I won’t say more about Wendy Schuler since you guys got to know each other even earlier. However, as your future brother-in-law, I won’t allow you to continue being a womanizer after getting together with my sister.”

“Let’s get down to business. How’s it going with the matter I asked you to deal with?” Jasper could not be bothered to pay any attention to the man whose rationality was blinded by jealousy.

“I was just about to tell you. The chief designer from Gensler Design and Architecture Firm, Grant Morgan, will be rushing over with his team to meet you at Waterhoof City tomorrow.

“But I’m curious to know why you’re so insistent on using their design. Aren’t you going to consider the top architectural firms like SOM or KPF?”

Of course, Jasper would never tell Henry that in his past life, Waterhoof City Financial Tower only existed because it had been the design from Gensler Design and Architecture Firm that was selected.

“They might only be ranked fifth among the architecture firms in America, but their designs are not lacking compared to the four firms above them. Besides, design is something based on personal taste. There’s no such thing as the best design, only the design that best fits you.”

