

Life at the Top Chapter 731

Sure enough, Mr. Adams was convinced. He looked at Jasper. “What do I need to offer if you manage to do it?”

Jasper laughed and said, “You don’t need to offer anything as long as you promise to let everyone in your team take two apprentices each.”

Mr. Adams narrowed his eyes at Jasper and said coldly, “Are you trying to acquire our skills in the shortest time possible?”

“That should have been the case from the start, no?” Jasper asked mildly.

“Fine, I’ll take on the bet!” Mr. Adams harrumphed. In his opinion, he was bound to win this bet.

Seeing how Mr. Adams was so full of himself, Jasper remained unruffled.

In his past life, United Legends, which was not well-known at the time, almost went bankrupt from staking everything on a single chance to promote it. How many users were there during the open beta testing?

1.5 million!

It was precisely because of this record that the global gaming industry discovered the massive blue ocean in the gaming scene of Somerland.

At the moment, he had Terizone and Sena, the two largest internet portals. Surpassing the previous record of 500,000 could not be any easier.

What was more, Jasper was confident that the suggestions he proposed would capture the essence of domestic online games, bringing out United Legends' traits even more!

After sending Mr. Adams away, Jasper turned around and saw the look of admiration in Terry's eyes.

"You're so awesome, Mr. Laine. To be honest with you, and you can laugh all you want, but I've been awfully tormented by these Coreanans. But when you took over the situation, you managed to fix and tame them with such efficiency."

Jasper laughed. "It's not time yet. When the open beta testing is released, that's when they will bow their heads in submission."

Terry hastened to add after hearing what he said, "Don't mind me for saying this, Mr. Laine, but I honestly think that it was a little exaggerated when you said that the number of online users in the open beta testing would exceed two million."

"Do you think I will lose the bet?" Jasper asked.

Terry explained hastily, "That's not what I meant."

Though his mouth said no, his expression said otherwise.

"I understand that you want to get the most out of these Coreanans in the shortest time possible and kick them out, Mr. Laine, but you need to do it slowly. Both techniques you used earlier today have achieved very good results."

"Terry." Jasper led Terry to the office and said while they walked, "You need to learn from Jack. Jack never doubts."

Terry was slightly stunned. Thinking that Jasper was just putting on an act for no reason, he laughed dryly. "Yes, yes, I must learn from Mr. Tanner, indeed."

Although he inwardly disagreed, what could he possibly do? After all, he was just an employee and needed to show due respect for his boss' feelings.

Little did he know, within half an hour, Jack, who had rushed over to the company all the way from the airport, said in delight after hearing what Terry reported to him, "If that's the case, we need to speed up the progress and get United Legends prepared for the open beta testing. I find these Coreanans an eyesore as well."

"Mr. Tanner, don't you think Mr. Laine is exaggerating a little too much? When the time comes, not only will he fail to place his men in the team, but he risks paying one million US dollars," Terry said, astonished.

"Exaggeration?" Jack glanced meaningfully at Terry and continued, "You have never interacted with Mr. Laine before, so I don't blame you. But listen, you need to get used to seeing Mr. Laine creating miracles next time. There's nothing he says that he can't achieve!"

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In the next few days, under Jack's lead, Sena began publicizing and promoting United Legends.

This included the servers as well. A series of teams were rapidly formed because Jasper did not stint on using his wealth and power.

As for Mr. Adams, perhaps it was because he was hoping to earn Jasper's one million dollars as soon as possible, he was fueled with energy. He urged the Coreanans to work overtime every day in order to make progress.

As for the promotions, Jasper asked Jack to contact Hudson.

Terizone was extremely supportive. With Jasper's suggestions, they launched the first pop-up advertisement for all KK users.

The advertisement that popped up twice a day had brought unprecedented attention to United Legends.

Before this, the outdated game, Fated Swordsman, was the only game that domestic players knew. This was their first time being introduced to such a huge production.

With Jasper's personal intervention, Sena released United Legends' official website and even posted a video on it.

When the players saw the extremely cool special effects portrayed in the video and the horrific monster boss, they thought this was simply genius.

Therefore, in a very short period of time, Jasper's viral publicity stunt produced excellent results. Almost everyone knew that the open beta testing for a domestic online game called United Legends was about to begin.

This series of actions had attracted the attention of many people in the industry, but none of them knew that a behemoth was gradually rising. They merely paid attention to Jasper using Terizone and Sena, two major internet traffic portals, to carry out his promotions.

The excellent results had left everyone completely amazed.

Even Hudson learned for the very first time that KK had such massive potential when it came to publicity.

"Say, Mr. Laine, if I can sell the pop-up window as advertisements, can you imagine how much money I'll make every day?"

Hudson exclaimed in the video conference.

Jasper laughed. “If you do that, then KK users will start cursing you. Once or twice is fine. Do you think anyone would still want to use KK when a bunch of advertisements pop up every time they launch the program?”

Hudson sighed and said, “I was just saying. Although the Nobile KK business is developing really well, the company is still in urgent need of new profit growth points.”

“Do you think I asked you to promote Sena’s game for nothing?” Jasper said mysteriously.

Hudson’s eyes lit up as he asked, “Do you have any good ideas, Mr. Laine?”

“I plan to take Sena and Terizone’s cooperation to a much deeper level and launch a points card business,” Jasper told him his plans instead of keeping him guessing.

To date, online payment was still a fictitious concept. Even though Jasper’s reincarnation had placed him in an advantageous position, he could do nothing more than to point out that online payment was the general orientation in the future.

Jasper intended to put Sena on the market as the first listed company under JW Consortium. All of Sena’s businesses must surpass or outdo all previous businesses. They had to receive the support of capitalists as well.

“Mr. Laine, are you saying that the players will place their order to purchase the points card and we will deliver the cards?” Hudson asked with a frown.

Jasper shook his head. He knew that even though Hudson was a business prodigy, his worldview had been restricted by the timeline they were in.

“What are points cards for? They’re nothing more than a series of numbers. Why do you still need to make points cards? It’ll make things easier for the players if

you just send out these serial numbers online, won't it? It'll also save us the cost of card production."

Hudson smacked his forehead and said in pleasant surprise, "Yeah, in that case, this will be a win-win situation! But how will the payment be made?"

Hudson immediately noticed the key problem.

In truth, the core issue of online payment was the means of payment itself.

"This is one of the reasons why I'm here in Waterhoof City. I'm here to talk to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Somer." Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly.

"I need the ICBS to give us access to an online banking interface so the users can use their ICBS cards to make seamless payments that go straight to Terizone.

"I will talk to the ICBS management about this in the afternoon. Wait for my good news."

Having said that, Jasper ended the video conference with Hudson with a smile.

ICBS was certainly going to be a hard nut to crack. Jasper needed to handle this with caution.

The best option would be to talk to ICBS' Southeast Province branch. After all, many things would be much easier to deal with when John Jackson, the vice president of Tefa's ICBS, was around.

Though unfortunately, the Southeast Province branch was only a tier-one branch that held no authority to work with Jasper.

The Waterhoof City branch, however, was a special tier-one branch with authority second only to the headquarters. Therefore, Jasper had no choice but to talk to the Waterhoof City branch.

Vita was already waiting at the entrance.

Amidst the greetings from the employees, Vita nodded indifferently as though he did not care.

Though when Jasper's car arrived, a zealous smile broke out on his face immediately. He walked out of the sentry box and toward the car, even taking the initiative to open the car door.

At the sight of this, the branch employees nearby looked at this low-key black business car with curiosity. To see Mr. Layne attaching such great importance to this person, they wondered if a VIP had arrived.

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"Mr. Layne."

Jasper got out of the car and shook hands with Vita who was grinning from ear to ear.

Vita took Jasper's hands with a chuckle and lowered his voice to say, "I will soon be the branch president, Mr. Laine."

Jasper was pleasantly surprised. "You got a promotion? Congratulations! You will have to buy me lunch, you know?"

Vita let out a modest smile and said, "I'm keeping a low profile. They came and talked to me earlier, so I think there won't be a major issue. The official documents have yet to be issued, though, so I can't disclose this to the public yet. As for lunch, sure, as long as you're willing to give me the honor, Mr. Laine, then I can buy you lunch anytime!"

"Speaking of which, I have to thank you for this."

"Oh? Why is that so?" Jasper asked curiously.

"It's all thanks to that plot of land previously." Vita led Jasper into the office building.

"You wanted to talk to the city hall regarding the construction of the world's tallest building on that plot of land, didn't you? The branch received the news the next day itself, alerting the headquarters as well. They knew that I had gone all out to make this happen, so they issued an order of commendation straight away."

"I heard that the head of Waterhoof City Hall even gave a call to the headquarters' boss and told him that our branch had done a great deed that would benefit the country and the people."

Vita said in elation.

A man of his age and status would find it extremely arduous to get promoted. After all, every level presented a massive barrier.

Though thanks to Jasper, he was able to take a big step forward effortlessly. In the future, he would remain in the vice president position to build up his skills for a few years. Then, he would be promoted as president in one of the provincial branches. When he retired, according to customary practices, he would be raised by half a level, serving temporarily as the headquarters' vice president.

This was something he had dared not even think about in the past.

Jasper was equally surprised when he heard what he said. The country was in urgent need of major events to boost national confidence and demonstrate national strength. The previous Olympics was one, and building the world's tallest building was another that was in line with the expectations.

It was no wonder Vita benefited from it as well.

This was a lucrative job in the municipality, what more for an ICBS branch's vice president in a financial center like Waterhoof City.

"You really do need to buy me that lunch," Jasper joked.

"Definitely. I will invite John as well when that happens." Vita chuckled, leading Jasper to his office and making him a cup of coffee.

Vita then took a seat, the smile on his face gradually diminishing as he spoke softly, "I have bad news, Mr. Laine."

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly as he stared at Vita, waiting for him to continue.

After letting out a wry smile, Vita continued with a slightly awkward expression, "You spoke to me about the partnership two days ago, remember? I conveyed your requirements to the president and two other vice presidents about it. Everyone was pretty delighted about it at first.

"What's more, you're a huge figure in Waterhoof City now. Everyone in the branch is thankful for your contribution regarding that plot of land. So we compiled the documents and handed in the materials to the headquarters but did not expect the headquarters to reject it straight away."

Vita observed Jasper's countenance as he spoke, only to see no changes.

Vita was gradually losing confidence and felt slightly guilty about it.

After all, Jasper had helped him get promoted as the branch's vice president, yet he messed up the first time Jasper asked him to get something done.

Anyone would be upset about this.

Moreover, this was a reasonable and legal partnership. Jasper was not going through the back door or benefiting from him at all.

"The branch in Waterhoof City has the authority to grant me access to an online banking interface, right?" Jasper asked.

Vita chuckled bitterly. "We do, actually. If we hadn't reported it to the headquarters and kept it to ourselves, then it would've been doable. But the problem here is that the president who only initially intended to inform the headquarters did not expect them to reject it straight away. Since this is the case, it will now be inappropriate for us to force the partnership."

Jasper asked with a frown, "Do you know why it got rejected?"

Vita replied frankly without holding any information back, "When things like that are involved, the headquarters will need to have a meeting to seek permission. You know that ICBS' shareholder structure is slightly complicated, but almost all of them are state-owned enterprise holdings... All but one.

"Harbor City Trade Settlement Center!

"This trade settlement center holds 31% of ICBS' shares, making them the third-largest shareholder. Hence, they have a say in making decisions.

"The trade settlement center's representative was the one who opposed this proposal in the meeting. They're pretty firm about it. Mr. Laine, under normal circumstances, state-owned enterprises, especially one with a complex shareholder structure like ICBS, would choose to respect the opinions of major shareholders if they ever oppose."

Jasper finally understood what was going on after listening to Vita's explanation.

This problem might seem complicated but was actually pretty easy to understand.

ICBS' headquarters had held a shareholders meeting specifically about his application and Harbor City Trade Settlement Center strongly opposed it. As such, the partnership was considered to have fallen through.

However, Jasper bore no grudge against Harbor City Trade Settlement Center, so why did the other party oppose it?

Jasper had a feeling that something fishy was going on.

At this moment, Vita's voice rang out. "Mr. Laine, I suggest you find out if there's any misunderstanding between you and Harbor City Trade Settlement Center, especially the aristocrats who hold the shares. They are the ones who have a say in this."

"Do you know which aristocratic families hold the trade settlement center's shares?" Jasper asked.

"I do. One of them is the Half-the-Harbor Langdon family, holding 25% of shares. Then, there's the infrastructure magnate, the Atticus family, holding 24% of shares. The rest of the 51% of shares shouldn't be much of a problem because they're all under state-owned enterprises that can't even beat you. I don't think they'll make things difficult for you on purpose."

The Atticus family!

Jasper's eyes lit up.

He finally knew who was behind this.

Fabian Atticus!

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To be honest, Jasper was disgusted when he found out that Fabian was behind this.

He was sickened by people like that the most. Even when they disliked you, they refused to say it to your face and would instead make a move behind your back, grossing you out whenever they could.

This was as gross as having somebody's snot stuck to your body!

This was uncalled for.

Jasper had not completely run out of options either. He could easily partner up with commercial banks like Pfeiffer and Griffin.

The only thing about them was that their scale and services were slightly limited. These banks generally dealt with businesses more, like corporate loans, deposits, and the like.

They were weaker when it came to personal savings.

Even though things changed in 2020 after Jasper's reincarnation, it was still not enough for these two banks to catch up with the big four banking companies.

Jasper needed the interface to make payments easier for the players. If they were to take a trip to another city just to open up an account with these two banks, then this was simply putting the cart before the horse.

The players might not buy it.

These two options were not entirely out of the question either. The other party was aware of their shortcomings and would not hesitate to partner up with him when it involved a partnership that could promote their personal savings business in the shortest time possible.

Therefore, this was really not a big deal.

Even so, this was still very disgusting. After all, this was someone else's snot, and anyone would be grossed out by it.

"Okay, I will handle this. Wait for my update. I might even need your help when the time comes," Jasper said, standing up.

Vita knew that Jasper was about to leave and stood up with a guilty countenance, saying, "I'll see you off, Mr. Laine. Sigh, I couldn't even get one thing done for you!"

Jasper laughed. "There's no need to take this to heart. I have only myself to blame for not making enough preparations and giving others a loophole to take advantage of me. You have done your best and I will remember that. Let's have a meal together when John is free. I'll host."

Vita said hastily, "Oh, please don't! We agreed that I'll buy you a meal. I'll be the host."

Jasper smiled when he saw how anxious Vita was and did not insist further.

On the way back, Jasper called Jake and requested him to pull up Harbor City Trade Settlement Center's file regarding shareholder structure as well as the internal power structure of this company that ordinary people had no knowledge about.

Jake was highly efficient. Jasper had just stepped foot into the hotel when he received the information.

After turning on the computer, Jasper carefully studied the information that Jake sent him.

Like Vita said, Harbor City Trade Settlement Center was owned by three state-owned enterprises that made up 51% of the shares. Of the remaining 49%, Joe Langdon's family held 25%, whereas Fabian Atticus' family held 24%.

Strangely, despite being the shareholder that held the least shares, the company's power structure leaned uniformly toward Fabian's family.

There were 11 board directors, six of whom were made up of three state-owned enterprises, and three were occupied by the Atticus family alone. The Langdons, on the other hand, occupied only two seats.

According to Harbor City-style state-owned enterprise, state-owned capital only accounted for the controlling rights and decision-making power according to customary practices. The Atticus family had the final say in the company's daily operation.

That explained why Fabian could mess up his plan so effortlessly.

As he looked at the diagram of the trade settlement center's shareholder structure, Jasper lowered his head and picked up his phone. He located a number in his contacts that had never been dialed ever since he saved it and pressed on the number without a single hesitation.

After a moment, the call went through.

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Jasper listened to the slightly startled greeting that came from the other end of the phone and laughed. “Mr. Langdon, are you free to make a trip to Waterhoof City? Let’s discuss a big business that could earn you a conservative estimate of at least one billion dollars. How does that sound?”

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Thompson Golf Course in Harbor City.

A gold golf ball formed a gorgeous arc mid-air before rolling into a golf hole cup 30 meters away.

“You’re amazing, Mr. Atticus!” A gorgeous woman dressed in tight golf apparel praised Fabian.

Fabian let out a nonchalant smile. He had clearly grown accustomed to such flattery as he said in a lackadaisical manner, “That’s what you said last night too. I’ve always been amazing.”

The woman’s delicate face flushed as she protested coquettishly, “Oh, stop it, Mr. Atticus!”

While walking back to the teeing area, Fabian asked the middle-aged man who was holding his golf clubs for him, playing the role of his caddy.

“Any update on the task I entrusted you to do?”

The middle-aged man hurried forward and replied reverently, “It has been executed, Mr. Atticus. ICBS’ headquarters got back to us today. They have officially sent out the letter of rejection to the Waterhoof City branch today.”

Fabian's face broke out in a grin as he said, "Not bad. Although I have no idea what Jasper Laine is up to, we'll disrupt everything he intends to do."

The middle-aged man responded in an ingratiating manner, "Yes, Jasper is probably still clueless as to who has ruined his plan. He must be so confused.

"What you're doing is ingenious, Mr. Atticus. He might not even know that he has offended you even after all his plans are ruined."

"He didn't offend me, nor does he have the right to offend me. A friend from Coreana asked for my help. Besides..."

Fabian twitched his mouth and continued, "I hate the Laines, or anyone with surnames that begin with the letter L. Those with these surnames are the flies and vermin of this world.

"Keep a close eye on Jasper. If he takes any action, then we'll continue to wreck his plans. Let's see what he's going to do about that. What can he, a Mainlander, possibly do? Raise the roof?

"We must let him know that he has yet to meet the real bigwigs of this world. He thinks he can rest easy just because he's licking the Laws' boots? If I, Fabian Atticus, want to lay a finger on him, nobody can stop me—not even the Laws!

"Ask someone to open up my precious bottle of Romani. I'm in a good mood today and a 200,000-dollar red wine would be perfect for such an occasion."

"Yes, Mr. Atticus."

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The next day at Waterhoof City International Airport. A plane slowly landed.

After some time, Kayden Langdon walked out of the business aisle while dressed inconspicuously and with a rushed look on his face. Jasper, who came to pick him up personally, went forward to greet him.

“It’s been a while, Mr. Langdon,” Jasper greeted with a smile.

Kayden shook Jasper’s hands and joked, “You’re the second person in this world aside from my father who can get me to book an overnight flight with a single phone call. If I find out you’re lying to me about this business opportunity, I’m not going to let this slide for sure.”

Jasper laughed and said, “Is it worthwhile for me to get you to come this far just to play a prank on you, Mr. Langdon? Don’t worry, if I say that there’s a business opportunity, then there’s definitely a business opportunity. Besides, this business is one that will give you steady profits without suffering any losses.”

Under Jasper’s lead, Kayden got into a business car.

Once he sat down, he let out a meaningful smile and said, “When I first came out to do business, my father told me that there’s no business in this world that will give me steady profits without suffering some form of losses unless someone wants to gain even more from you.”