

Life at the Top Chapter 691

“F*cking hell! You ignorant and stupid f*cker. Who the f*ck do you think you are, hmm? The country has more than 100 cities like Reed City, but you think you’re the sh*t?”

“You think that just because people in Reed City call you ‘Young Master’ that you’re suddenly some trust-fund baby? F*cking bullsh*t! It’s ignorant b*stards like you who don’t know sh*t who has tarnished the reputation of all trust-fund babies!”

Henry swung the baton as he spoke, the act now looking like a form of art in his hands. The baton knocked on Ned again and again, and after a couple of hits, Ned had lost even the strength to make a sound. He lay on the floor and twitched, seemingly half a breath away from death.

“That’s enough, Henry.” Jasper stopped the man.

Henry might actually kill Ned in his fit of rage if he kept attacking.

Jasper did not care if Ned died, but he would not take revenge on someone as pointless as Ned. The main targets were the Adkins and Coine families supporting Ned. Killing Ned now would only further complicate this already complicated situation.

Henry heard Jasper and passed the baton back to the bodyguard with a pant.

Feeling hot from all the action, Henry loosened his collar and pointed at Ned who lay limply on the ground. “Drag this pile of flesh out to the corridor. We’re at the hospital anyway, so just leave him there.”

Two bodyguards quickly came over and bent down to grab a leg each before they dragged Ned over.

Everything was done with such practiced ease that it was proof this was not the first time they had helped Henry do such a thing.

After Ned was dragged away, Henry came to Jasper's bed and chuckled. "You weren't being nice this time. You know how much I like bullying *sshholes like him, so how could you come here and have fun all by yourself without me?"

"Yes, so fun I landed in the hospital," Jasper spat back irritably.

Henry was elated. "Thank goodness you're alright. Or this would be a much greater problem."

"The old master knows?" Jasper asked in shock.

"Not yet, we're hiding it from him. But my dad knows," Henry replied with a beam.

"He told me to tell you to screw them over. Do whatever you want and f*ck them up. Not for yourself, but for investors like us so we can have a better environment to invest in."

"Let's be honest, you're not the only one who's had to deal with this. The Law family has had to deal with this in too many places when we wanted to invest in those locations. Absolutely disgusting behavior. My dad has decided that he'll make quite a few calls to Swallow Capital this time, so this will most likely blow up to the point where the higher-ups are made aware."

Jasper frowned and spoke, "That changes the meaning of all of this, then."

"So what if it changes? Were you planning to just leave the matter be?" Henry glared at him from the corners of his eyes.

“Bullsh*t.” Jasper’s expression was dark. “I almost died, there’s no way I’m leaving this alone.”

Henry broke into a wide smile. “There we go. Don’t worry about it, you have the higher-ups supporting you. An eye for an eye.”

Henry had just finished speaking when someone knocked on the door.

Hearing that Mr. Powers had come to visit him, Henry spoke calmly, “Let him in.”

The door to the ward opened and Mr. Powers smiled bitterly at the sight of Jasper sitting indifferently on the hospital bed. “You look resentful, Mr. Laine.”

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“You must be joking, Mr. Powers. I just woke up. I don’t even know what has happened yet.”

Jasper knew that he could not blame Mr. Powers for what had happened. He was just angry about the fact that he had almost lost his life here in Reed City.

“I’m not here just to visit you, Mr. Laine. I was given a mission.”

Mr. Powers pulled out his phone and dialed a number before turning to Jasper. “The chief wishes to speak to you.”

Jasper’s heart skipped a beat. This ‘chief’ Mr. Powers spoke of must certainly be referring to the chief of Reed City’s government.

“Could everyone else please leave the room with me?” Mr. Powers requested politely.

Seeing Jasper nod, everyone left the room with Mr. Powers, leaving Jasper and one more person in the room.

...

An hour later.

Jasper called out to Wendy and the rest who were waiting by the door.

Wendy and Henry came in together.

“What did you talk about?” Wendy asked attentively.

Jasper smiled. “Nothing much. We just reestablished the relationship between us. We also showed our hands and talked a bit about the follow-up process, just so we both get a general idea of what’s going to happen.

“No one is allowed to interfere with the investment and no one is allowed to disrupt the peace in society.

“That was what the chief of Reed City’s government meant and it’s their stance on the matter.”

Henry pursed his lips. “Should’ve done that long ago.”

“Every place has its own rules, this goes for them too.” Jasper shook his head but did not dwell on the topic.

“This should be the end to Marcus and Ned, then!”

...

Marcus was in a horrible mood today, for he found out that the situation with Jasper was more complicated than he thought.

The only reason why the Coine family could have such a strong footing in Reed City was that Grandpa Coine was still alive.

While Grandpa Coine had been doing business in Reed City for years and never once left the city, he had quite a few friends outside.

Thus, the Coine family had gotten wind of what happened as well.

Even Swallow Capital had called the city government a few times after Jasper was sent to the hospital.

Apparently, a higher-up had made himself clear and scolded the chief of Reed City's government. They were also using this incident as an example and discussed it during a private meeting.

Although he was hiding in Reed City, Marcus could tell that something was different.

"Seriously, Dad? Do I have to leave?" Marcus looked at Len and spoke unwillingly.

Len took a drag out of his cigarette and spoke grimly, "This is your grandfather's idea. The situation has been blown up out of proportion and Jasper's power lies further than just the Southeast Province... Basically, we were rash this time and you have to leave. I've already prepared the transport and everything else for you. You'll be leaving Reed City on a ferry later in the afternoon and you'll wait until everything smooths out before you come back.

"No matter what happens after, you have to learn to be humble."

Marcus was shocked when he heard Len's pessimistic words. "What are you talking about, Dad? You're telling me that Jasper's going to topple us or something? No one would have the guts to do that in Reed City!"

“Reed City?” Len scoffed. “How big do you think Reed City is? And how big do you think the world outside is? Do you really think the Coine family stands above everyone?”

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Marcus paled. Fear and unease overwhelmed his chest as he paced around the room, complaining, “I thought they said that Jasper has woken up? That means he’s fine, no? So why won’t he just move on and leave us alone?”

“This isn’t just a conflict between us and Jasper anymore. Our situation has become a case study in meetings and the higher-ups need to give investors a sign of a good investing environment. To them, people like us have become an eyesore that must be removed,” Len spoke weakly and sighed deeply.

“Who does Jasper think he is? He’s hardly worth us becoming a topic of discussion with the higher-ups,” Marcus spoke disbelievingly.

Just then, the doors were slammed open and a bunch of uniformed officers entered.

“Who are you? What are you doing?! Do you even know where this is? Tell me what your leader’s name is! Who gave you the right to barge into my home?”

Startled, Marcus stared at the group of intruders and shouted fiercely.

However, these men no longer spoke courteously like they usually did and were being very formal. “Marcus Coine, you’re suspected of defrauding state-owned assets. We’re here to bring you in for investigation.”

With that, two officers stepped over and surrounded him.

Marcus was truly terrified now and he fought back while shouting at Len, “Dad! Save me!”

Len could not just watch and do nothing as they brought his son away, so he got up and spoke, “Please wait. I’d like to see—”

The leader of the team interrupted Len ruthlessly and spoke in a cold tone, “Mr. Coine, you have the right to remain silent. Everything you say can and will be used against him in the court of law.

“We have discovered a great deal of tax evasion from Fortune Co., Ltd. As its former chairman, you’re not completely clear from suspicion either so please come with us as well.”

Len forced down the unease within him and spoke, “Then I want to call my father.”

“According to the regulations, you’re not allowed to make any contact with the outside world from this moment on.

“Of course, you have the right to talk to your lawyer. Any communication with the outside world can be done through your lawyer.”

The officer then added, “Lastly, your father, Old Mr. Coine, is fully aware of our operation.”

At that, Len felt his world go dark and as though a huge weight was pressing over his chest. It felt like the world was ending.

The same situation happened with the Adkins. The only difference being that Ned and Fletcher were brought away from their hospital wards.

Fletcher had been gravely injured by a mysterious person the night before. It was paraplegia caused by an injury in the spine, meaning that he could only live the

rest of his life in a wheelchair or on the hospital bed. There was not much of a difference whether he spent his days in jail or not.

...

No one had expected the Adkins and Coine families to topple so quickly.

The upper class of Reed City was rendered speechless.

The havoc stopped after the toppling of the two families, and the rest of the upper class continued to live their lives.

However, they were all aware that change had come to Reed City.

A foreign investor had managed to topple the Coine and the Adkins families.

No one had thought this would be possible before.

Everyone held their breaths as they waited for the next bomb to drop. Parents also reminded their kids to be mindful and not cause trouble outside, while more cautious parents even tried to send their children overseas—just to prevent any misstep at such a crucial time.

No one dared to step up and say something, opting to just keep their eyes on Reed City Hospital instead. They knew that the mastermind behind it all was currently lying in a hospital bed there.

Meanwhile, Jasper was currently hosting a guest in his ward.

His arrival came as a surprise, but at the same time, it was only logical he would be here.

A frail old man in his 80s was slowly walking. His head was full of white hair and there was a cane in his hand.

The old man entered the hospital room and greeted Jasper gently, “Hello. Let me introduce myself, I’m Peter Coine.”

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No longer confined to bed rest, Jasper got off the bed and respectfully invited the old man to take a seat.

“Please have a seat, Mr. Coine. Moving is still a little difficult for me and this place really isn’t appropriate, so I’ll skip out on asking you if you’d like some coffee this time.”

Jasper smiled. “Next time, then. I promise I’ll invite you to a cup of hot coffee next time, Mr. Coine.”

Peter smiled gently and waved him off. “Don’t worry about it. I’m not used to drinking coffee anyway. Alcohol, on the other hand, is always a good choice. But I’ve grown old and my body can’t take that anymore, so I’ve quit it.”

Jasper nodded. “That’s good, then. Seniors like you, Mr. Coine, are important people to us. It’s good to see you taking care of yourself.”

Peter was surprised by Jasper’s attitude. “I thought that our meeting would be an unhappy one, but I like you a lot, young man. Most importantly, I can tell that everything you’re saying and doing now comes from your heart—it’s genuine respect.”

Jasper spoke sternly, “It is truly what I think, after all. People like you are old heroes, Mr. Coine. Your generation is the reason why we can live such great lives. Your heroic achievements are things anyone of Somer descent should never forget.”

“Very good. Thank you for remembering our hard work,” Peter smiled softly and spoke.

At that, Peter pulled up his sleeve and showed a deep knife scar as well as a few bullet wounds. He explained, “These are from three different battles. See this scar? It was from a bayonet that had pierced right into the bone. These few other bullet wounds were also from the enemy troops. I have more wounds on me, but I’ll spare you the sight.”

Jasper looked at his own tightly wrapped shoulder and smiled. “Looks like I’m just weak, then.”

Peter waved him off and spoke slowly, “People grow old and their thoughts change as well. Look at me and the tough life I’ve lived. Despite the enemies’ bayonets and bullets, I lived to 80 only to send my children off instead of the other way around.”

Jasper remained silent.

“Mr. Laine...”

“Please don’t, Mr. Coine. Just call me Jasper.”

“Alright then, Jasper. I’ll get straight to the point. Seeing that I’m asking you, could you at least leave the Coine family a living descendant?”

Jasper replied calmly, “Mr. Coine, they’ve broken the law. While it is a huge offense, it will not result in the death penalty. I can’t be certain of the judge’s ruling because I’m not the judge, nor do I have any power to change their mind.”

“Jasper, I’m here to shamelessly beg you, so there’s no need for such a grand facade. Your attitude on this is key. A word from you and they’ll be out in a year or two. I may be old, but I still have a year or two in me. It’d be nice to have someone send me off, no?”

Jasper looked at Mr. Coine and spoke, “Logically speaking, Mr. Coine, considering your identity, such a request is in no way overboard. But I also heard that you didn’t stop the prosecution of Marcus and Len.”

Peter smiled. “What use is there in stopping them? They did this to themselves. Who knows how many wrongdoings they’ve committed with my name all these years.”

“That’s why it’s too late now.” Jasper sighed lightly. “I respect you as an old hero, Mr. Coine, but your heroic achievements should not be used to forgive the mistakes of your descendants. Mistakes should be stopped and corrected once they come to light.

“I’ve met other old heroes as well, but they’ve done their part to educate and instruct their own students and descendants.

“Of course, it’s not that I’m being unreasonable or inconsiderate. I can openly admit that there is resentment between me and them, and I must seek revenge. Think of it this way. If I had lost too much blood the other day and passed away then, who would seek justice for me?”

Mr. Coine fell silent at Jasper’s words.

“How about this, Mr. Coine? Regarding my personal resentment with them, I’ll let go of it for your sake. I have nothing against Len Coine, so as long as he pays up the tax he has evaded, I’m sure the judge will be merciful when he gives the verdict. Marcus, however... Let’s not discuss his issue anymore. Will that be alright?”

Peter stood and turned to Jasper. “If that’s the case, very well then.

“Rest up, it’s time I return.”

Peter then rejected Jasper sending him out and turned to leave.

Standing by the window, Jasper shook his head as he watched Peter slowly walk out of the hospital and get into a car.

'Is Peter pitiful?

'Very. An old man like him should not need to send off his descendants first.

'But pitiful people are distasteful in their own way.

'Peter just happens to be spoiling Marcus.'

Coincidentally, Jasper was a person who believed in treating the cause instead of the symptoms. Jasper did not like leaving himself with future complications.

There was no way Marcus would be released for another dozen or two years, while Len would have at least three to five years waiting for him. By the time they were released, they would have lost all their power and prestige as well.

...

Jasper's talk with Peter marked an end to his incident with the Adkins and the Coine families.

Jasper was discharged the following day.

Once discharged, he immediately established a new agreement with the city government.

Since Marcus had breached the contract and was discovered to be involved in illegal activities, the plot of land he previously won from the bid would be returned as well. Now with 200 million Somer Dollars, the plot of land was sold to JW Electronics Equipment Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Following that, Jasper did not forget to benefit the local businesses. He distributed the design and construction projects for the factory to capable local companies.

This was how benefits worked. If Jasper wanted this factory of his to operate smoothly, he would need more than just the city government's support. Recognition from the local forces was necessary as well.

These benefits were how Jasper showed his stance.

Without a doubt, JW Electronics had now become the next Coine family. However, the difference between the two parties was that everyone was earning money together now and benefiting from it.

Jasper's actions had gained the favor of many uneasy local forces, and his reputation immediately spread throughout Reed City.

The equipment Jasper bought through the Law family had arrived as well, and in a week, the factory had already started to prepare for production in an orderly manner.

Jasper temporarily put Chad in charge of hiring workers and managerial teams in Reed City, while he quickly rushed back to Nauritus City.

He needed a professional team to further upgrade the patented MP3 player technology.

This was Jasper's ultimate attack.

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Jasper took the Law family's private plane back to Nauritus City.

"I've been thinking of getting ourselves a private plane as well once my cash flow isn't as tight anymore."

Jasper turned to tell Wendy as he sat in the comfortable interior of the private plane's compartment.

Wendy pursed her lips and smiled. "I heard that it costs two to three million a year just to maintain a private plane. That's a waste of money."

Jasper shrugged. "A normal car needs maintenance too, but you wouldn't choose not to buy a car just because you have to maintain it, right? It comes with much more convenience that outweighs the cost, and we have to think of the benefits it brings as well. It's the same with a private plane. It's safer, more comfortable, and more convenient—very much worth that few million Somer Dollars worth of maintenance."

Sitting in front of them, Henry turned his head excitedly and asked, "How about you get me one too while you're at it? Kayden is the only rich kid in Harbor City with a private plane and the rest of us are very envious."

"This isn't yours?" Jasper was surprised.

"As if my dad would be so generous." Henry scoffed with an indignant expression.

"Forget buying me a private plane, he won't even let me borrow this one here when I ask. He only had someone fly this plane over for me because he heard

that you got hurt. The only other time I get to sit in this plane is when I tag along on his business trips.”

“Yeah, he really shouldn’t get you a plane.” Jasper attacked him mercilessly, saying, “You’d definitely have those ridiculous parties up in the sky if you got one, wouldn’t you?”

Henry’s expression darkened, but he was not going to give up so easily. “Both of us can share a plane, then? You’ll be the first Mainlander with a private plane while I’ll be the second Harbor City trust-fund baby with a private plane. Don’t you think that sounds cool?”

“I’ll think about it when the time comes. Definitely won’t be this year, though. I’ve invested in too many projects and I’m broke.” Jasper sighed.

Construction of Waterhoof Tower would cost him at least 16 billion, and the patented MP3 player technology as well as the electronics factory would cost another 700 to 800 million.

Then, the acquisition of Legends was most likely going to cost him quite a bit of money as well.

Jasper had once again realized how poor he was since many things required a much greater sum of funds...

The plane arrived at Nauritus City safely. Henry had many things to handle now that construction of the amusement park project was coming to an end, so he went to the construction site the moment they landed at the airport.

On the other hand, Jasper and Wendy took a trip to Schuler Manor.

“I’m back, Uncle Schuler,” Jasper greeted Dawson.

Seeing Jasper return alive and well, Dawson finally let out a sigh of relief and clapped Jasper’s shoulder. “Good. It’s great to have you back.”

“I’m sorry for worrying everyone this time,” Jasper apologized.

Dawson waved him off with a smile. “Just be more careful next time. I’m pretty sure Wendy lost her soul over this. On the day it happened, she kept claiming that she needed to go over no matter what. Remember, Jasper, you aren’t alone here. Your problems aren’t just yours anymore, there are countless people affected too.”

Jasper nodded. “I understand.”

“I didn’t want your parents to worry too much, so I hid it from them,” Dawson told him.

“It’s best that they don’t have to worry about this. My parents have already worried so much about my littlest problems that I just want them to live happily now that I can provide for them. What kind of son would I be if I still made them worry about this and that?”

“Plus, I’m safe and sound, aren’t I? I’ll take some time to spend with them once all of this is over.” Jasper smiled.

Dawson spoke, “Sure. Go take a bath and rest. We’ll talk more after dinner.”