

Life at the Top Chapter 611

In Skyward Aluminum Co., Ltd.

The atmosphere was suffocating.

Expressionlessly, Conrad took the main seat and slammed his palm on the table, frightening the senior executives who shuddered in fear.

“Are all of you useless? I spend a few millions each year on you and you’re telling me none of you have a single plan when someone is trying to acquire our company?!”

“They’ve just made their move and you guys are already frantic? How do you expect me to believe in your abilities from now on, huh?”

Conrad’s reprimand echoed in the meeting room, and everyone looked down silently.

No one dared to meet their boss’ eyes at such a critical time.

Conrad’s sinister eyes swept through the meeting room before they finally fell on a balding middle-aged man.

“Benjamin, you’re the manager of the investment department. This is part of your business scope. I want a report written right away and given to me today, or you can go to the Human Resources Department, finalize your salary, and leave.”

Benjamin looked distressed as he spoke, “Please calm down first, Mr. Monty.

“There’s something strange with the funds that were used to increase our company’s share price this time. The evidence we have on hand shows that these funds were from Harbor City, not the Mainland.

“So I’ve been wondering if our share price rising to the limit is a result of an investor who decided to enter the market to benefit from it, seeing how JW and Haddock are going to team up and acquire.”

Benjamin’s words had everyone’s eyes shining with hope.

Everyone had assumed that the rise in share price was caused by Jasper and Haddock, so they had not thought of it from such an angle.

If what Benjamin said was true, then the nature of the matter was completely different.

It did not matter who bought those shares, as long as it was not Jasper.

Conrad furrowed his brows and pondered aloud, “Not bad. This is a completely different view on the matter. Continue.”

Seeing that his thoughts had been approved of, Benjamin let out a sigh of relief and continued to speak, “If that’s the case, then the situation is much better. Despite being faced with a forceful acquisition, I believe that there’s quite a lot we can do.

“You currently hold 40% of the company’s shares, Mr. Monty. Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd holds another 30%, leaving 30% more in the stock market. This is the situation now.

“We have two options. We either officially announce that the company is buying back its shares, or negotiate with Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd to see if we could take back a percentage of the shares they hold.

“We just have to ensure that you have more than 50% of shares in hand, Mr. Monty. Because even if Jasper manages to buy all the shares and becomes one of our shareholders, what can he do?”

“Nothing.

“He’d have wasted all his hard work only to advertise for us in the end. Plus, if we manage to buy our shares back this time, our share price would increase quite a bit as well.”

...

While Conrad had summoned all of Skyward Aluminum’s senior executives to discuss plans to retaliate, Jasper was currently on a video call with Jake who was far away in Harbor City.

“As per your requests, Mr. Laine, we’ve spent 1.2 billion in funds to purchase 3.96% of Skyward Aluminum’s shares.”

Skyward Aluminum as a whole had a market price of around 30 billion. This purchase was not unnecessarily expensive.

Jasper nodded. Looking at Skyward Aluminum’s market, he spoke, “Continue tomorrow. Buy as many shares as you can. Don’t worry about the money, someone will pay for it.”

Jasper thought of how wealthy Gale was. Despite never once feeling like he was broke after reincarnation, Jasper could not help but be stunned over how exceptionally rich this old man was.

Not only had he transferred the funds needed to acquire Skyward Aluminum in advance, but he had also promised to give Jasper a 1% commission after everything was done.

1% of a business with a market price of 30 billion was 200 million.

That was enough to replenish the loss the real estate company made.

Since it was a condition that was already agreed upon, Jasper was very happy to earn such a commission.

Jake nodded in understanding and spoke, "We've investigated Skyward Aluminum's share structure and realized that Conrad currently has the most shares. He has a total of 40%, while the remaining 60% is split between Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd, which runs on state funds, and the general public.

"In such a situation, we'll need Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd's support to take their 30% of shares or it won't be enough for us to acquire it just by buying the 30% open to the general public.

"Plus, the stock market right now only allows a maximum purchase of 22%. The remaining 8% are in the hands of countless retailers so it's impossible to buy all 30% of the shares."

Jasper nodded. "I've already accounted for this. Don't worry about it, just focus on the share market over at your side."

Jake acknowledged, saying, "Yes, Mr. Laine. I understand."

"Tell me how the investment is going with the Harbor City Stock Market that I had you invest in."

"Basically, the situation now..."

More than an hour later, Jasper exited the study and made his way to the airport.

It was evening by the time he met Henry at the airport.

The man got into the car excitedly and grinned almost maniacally at Jasper. “You have no idea how absolutely amusing it was to see the look on that f*cker Mitch’s face. The scene of what happened, oh my God. Harbor City’s gossip magazines got such a kick out of it that they’re just churning articles after articles. Oh, man, those were some f*cking hilarious articles they wrote.”

“Will they still get married? Even after you released news of Mitch getting another girl pregnant in front of his fiancée?” Jasper asked with a chuckle.

Henry pursed his lips. “It’s not that big of a deal. This is mostly a hiccup for the Langdon family. Plus, it’s not like the girl can do anything even if she wanted to. This is a marriage union between two families, so the family’s benefits come first. They’re going to have to marry no matter what happens.

“Or no one would let Wallace’s and the girl’s families live this down.

“But a few slaps from his dad is pretty much guaranteed for Mitch, though. Hahaha. Damn it, I should’ve recorded the scene when it happened so that I can rewatch it every day and relive that moment.”

At that, Henry suddenly remembered something and turned to Jasper. “Oh yeah, I heard my dad say something about the Langdon family ordering a large batch of electronic goods before I came here. I think they plan to send it over to the Southeast Province after customs clearance.”

“That’s probably their support for the Hanks family. What’s going to happen to it now?” Jasper asked.

Henry snorted. “Dad’s going to take a trip over there himself. He told me to tell you not to worry. With him there, the Langdon family won’t even get a chip out of Harbor City.”

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“If that’s the case, I can get rid of one of them first, then.”

Jasper smiled and sent Dawson a message.

Since the beginning, neither Jasper nor Dawson had found the Hanks family’s tricks worth their attention.

With the power they held now, it was not a difficult feat to completely destroy the Hanks family.

The Hanks family only became a tough nut to crack when Conrad was there supporting them.

Now with the Law family giving them trouble at Harbor City, Jasper and Dawson’s plan could immediately begin.

“Are you sending me back to the hotel?” Henry asked.

“Do you still have more work to do?” Jasper asked curiously.

Henry chuckled and waved his phone. “I know a few beauties in every single place I’ve been to before, so I can contact them at any time.”

Jasper scoffed. “Your dad said that the playground project at the Southface River will be done soon. He wants you to supervise the finishing touches.”

Henry replied irritably, “I don’t understand a thing about construction. As to what the workers are doing, who am I, an outsider, to ask?”

“You might not have to pay attention to the specifics of the construction, but what about the quality specifications, the final checking, and the financial aspects? You need to at least know something, don’t you? Else, you’ll be the one suffering when you get back. Don’t say I never warned you, but your dad is definitely going to ask you about it when you get back.

“I’m sure you’re much more aware than I am of the consequences if you can’t answer him.”

Henry’s expression darkened as he spoke in an upset tone, “This old man is controlling my every second here. Fine, fine, we’ll go back to the hotel. I’ll read through the playground’s documents first then.”

Leaving Henry at the hotel, Jasper returned home.

Dawson returned very late that night, but he had a mirthful smile on his face when he came back.

Dawson pulled out a thick stack of documents from his briefcase and smiled widely at Jasper. “It’s done. We’ve bought all of their debt contracts. This alone is enough to crush the Hanks family to smithereens.”

Jasper took over the thick stack of documents.

These papers were the reason behind Dawson’s busy day.

“The Hanks family previously signed a total of 48 sales businesses. I found 38 of them today, and these are all of them for now.

“The remaining ten are probably the Hanks family’s loyal partners, so they’re not worth us using such a large amount of money to bribe them over.

“The 38 businesses I’ve negotiated with come up to a total of 2.7 billion worth of compensation. And we’ve bought their contracts with 2.4 billion.”

“Tsk, tsk. And we made three hundred million too? What good business.” Jasper smiled.

“Just suing the Hanks family would cost these businesses a huge amount of expenses. It’s expected that they were willing to sell us their contracts at a discount.”

“Now we wait. Tomorrow, we can make our move.”

...

The following day, the Hanks family seemed to have noticed something for they began to attack JW Real Estates’ projects maddeningly.

In a few days’ time, they had caused Jasper 200 million worth of loss.

Not that Jasper cared.

It was because swallowing the Hanks family would easily cover this loss.

At the same time, there was no halt in the purchase of Skyward Aluminum’s market shares. If anything, the purchase continued unrelentingly.

However, Conrad was a capable man. Excluding the first day when he was caught off guard, he had been fiercely fighting back in all the following days.

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Jasper had spent 4.8 billion to buy 10% of Skyward Aluminum's shares.

In truth, Skyward Aluminum had no more than a market price of 30 billion. The only reason it cost 4.8 billion to buy 10% of its shares was that 1.8 billion was spent on acquisition premium.

In other words, they had benefitted retail investors who decided to jump on the bandwagon.

Not that Jasper cared, since he was spending Gale's money.

That old man had too much money that he would never get to spend it all, and there was nothing wrong with benefitting the general public.

That day, Jasper arrived at Hanks Residence with Julian in tow.

Despite having such a long-standing battle with the Hanks family, this was still the first time Jasper had stepped foot in their house.

They were a wealthy family, after all, so the entire park was the Hanks family's property.

As for their base, the Hanks family had exquisitely renovated the park, which was by both the mountains and bodies of water.

"Not bad. I'd say this entire park as a whole could be sold for 100 to 200 million," Jasper chuckled and said.

"Who are you two looking for?"

An old man walked out of the park and asked Jasper confusedly.

Jasper smiled. "Help me inform Sirius that his creditor is here to collect his debts."

The old man was stunned for a moment before he spoke in a tense voice, "What kind of nonsense are you saying? Leave. This isn't a place for you to fool around."

"Please pass the message, sir. You only need to tell him that the creditor's name is Jasper. He'll want to see me." Jasper was very polite to the old man and did not give him any attitude.

Sensing the situation, the old man glanced at Jasper and Julian suspiciously before turning back.

Soon later, the old man rushed out again. "Mr. Hanks wishes to see you."

Entering the park, Jasper saw Sirius standing in a large estate.

"How dare you come to my house, Jasper?" Sirius demanded coldly as he stared at Jasper.

This was Sirius' home, after all, so there were several family members present.

Among them was an old man who had a head full of white hair. He was possibly an entire generation older than Sirius. There were also two younger men who were around Zayden's age when he passed away.

"This isn't some lion's den, so why won't I dare?" Jasper asked with a smile.

The two youths were Neville and Dave. Between the two, Neville had once fought Zayden for the role of heir.

Seeing Jasper, Neville, who was hasty to show off in front of his family, scoffed. "You're Jasper, aren't you? Tsk tsk, I suggest you get your head out of your *ss and stop acting like you're above us all. Do you even know where you are?"

"You were still a nobody when the Hanks family became one of Southeast Province's upper class."

Dave laughed and agreed, saying, "Exactly. Seriously, Dad, just throw this ignorant b*stard out as I said. He's an eyesore."

Jasper did not even spare the two of them a glance and spoke calmly, "I thought Zayden was useless enough, but I didn't expect you two to be even worse. It explains why Zayden was the only one from his generation in the family who managed to make a small name for himself."

"You b*stard! What did you say?" Dave was furious.

Neville stared at Jasper coldly and sneered, "Looks like you're just an arrogant b*stard who wants to die."

With that, Neville whistled and a huge German Shepherd that reached the waist of a fully grown adult ran over. It sat beside Neville and glared at Jasper who was a stranger.

"I'm going to have my dog bite you to death."

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This was an extremely smart dog. Hearing its master Neville's words, it barked twice at Jasper.

The sight had all the Hanks present chortling.

Everyone looked at Jasper with disdain as if they were looking at a beggar who had come asking for scraps.

Julian, who had been standing behind Jasper the entire time, took a step to stand beside Jasper with a cold gaze.

Everyone then watched as Julian took a deep breath, one that went straight to his core. The man's eyes widened abruptly as he opened his mouth to shout.

It was a loud growl that was deep, powerful, and extremely thundering. It reminded Jasper of a lion's roar in the savanna.

Everyone felt their chests stifle while their hearts seemed to skip a beat. Their breathing grew heavy and they felt uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, the fierce dog beside Neville let out a pitiful whimper. His tail shook between his legs as a puddle of liquid began to form between its hind legs.

It had peed itself in fear.

That scene shattered whatever dignity the Hanks family had.

"What do you think you're doing, Jasper? So you're bringing people over to my house to assert dominance now?" Neville's face was flushed red as he looked up to Jasper to shout. He felt the urge to kick this shameful dog to death.

"A dog will always be a dog. Fierce as it is, it's still just a dog, no?"

Jasper spoke with a subtle smile, and all the Hanks family present felt the color drain from their faces in anger.

While it seemed like he was talking about the German Shepherd, it was really an insult to the Hanks family.

Neville roared, "Who are you calling a dog here?"

"So you acknowledge it then?" Jasper commented calmly.

"You f*cking b*stard..."

"Enough!"

Sirius shouted to interrupt Neville, glaring at the young man who had an indignant expression on his face. He said, "Don't you think that we've made a big enough fool of ourselves already? Either shut up, or bring your dog and get out!"

Neville clenched his jaw. Flames of fury were set ablaze in his eyes and he balled his fists, glaring at Jasper resentfully.

However, since Sirius had already spoken, Neville remained silent regardless of how pissed he felt.

"Is that what you came to do today, Jasper? To scare a dog?" Sirius looked at Jasper and spoke calmly.

With that, smiles reappeared on the Hanks family's faces.

Sirius was much more experienced than Neville, after all. A mere sentence was all it took for him to slap Jasper in the face. It was a great relief to the other members of the family who were greatly infuriated by Jasper's taunting a second ago.

Jasper did not waste time on Sirius and waved a hand at Julian.

Julian immediately pulled out some documents from the briefcase that he carried with him everywhere and handed them to Sirius.

Sirius looked at Jasper suspiciously before taking a look at the papers.

One look at the contents of the documents was enough to stun Sirius. His eyes widened as he stared at every single word on the papers, rereading it as if he had read it wrong the first time.

Following that, Sirius' hand trembled as he held the papers. His breathing turned heavy.

The scene startled the members of the Hanks family. Reflexively, they were about to ask what the documents entailed and why it had caused Sirius to lose his composure.

Just then, Jasper spoke up instead.

“As you can see, Mr. Hanks, I’ve come today to collect your debts.”

Neville stared at Jasper and scoffed at his words. “Are you so broke that you’ve gone f*cking mad? Go on then, bark twice for me, and if it’s to my liking, I might just give you 100 or 200 bucks.”

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“You came to Hanks Residence to collect our debts? Since when did my family owe you money?”

“Will it hurt for you to shut up?!” Sirius turned to shout at Neville.

Having been shouted at, Neville looked at his dad who had a wretched expression on his face and looked like he was about to eat himself alive. Terrified, Neville spoke with a quivering voice, "I'm your son, Dad. Jasper's an outsider who's coming to bully us at our house, what's wrong with me standing up for our family?"

At that moment, the only old man in the room realized that there was something wrong with Sirius and asked with a frown, "What's going on, Sirius?"

Sirius took a deep breath and looked up at the old man. "This is a notice of breach in contract, Uncle Silas."

With that, Sirius turned to look at Jasper coldly. "What a trick you've got here, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You're not so bad either."

"I'd like to know how you managed to get your hands on so many sales business' contracts in just two days. How'd you get them to agree to transfer the contract compensation rights to you?" Sirius asked coldly.

At that, the expressions of all the Hanks family members changed.

The Hanks family was currently in a great crisis as their main pillar of income, the electronics orders, had been stolen from them. The sales businesses that they had signed contracts with were rioting every day as well.

As members of the Hanks family, they were well aware that it would be the end of the Hanks family if they could not brave through this.

However, Jasper had now brought those contracts over to collect their debts.

Everyone, including Neville, now looked at Jasper with absolute resentment. They wanted nothing more than to rip Jasper apart.

“Faith County had only developed its electronics market after signing a contract with the Hanks family for a year’s worth of goods. The contract amounts to a total of 1.5 million, with an advanced prepayment of 800,000. The moment either party breaches the contract, they are required to compensate the loss with twice the contract amount. So, I decided to buy that contract with 1.3 million Somer Dollars.

“And the same followed with other sales businesses you signed with. There was no reason for them not to take my offer, especially when they’d have to come up with the expenses themselves to sue you otherwise. There’s no point in dragging debt on forever, correct?”

Sirius paled at Jasper’s words.

Then, he cruelly barked out a laugh. “Wow, very well done, Jasper. Very well done! Aren’t you afraid that I’d go bankrupt and you wouldn’t even get a cent out of me?”

Jasper shrugged and replied calmly, “Even if you went bankrupt, I’m sure the Hanks family’s properties are still worth something. I’ll just have to treat it as picking up the scraps and helping you repay your debts at a discounted price. Even if you’re unwilling, I’m sure the court will agree.

“Plus, let’s be honest, I can afford that bit of cash.”

Sirius glared at Jasper menacingly and was utterly infuriated.

Yet no matter how angry he was, the situation left him no other choice but to surrender.

“Is there truly no way we can negotiate this, Jasper?”

Hearing him, Neville and his brother Dave looked at Sirius with disbelief. They did not understand why their father was surrendering to Jasper.

“Negotiate? My only suggestion is that you repay your debts as soon as possible. That’s 2.7 billion. Ordinary people can live their entire lives on one day of interest alone,” Jasper spoke calmly.

“What? 2.7 billion?!” Neville shrieked.

Dave’s eyes widened in disbelief.

“Dad, he’s obviously just extorting us here! We won’t be able to come up with such a large sum of money in such a short time even if we liquidated all our properties!” Neville explained to Sirius.

Neville was very well aware of the Hanks family’s current situation. They had lost a lot of money ever since the Southface River Project, and the family’s wealth had shrunk greatly.

Over the past few days, they had made losses after losses from taking deals that did not benefit them just to attack Jasper and Dawson. Not to mention that Sylva had also taken an amount of the family’s wealth and vanished!

‘So what if our family has a lot of assets? They’re all side businesses and only a small number of projects are actually profitable! There’s no way we can procure 2.7 billion in such a short time to repay our debts!’

“Then liquidate it!”

Jasper spoke indifferently, “The Hanks family has quite a number of assets. Plus, with all the money each member of the family has, I’d say it’s enough to pay what you owe. Even if it isn’t enough, we can bring it to court. The worst-case scenario? You get blacklisted. But the Hanks family is so formidable that this should be the least of your problems, no?”