

Life at the Top Chapter 716

Malcolm was evidently prepared. Before Jasper could speak, Malcolm first gave his stance on the matter.

“To be frank, Mr. Laine, I came to meet you in hopes to change my career. As you know, I’m facing a small issue working with P&G, and I think that a change in my working environment might give me insight into my problems.”

This was the result of leaving a good impression. Malcolm would not have been so quick to speak if otherwise.

Jasper smiled. “My thoughts on the matter exactly, Mr. Malibu. You want a new job and I want a capable COO.”

“Not a CEO? Malcolm frowned and asked. This was not what he understood at the beginning.

Honestly speaking, Malcolm was slightly looking down on Jasper’s company. After all, as far as he was concerned, a modernized private enterprise did not exist in Somerland.

Even if there was, it was incomparable to P&G.

He was already the head of one of Procter and Gamble’s larger departments and there was no reason for him to accept anything less than the role of CEO of another company.

Why would he accept the position of COO?

“Mr. Malibu, my company is still in its initial stages and while there is quite an amount of funds, it has only just been established. I’ll take on the position of the

company's CEO, but that will not hinder your authority as the COO," Jasper explained.

Malcolm shook his head and declined. "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine. I thought you would give me the position of COO, or I wouldn't have come tonight. Thank you for hosting us. It's getting late, I should return and rest."

Malcolm then got up and moved to leave.

Jasper tilted his head down to drink his coffee. He narrowed his eyes slightly but did not call the man back.

This moment was key to the game Jasper and Malcolm were playing. If Jasper agreed to Malcolm's whims, then he would be put at a disadvantage for the rest of the negotiation process.

Plus, Jasper refused to allow a professional manager to boss him around in his own company.

This was his company, so he had to have the final word.

Seeing how the negotiation was taking a turn for the worse, Wendy immediately thought of a plan and turned to Kelly, "Are you leaving already, Mrs. Kelly? It's a shame, I was thinking of inviting you to the zoo. We have two large pandas there, a gift from the Criucia Province last year."

Mrs. Kelly was surprised and she turned to tell Malcolm, "Can't you be a little more patient, dearest?"

Malcolm could not help but smile wryly at how his wife was completely at Wendy's mercy.

"I'd like to know about your company's current situation, Mr. Laine," Malcolm told Jasper who chose to sit down patiently in the end.

Jasper smiled and put the cup of coffee down. Then, he spoke loudly, “JW Capital is my parent company, and under it are a few holding as well as wholly-owned subsidiaries. Among which are two companies in the dot-com industry, two in the media and entertainment, one in real estate, and one in electronics.”

Malcolm’s frown deepened as he heard this. He could not help but feel like Jasper was bluffing.

“Pardon my bluntness, Mr. Laine, but you said that you were still in the initial stages of entrepreneurship? Involving your company in so many different industries at the same time makes your company really susceptible to crashing. This is a time where you should focus only on one industry.

“To be frank, I’ve seen many outstanding entrepreneurs who have ended their careers prematurely because they started branching out to other industries. It’s not easy to work in multiple industries, let alone like you, Mr. Laine, dabbling in so many industries at the very beginning. You’re not going to be able to do well in any of those industries.

“If I have to guess... the companies in the other industries you dabble in must all be small, right, Mr. Laine? Or perhaps, they’re just empty shells?”

Malcolm was direct. He was a little pissed about how Jasper got him to take a step back through his wife, so there was no reason for him to back down on a chance to offend Jasper.

However, in face of Malcolm’s words, Jasper only gave a mysterious smile as he sat before him.

Life at the Top Chapter 717

“Mr. Malibu, you might’ve heard of the two dot-com industry companies of mine.

“One of them is called Sena, Somerland’s first web portal.

“The other is Terizone Inc. Its main product is KK, an instant messaging software that currently dominates the most market shares within the country. It has no competitors.”

Mrs. Kelly suddenly gasped and interrupted Jasper.

“Terizone? Oh, their KK software is really nice. I have a KK number as well, their video calling function is just too convenient. Didn’t you register for a KK account too, dearest? And you complained about how their server only exists within Somerland, causing our video calls to lag all the time.

“I remember how you even emailed them and requested that they set up a server overseas as well.”

Malcolm flushed at Mrs. Kelly’s words.

She gave perfect assistance and Jasper could not help but smile.

“Thank you two for your suggestions. I’ll definitely bring it to Terizone’s managerial level and have them pay better attention to this matter.”

Malcolm spoke awkwardly, “Let’s not talk about this one anymore. What about your other industries? If your main business is the dot-com industry, then the development of your other companies in other industries must be rather average then.”

“The media and entertainment industry? One of them is Advent Entertainment Group. It used to be the best film company in Harbor City before I acquired it and more than 60% of Harbor City’s best actors are currently signed under it.

“There’s one more that’s slightly weaker, but it’s still one of the leading companies in Somerland’s media and entertainment industry. It’s called Easy Media.”

Malcolm’s features twitched, and he felt a little embarrassed.

He loved Jackson, so he was more or less aware of what went on in the media and entertainment industry. There had been numerous Hollywood reports about the founding of Advent Entertainment Group, so he knew about it.

He also knew that this Advent Entertainment Group had a very broad domain in Somerland.

As for Easy Media, while he did not know much about it, he could understand that it was to some degree formidable through its relation to Advent Entertainment Group.

“As for real estate, I have JW Real Estates which I founded half a year ago. As of now, we’re about to finish the Southface River Project in Nauritus City. Once the project is done, it’ll become the benchmark model for renovation in the other cities of Somerland.

“There’s another project still in its planning stage and that’s the construction of the world’s first skyscraper in Waterhoof City. It’s designed to reach a height of 650 meters and it’s been passed to Morgan’s team in Gensler Design and Architecture Firm. The actual design sketch should be completed soon and I’m estimating an investment of around 16 billion Somer Dollars.”

Malcolm’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Had he not done some digging on Jasper and found out that he was an exceptionally outstanding man, Malcolm would have mistaken him for a madman or a conman.

After all, all the companies that Jasper listed held formidable positions in their respective industries. These were companies that normal people might not even own after slaving their entire life away.

Yet Jasper claimed that they were all his properties.

‘Just how wealthy is Jasper?’

Malcolm could not believe that all this belonged to this young man in his 20s who was sitting in front of him.

Jasper ignored Malcolm who was deep in thought and continued to speak.

“As for the electronics company, it’s the newest one and therefore the smallest. The company currently has one product only.”

At that, Malcolm finally let out a sigh of relief.

‘Thank goodness. So it seems that there are still industries that Jasper can’t tackle. It’s only one product and the smallest business among the rest. How formidable could it be?’

Malcolm thought that perhaps not all dignity was lost.

“It’s a product called Mellow, an improved version of the MP3 player. We have full patent ownership over it and it’s currently the best-selling MP3 player within Somerland. I have plans to export Mellow and sell it overseas, but I’m still contacting sales channels.”

Malcolm was utterly stunned by Jasper’s words.

'I thought you said it was the smallest business?

'I thought you said you only had one product?

'Why are all of your products earth-shattering innovations?'

Malcolm flushed in embarrassment when he thought about how he had taunted Jasper earlier.

Jasper took in the change in Malcolm's expression. He felt proud, but he made sure his expression was one of exhaustion.

"These are all my current businesses, Mr. Malibu. You're right, it's not easy broadening my spectrum and working in multiple industries. I'm exhausted and I need someone to help take some pressure off."

Thank goodness that Malcolm was a foreigner who did not understand archaic Somerish, or he would have immediately thought of the saying, 'The mouth parts, and in its place is utter gibberish.'

Everyone around the world desired this kind of exhaustion yet not many people could achieve it.

Smiling frigidly, Malcolm suddenly wondered if he was qualified to be the CEO of such a company.

Malcolm's heart thrummed wildly in his chest.

While he had worked as a senior executive for P&G, he was only in charge of one single business in the group. JW Capital, on the other hand, was a multi-industrial group, and he did not know if he could do a good job alone.

"You're an outstanding enough man, Mr. Laine. I don't think you need the help of others," Malcolm asked.

Jasper smiled. “There’s only so much one man can do, and there will always be things a person does not know no matter how intelligent they are. There is no promise that someone will never make the wrong choice in life.

“Every company in the world is backed up by a hardworking team. A company cannot be run by one person alone, not even if he’s the founder.

“I need your intellect and experience to manage my company, Mr. Malibu.”

Jasper’s last sentence was extremely sincere.

Hesitation appeared on Malcolm’s features.

“Mr. Malibu, I promise that as long as you wish to take the position of COO in JW Capital, you’ll be paid double of what P&G pays you now. And like the treatment given to the other senior executives, you’ll also enjoy annual company dividends.”

Jasper gave his condition.

Malcolm waved his hand and smiled. “To be frank, Mr. Laine, I’ve saved quite a bit from working all these years so I’m hoping to look for a more suitable platform for myself...”

“You will have the highest authority, and I promise that as long as you do not compromise the company’s major interests, I will not interfere with your decision.” Jasper showed his hand.

Malcolm looked at Jasper in shock and exclaimed, “Mr. Laine, are you sure? You have to know that no one’s ever given a professional manager so much authority before.”

“There’s a saying here in Somerland. To only hire the trustworthy, and to trust the hired. Plus...” Jasper smiled. “Those people you talk about aren’t me.”

“Alright then! I’ll be the COO!” Malcolm shot up excitedly.

Life at the Top Chapter 718

The hiring of Malcolm was an important turn of events for Jasper and JW Company.

In his future autobiography, this professional manager who had worked 25 years under JW Company until his retirement at the age of 70 described his meeting with Jasper as an important meeting that changed his life.

It was only second to marrying his wife, Mrs. Kelly.

To add to the joy, Jasper received good news from Jack the following day as well.

After a few rounds of negotiation, Midas Company had finally agreed to package sell the gaming project, United Legends.

It was not cheap, costing 40 million US dollars.

It cost Jasper all the profits he made from Mellow MP3 players as of late.

Even then, Jack had gone through a lot to get the deal. First, he used his connections with Weresoftware to find one of Midas Company’s shareholders. Then, he spent millions on that man just to get him to agree.

As far as Midas Company was concerned, this was an ordinary game with an average beta testing score from Coreana, so the deal had them profiting greatly from Somerland.

Yet to Jasper, excluding the MP3 business, United Legends would be another source of cash flow. The game would spark the beginning of the online gaming market in Somerland that would eventually reach the value of 100 billion.

Only time would tell who truly profited.

Jack was indeed an exceptional professional manager. He remembered Jasper's instructions clearly.

After buying the United Legends project, he had then taken advantage of the extreme rift between the game's developers and the company due to conflicting reasons about whether to sell the game or not. Doing so, he managed to bring in the better half of the project's technicians to Sena.

As a result, Sena now had the most top-notch and highly sought-after game developers and technicians in the country. This had saved them a lot of time and cost.

After Jack's return, Chad had also successfully managed to cultivate the senior executives who would make up the backbone of the electronics company. He had now arrived to work in the investing company.

Since everyone was around the area, Jasper took the opportunity to send an official notice under JW Capital's name. He called over all persons in charge of the subsidiaries under JW Capital to rush over for a meeting in Nauritus City.

Despite having an abundance of funds, the investment company was still based in the same villa. The office space was a little tight and the meeting room was also just the renovated living room on the second floor.

Despite how pitiful a sight it was, people who knew the power of this company knew better than to look down on JW Capital just because of this.

In the room were Hudson Moore from Terizone Inc, Jack Tanner from Sena, Lance Baldwin who Jasper had approved as JW Electronics' new general

manager, Sean Tucker from JW Real Estates, Ryder Lawrence who was the president of Advent Entertainment Group, and Ted Swanson who was the president of Easy Media.

Then there was also the parent company, JW Capital's core decision-makers. Malcolm Malibu, the COO, and the director of the Human Resources Department, Chad Wright.

The group of people filled the meeting room. Every single one of them held formidable positions in their respective businesses.

This was his team.

Including Jasper and Wendy, who was hosting the meeting, there were ten in attendance.

"This is the first important meeting JW Capital is having with the persons in charge of its subsidiaries. There should be ten in attendance and ten have arrived. Would JW Capital's CEO, Jasper Laine, please begin?"

Wendy spoke rigidly and then took her seat.

Jasper took in the shining pairs of eyes directed at himself and smiled. "While this is technically a meeting, it's essentially just a space for us to discuss the problems the companies have faced and their solutions. There's no need to be too tense. This is just a conversation between friends."

Life at the Top Chapter 719

While Jasper did say it would be a friendly chat, the mention of talking about problems faced and their solutions had everyone sitting straight and becoming attentive.

Everyone present was an elite, so they understood the importance of the first formal meeting.

No one else spoke and Jasper continued.

“While the investment company has always been considered the parent company, system and organizational structure-wise, we have yet to make clarifications on the parent company and its various subsidiaries’ functions. That was due to both my negligence and the fact that we were lacking people in the parent company.

“So now with Mr. Malibu and Mr. Wright joining us in the parent company, I believe it’s time to solve the issue.

“Does anyone have any thoughts on the matter?” Jasper asked.

Jack spoke first, “This is great. But Mr. Laine, will JW Capital take this opportunity to change its nature of business, from being a company to a group?”

Everyone was interested in this.

Jasper shook his head. “Not yet, it isn’t time yet. Plus, it’s just a different name. The internal structure will not change.”

Jack nodded and remained silent.

Seeing how no one spoke, Jasper continued, “Then how about I give my thoughts on a solution that I’ve come up with from my conversations with each of you?”

“I plan to completely change the structure in the parent company. I’ll be the CEO while Mr. Malibu will take on the position as COO. He’ll be in charge of the company’s day-to-day transactions. Mr. Wright, as the director of the Human Resources Department, will be in charge of internal affairs and be the link between the parent company and its subsidiaries.

“Miss Schuler will assume the position of the CFO, and I think you all know what that means so I won’t delve into that.”

Hearty chuckles rang out in the room at Jasper’s words.

Everyone knew about Wendy and Jasper’s relationship, so with the knowledge that it was Jasper’s girlfriend watching over their money, no one disagreed.

“In addition, a real estate group will be founded within the company’s organizational structure. Sean will assume the position of president temporarily.

“As well as a dot-com group. Hudson, the situation with your Terizone is a little different since it’s just a holding company under JW Capital and I promised not to interfere with its operations, so Jack will assume the position of president. You can get a position if you want, as vice President.”

Hudson nodded. “No objections.”

Jasper had already talked to him about this and Hudson could not ask for better.

Nodding, Jasper continued, “Then the entertainment and media group. Ryder, you’ll assume the position as president, and Ted, vice president.

“Next, the electronics group. Chad, you’ll be the president concurrently and Lance will be vice president. But considering how Chad is in charge of quite a bit of business, you’ll oversee the daily business, Lance. Just make sure to ask Chad for his opinion for bigger projects.”

Lance, who had just joined JW Electronics, was shaken from the attention. “I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my best.”

Smiling, Jasper continued, “While the company is undergoing a change in structure with groups through vertical management, there is no change in the workload or type of work you do.

“As I said before, JW Capital will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of its subsidiaries, but any important issues are to be reported to the parent company for approval and issuance. Anyone who dares to go around me on this will be fired.

“I’ll be mean now so we can all do great work in the future. I will not tolerate the breaking of rules that the company has established. If I find you in breach of anything, you will be dealt with strictly.”

Life at the Top Chapter 720

This meeting and company restructure was in truth a chance for Jasper to completely comb through and straighten things in JW Capital and its subsidiaries.

Not only had he clarified the authority and responsibilities of each group, but he had also straightened out the system of forces within the companies.

Now that the companies could work together and complement each other, they had finally taken the form of a strong system.

There were also some more secret changes but Jasper did not plan to tell them.

For example, there was now an investment group within the parent company and Jasper planned to have Jake Cullen in Harbor City be in charge of it. Business would mainly be financial operations.

“The company’s only growing larger with each day and I’m likely to reduce my investments under my own name but do it on behalf of the company instead. This is a very important task and I need you to take it upon yourself.”

Jasper’s words had Jake feeling inexplicably excited on the other end of the video call.

He had not expected his relationship with Jasper to develop to such a degree—from being on opposing parties to him following Jasper’s orders to becoming a core member of Jasper’s company.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my best and follow your instructions,” Jake proclaimed his loyalty.

After all, the benefits of being one of the company’s core employees were evident. All he used to get was a commission from Jasper but things would be different now.

A hefty salary and great benefits, as well as company dividends. There was no better job elsewhere.

“I’ve been hosting meetings all day so I’m a little tired now. If there isn’t anything else, let’s end the call here,” Jasper spoke with a smile.

Jasper had put a lot of thought into whether he should appoint Jake or not. After a long period of observation, Jasper realized that Jake was exceptionally talented in his field and his only issue was that he was a little stingy. Still, that was a small issue.

Jasper knew that he was not perfect, so he did not expect others to be perfect.

“There is something else, Mr. Laine. Did you perhaps offend anyone in Coreana?” Jake’s sudden question had Jasper halting just when he moved to end the video call.

“What do you mean?” Jasper frowned.

“I’m not too sure either, but someone sought me out for intel on you. Quite a few people know about you since the Harbor City market rescue plan and that person seems to be aware of our history. But I don’t think they know how our relationship is now and they asked me about your current situation. It seems like they’re looking to trouble you.

“From what I understand, I think his partner over in Coreana tasked him with this.”

Jasper frowned at Jake’s words.

If there was anyone he had offended in Coreana, then it had to be Jonathan Lang.

‘But does he have great enough connections in Harbor City to get someone to deal with me?’

“Who’s the man who asked you about me?” Jasper asked.

“Also someone extremely wealthy in Harbor City. His name is Fabian Atticus!”

‘Fabian Atticus?’

Jasper felt enlightened now.

This man was rich and as much of a flirt as Bob Lancaster. He only began to keep a low profile after he married the beautiful Miss Harbor City, Roxanne Hart.

However, just because he was low profile did not mean he was truly low profile. He still had ambiguous relationships with young models, and there were rumors about how exciting his gatherings were.

As one of the richest men in Harbor City’s construction industry, there should be no reason for Fabian to be ordered around by someone like Jonathan.

Jasper could feel that there was more than met the eye.

“Alright, I got it. Don’t worry about it anymore, but do tell me if you have any new updates.” Then, Jasper ended the call with Jake.

Jasper gave it some thought and was about to call Henry when the man looked for him first.

“Holy sh*t! I can’t f*cking take this anymore. It’s literally just a small issue and they’re looking for me? I might as well just not f*cking do anything at all and follow them every day like their f*cking nanny or some sh*t!”

Henry began to complain the moment he walked through the door. He was pissed in a way that reminded Jasper of a mistreated wife.

Jasper asked curiously, “I thought the amusement park project was done? What more is there to do than pay them?”

Henry replied angrily, “I’d be free a long f*cking time ago if I just had to pay them. We’ve already checked everything and they’ve passed all the safety measures but my dad just had to say something about the importance of safety, so he got another f*cking team from Harbor City to come check and look for problems.

“Who knows what f*cking drugs those stupid f*ckers took from my dad but they pick on the littlest of issues, oh my God. It was fine until they somehow came up with 36 f*cking things to change. It’s so annoying I’m going to rip my hair out.

“F*cking hell, I’m going to kill every single one of them when I get back to Harbor City!”

Jasper frowned. “They’re just doing what they’re paid to do. The fact that they managed to find problems even when facing pressure from you means there really is an issue. Why would you take revenge after all of that?”

Henry slumped in the chair limply with his legs hooking over the armrests. “I wasn’t actually going to do it. My dad would be the first one to get his hands on me if I actually did it. Argh. It’s so annoying!”

Jasper smiled. “How about I take you out for some fun once this is over?”

Henry's eyes shone and he was immediately energized. He sat up straight in the chair. "Really? Where are we going?"

"Probably Waterhoof City." Jasper leaned against his chair and smiled. "I've got to take a trip to Waterhoof City in a bit. I thought I'd bring you too but you've got to finish things for your amusement park first."

Henry asked confusedly, "The amusement park and your Southface River Project finish at the same time, though. How are you free?"

"I just need to come back on the day of the completion ceremony. It's just for formality's sake anyway."

Jasper then suddenly asked, "Do you know anything about Fabian Atticus?"

Henry scoffed. "Who? Fabian Atticus?"

"That f*cker's the same age as Kayden, he's ten years older than me. We're not close at all, but Harbor City's also very small so I do know a bit about him.

"How should I say this? I wouldn't be surprised if that guy died one day while he was f*cking a woman. Why're you asking out of the blue?"

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly. "Do you know if he's got any partnerships over in Coreana?"

"You've got to ask my dad about that. But his family is in the construction business, so why would he have partnerships with Coreana? It'd be more believable if you told me he was playing with women there."

Henry's mindless comment had Jasper frowning immediately.

'Now that I think about it, it's not impossible!'

