

# Life at the Top Chapter 781

“Do you know how difficult opening a bank is? I[‘m pretty sure Paulson thought that I was just kidding,” Jasper shifted backward seamlessly and spoke, “Aren’t we a little too close right now?”

“Are we? I feel the urge to pounce over and devour you now, though.”

Instead of moving back, Celine leaned closer to Jasper. Her eyes shone with the wildness of a big cat.

It was not until she forced Jasper to lean against the armrest with nowhere to go that she snickered evilly. “You’ve said something like this before, but do you know what Paulson said about you? He said he actually saw you opening your own bank the moment you suggested such a thing.

“You’re willing to go so far for me and yet you claim that you don’t want to provide for me? All you think about is how you’re going to take care of my needs, yet you say I’m too close to you. All men do is lie.”

His ear were filled with Celine’s soft voice and his nose was filled with nothing but Celine’s subtle fragrance. All could see was a sheet of white that Celine displayed without care in the world.

“Are you really not afraid of playing with fire?”

Celine laughed aloud at Jasper’s words and sat back down. She stretched her fair and soft calf to knock it against Jasper’s thigh. While executing this rather intimate and amorous act, Celine replied, “Playing with fire’s what I’m good at. Besides, that conflicted and shy expression of yours just now was absolutely adorable.”

Not in the mood to reply to her playful words, Jasper asked, “How many resources can you mobilize in the United States? This is very important, as I need to know before I can carry out the rest of my plans.”

Celine crossed her legs, then reached out to press down on the hem of her skirt so as to not expose her undergarments. Despite this, her eyes were on Jasper the entire time. She huffed lightly upon seeing the man staring solemnly at her. Then she spoke, “Tell me your plan first, then I’ll work with you and mobilize my resources.”

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The following day, half the citizens of the United States noticed Sena, the name of a Somerland business, appear on their televisions, radios, and newspapers.

Investors were not unfamiliar with the company.

All financial news portals had more or less covered Somerland’s Sena listing, and every stock expert in the country was giving their opinions on it.

The reality remained that professionals were the same within and outside the country.

Thanks to Celine, a television station had reported another piece of news.

“A banquet was held by Sena’s Business Team from Somerland, alongside investors led by Colossal Investments in DoubleTree Hotel’s banquet hall in Wall Street this year.

“According to a reliable source, the owner of Sena was the mysterious retail investor from the international crude oil futures incident last year. Under his lead, Sena now owns Somerland’s biggest internal portal, as well as a new game, United Legends, that had just hit the market.

“This game has broken the world record for the number of people online on the first day of public beta testing. With a final player base of 2 million online players, the game is undoubtedly the world’s biggest internet game.

“Currently, United Legends has already begun operation and charging fees. According to our reporter in Somerland, combined with the evaluation report Sena had sent to the Nasdaq, United Legends currently has 170 paid players who contribute to Sena’s profit of millions of Somer Dollars.

“Without a doubt, while internet industries around the world continue to think about ways to mitigate their losses, Somerland’s Sena has already begun to save their country’s struggling Internet industry by expanding their business and stepping foot into the gaming industry.

“To some degree, Sena is the only purely Internet company in the world who has resolved monumental issue of turning a profit.”

“As a result, we’ve invited our special commentary expert, Mr. David Smith, to tell us how different Sena is...”

Following the news was an unclear picture of Jasper’s side profile.

The picture had been taken from afar, so all they could tell was Jasper’s age range and physique.

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That was enough.

A man in his twenties, from Somerland.

These two important pieces of news had attracted investors from the United States who have been looking for this mysterious retail investor all along.

Either news was enough to pique overwhelming interest from everyone.

The Internet in the states was much better developed than it was in Somerland, so it had only been a few moments after the news and rumors about Jasper already began to spread online.

Countless investors were discussing Jasper's identity.

While even more of them instinctively went to read more about Sena going public.

Then they realized that the entire market followed closely and had a bullish outlook on Sena.

Not since the popping of the dot-com bubble has all the media spoke about the same internet company at the same time.

Let alone one that had not even gone public yet.

This had raised the attention of most United States investors and they began to search and learn more about Sena, as well as find out when the company would go public.

So as the date when Sena would go public crept closer, it only began to trend more.

Countless investors were preparing their funds to use this chance and make a lot of money.

Just then, Jasper turned off the television.

He knew that news about himself was something Celine's contacts and Colossal Investments had cooperated to release.

Jasper did not mind too much, for Celine had told him that she would bring up the hype in such a way. This was a capitalist request.

Just as Jasper turned off the television, he suddenly received a call from Celine.

"Turn on the television, Intercontinental Channel Three," Celine's tone was proud.

"I just turned it off. Is there some big news?" Jasper asked confusedly but immediately turned the television on again. As Celine requested, he shuffled to Intercontinental Channel Three.

The screen changed and Jasper took one look and could not move his eyes away.

Before his eyes was an interview with the stock god, Winston Benett. The content of the interview was precisely about Sena.

"I personally do think that there is a lot of potential for this internet company from Somerland. It's a shame that its pre-IPO quota has already been sold out long ago. However, I've already had my team watch out for the latest news. Once it goes public, I'm planning to buy a few of Sena's shares with the idea to keep them..."

If all previous advertisement was to tell the United States' investors about Sena's existence, then the interview with Winston Benett had directly ignited the investors' enthusiasm

The internationally recognized title 'stock god' had already spread throughout the world. The man's return on investments as well as his sharp decisions when it comes to the market has garnered worship from many investors.

With Winston Benett helping him out, Sena's hype began to grow exponentially.

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“This is so cool!” Jasper exclaimed.

It took more than just money to invite someone of Winston Benett’s caliber.

As one of the world’s top ten richest men, it made no sense to pay Winston Benett to advertise for you.

That would be utterly ridiculous.

It took favors and status to move such people into helping you.

Jasper had not expected Celine to be so powerful to that extent, to the point where she could get Winston Benett to help out.

Celine chuckled, evidently pleased with Jasper’s shock and praise.

However, she still explained. “Winston Benett is actually a really good friend with one of my elders. All I did was ask this elder to contact him. Winston Benett had taken a look at Sena’s evaluation and immediately agreed to help advertise it.”

“This was more than just a script for advertisement. He meant it when he said he planned to buy some of Sena’s shares.”

“So if you want to be shocked, be shocked about the fact that your Sena was what moved him.”

Jasper smiled as he heard Celine and replied, “With Winston Benett helping us out, I’m sure Sena’s share prices would be pushed to quite a high price when it goes public. We won’t have to worry too much about this, then.”

As the outside world got progressively more invested in Sena's situation, the day when Sena would go public had officially arrived as well.

On this widely anticipated day, Jasper woke early in the morning and washed up carefully. He put on the tailored suit that Celine had bought for him at Waterhoof City and demanded he wore today. Then he strode out of the room.

In the hotel lobby, Jack and the rest were waiting for him.

Henry was there too. While the man had vanished more than he was present, he knew better than to be late on such an important day.

Everyone was donned in formal suits, even Henry wore an iron-pressed one.

The only difference between them was that Jack looked rather nervous, while Henry remained rowdy as he always was. The man was even quietly muttering to himself about what kind of airplane he would buy to fly back after today.

"Mr. Laine." Jack led Sena's senior executives over to greet Jasper when he saw him arrive.

Jasper nodded and smiled at Jack. "Nervous, Jack?"

Jack smiled wryly. "It'd be a lie if I said I wasn't. After all, this is the first time anything like this has happened before. Sena's share price when it goes public will determine the result of all our hard work."

"Haha, that's understandable. After all, there are only so many times a person gets to ring the Nasdaq Opening Bell." Jasper patted his old partner's shoulder with a wide smile.

"Relax. The entirety of Wall Street will cheer for us, and the entire Nasdaq Composite will welcome our arrival. We are New York's owners today," Jasper replied.

Jack was stunned for a moment. He could suddenly feel the drastic difference between his and Jasper's vision and domineering aura. Looking up, all Jack would see was how Jasper seemed to carry a whole new world on his shoulders despite his rather slim figure.

Taking a deep breath, Jack calmed the excitement and nervousness within him and quickly followed Jasper's footsteps.

Reporters have long been waiting by the hotel lobby's entrance and they quickly rushed over to interview them when they saw Jasper and the rest walk out. Only to be held back by Colossal Investments' bodyguards.

With no other option, the reporters could only try to stretch their microphones out and ask all sorts of questions. Each of them prayed that they would be lucky enough for Jasper to reply to their questions, then they would surely be rewarded by their superiors.

However, in face of these reporters, Jasper merely smiled politely but did not answer anyone's questions. Then he walked toward the car stopped by the side.

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By the car stood Celine who greeted him with a mesmerizing smile.

"So handsome," Celine praised as Jasper walked over.

Jasper smiled and replied, "A woman's beauty lies in her features and her aura, but it takes more than a man's appearance to look handsome."

"Is that you showing off how successful you are now?" Celine asked Jasper.

It was a beautiful sight to behold.

Under everyone's inquisitive gaze and cameras flashing, Jasper knew better than to flirt with Celine here. So he merely smiled and bent down to get in the car.

"Wuss," Celine muttered and turned to get in as well.

The line of cars began to move and it broke past the crowd and made its way to Nasdaq Center.

Jasper's hotel was only five minutes on foot away from Nasdaq Center, but Colossal Investments had already arranged cars for the occasion.

After all, this group of people was going to ring the Nasdaq Opening Bell. How could they simply just walk over?

It took a couple of minutes and the line of cars arrived.

"There'll be a ceremony later and Nasdaq's president, Franklin, will come out in a show of how much they value a Somerland enterprise. It's more political than business, so don't think too much about it. It's just formality," Celine whispered to Jasper.

Jasper nodded in understanding.

Just then, the car doors were opened and Jasper walked out of the car.

Nasdaq had given Sena a welcome of the highest regard, with a red carpet rolled a long distance from its entrance and western bodyguards standing on both sides of the carpet. The electronic display by the entrance was filled with words of welcome.

Alighting the car, Jasper looked up at the large screen above Nasdaq Exchange and realized that there was a red Somerland flag as well as Somerish words of welcome.

Jack saw it as well.

Engulfed in an aura of western capitalism, a red flag with five stars appeared on the electronic display of the Nasdaq Exchange on Wall Street. It was a memorable sight to behold.

“The times are changing,” Jasper exclaimed.

Jasper smiled. “And it’ll only change more in the future.”

The two shared a smile and stepped on the red carpet, entering the Exchange Center under the flashing lights of reporters.

The Exchange Center was in a frenzy.

While every new company going public on Nasdaq’s market would ring its opening bell, they were all treated differently. Sena’s was of a much higher caliber, for the host of the ceremony was Nasdaq’s president, a seventy-year-old man called Franklin.

“Welcome to the United States, to Wall Street, and to Nasdaq, young man from the ancient Somerland.” Franklin’s words were flowery and he smiled as he shook Jasper’s hand.

Jasper smiled softly and replied courteously, “Thank you for the kind welcome, President Franklin. I’m sure I’ll achieve what I want here.”

Franklin clapped Jasper’s shoulder affectionately and spoke, “Miracles happen all the time here. I’m sure you’ll achieve what you want.”

“There has been a lot of news about you these days. I would’ve bought some of Sena’s shares as well if not for my job not allowing me to participate in share trading,” Franklin joked.

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“This proves that Sena is indeed a very outstanding company, then. They say great minds think alike,” Jasper teased.

Jasper’s western humor had Franklin laughing aloud, and his impression of Jasper improved all the more.

“Paulson and I are great friends. We’ve spoken in private about you before and now that I’ve met you, I believe that old friend of mine is biased,” Franklin spoke with a smile.

This seemingly normal sentence held quite a few important details and Jasper replied, “Thank you.”

While others may understand that Jasper was merely thanking Franklin for the praise, he was actually thanking him for the information.

Franklin nodded and spoke to Jasper for a little longer before he slowly left.

After Franklin left, Jasper looked at the time and realized that it was currently eight-thirty in New York and there was only one more hour before the market opened at nine-thirty.

The large Exchange Center was packed with staff and reporters, for there was only one more hour until Sena would ring Nasdaq’s Opening Bell.

Jack was answering the reporter’s questions while Jasper was about to look for Henry, only for Celine to get to himself first.

“Come on, Paulson wants to meet us.”

Jasper followed Celine to the second floor of the Exchange Center. It was a huge office with floor-to-ceiling windows that clearly showed the frenzy within the exchange center.

Paulson and William were sitting right by the floor-to-ceiling windows when Jasper and Celine arrived.

“You’re here. Come here,” Paulson spoke with a smile.

Jasper and Celine walked over and stood by the floor-to-ceiling windows. Looking down at the Exchange Center below, Jasper was about to speak when Celine leaned over to him.

“Stay away from that b\*stard.”

William’s face paled in anger at Celine’s words.

Paulson smiled as if he did not hear anything and turned to Jasper. “One more hour before our promise shows its results, Laine. Are you confident?”

Jasper replied, “Confidence is something I’ve never lacked.”

“Too much confidence leads to arrogance,” William piped in with a scoff, “I’m afraid you don’t even know how much 120 US Dollars per share means, do you?”

“Did we ask you?” Celine looked at William coldly.

Celine’s scornful gaze fueled William’s fury but he forced himself to calm down and scoffed. “I’ll let you be proud of yourselves for now. But if your IPO cannot reach 120 US Dollars later, I’d like to see if you’re going to keep acting so proud.”

“I hope that you’ll keep your end of the promise, Mr. Paulson,” Jasper ignored William and spoke to Paulson.

Sighing, Paulson replied, "While I do not wish to see such a scene, Laine, I cannot find it in myself to have faith in you. Sena is indeed a very outstanding company, and I would surely believe you if you proposed an IPO of 80 US Dollars. But 120 US Dollars is just too difficult to accomplish."

"It was a difficult height to reach even before the dot-com bubble popped, let alone now. The market's changed, Laine, and it's still not too late if you want to change your mind now."

Jasper smiled calmly and replied, "I used to follow regulations and traditions long ago, President Paulson, and there are indeed many things that are unthinkable, things that are impossible according to what I've learned from my experience."

"But it's unfortunate that the world is controlled by people who can change the impossible into something possible. I wouldn't be standing here if I did everything according to convention as just a normal employee of some company in Somerland."