

# Life at the Top Chapter 871

“I didn’t say that you did,” Henry replied, stopping in front of him. He wrapped his arm around Zane’s shoulder. “Why’d you even suggest that? Did you provoke me behind my back without my knowledge?” He asked in a cheery tone.

Zane, who was overcome with guilt, glanced at Jasper instinctively. However, he instantly returned to his senses and looked away from Jasper. He tried to pry off Henry’s hand.

“I did not do anything to you, so let’s both mind our own business. Don’t cling to me like that—we’re not that close to each other.”

“Oh.”

Henry patted Zane’s face with a wide smile across his face as he continued to speak, “I haven’t seen you in a few days, but it seems like your temper has improved. Why won’t you let me cling to you? In the past, you didn’t even dare to breathe loudly in front of me. I’ve just left Harbor City for a few days, and now you’re acting up against me.”

While Henry spoke, he cast a brief glance at Mitch Langdon, whose expression was dark and overcast. “Do you think that you can go against me because this guy is here?” He asked.

Zane stared at Mitch, silently pleading him for help.

Mitch could not bear to watch Henry bully Zane in front of him. After all, one still had to check with a dog’s master before hitting a dog.

“That’s enough from you, Law. We’re just here to look around. Why are you coming after us?”

Henry let out an evil snicker. He was acting like a gangster right now. "I didn't ask you why you were here. Why are you in such a hurry to explain things to me? Are you here with an ulterior motive or something?" He asked.

"But, with an idiot like him..."

Henry patted Zane's face again and scoffed. "I'm afraid nothing good will come your way."

Zane's face flushed red in anger. Rage surged through him as he flung off Henry's arm and said angrily, "Henry Law, you're crossing the line!"

Henry scoffed after his arm was thrown away. "Oh, why are you so pissed off today, little mutt? Do you want me to play with you?" He cooed.

Zane huffed in annoyance and said, "Who do you think you are? You're just one of Jasper Laine's followers. Do you think that you're that much better than me? What a f\*cking disgrace to Harbor City. How did someone like you get born in Harbor City?"

Mitch's expression changed as soon as Zane finished speaking.

He knew that Henry despised such words the most.

As expected, a vicious rage flashed across Henry's gaze. He stared at Zane emotionlessly.

"Motherf\*cker," Henry spat out as he slapped Zane across his face. "Why can't you talk to me properly? Are you asking for a beating?"

Zane shouted out in pain. He held his face with his hand and roared out in anger, "I've had enough of you, Law! Don't f\*cking force me to do something that you'll regret!"

“Force you?” Henry sneered. “Even if I force you to die, what can you do to me? Motherf\*cker,” he cursed.

“How dare you ask me not to force you to do anything? Do you think that you’re the main villain that everyone fails to defeat in a game? You’re nobody. You’re just a piece of worthless trash, idiot.”

Mitch took in a deep breath and put himself in front of Zane in order to prevent the dimwit from acting rashly.

“Gloat as much as you want, Henry Law. Let’s see how long all of this will last!” Mitch said, trying his best to suppress the burning anger within him.

“Oh? From what you just said, it seems like your devious scheme is yet to be in action.” Henry asked with narrowed eyes.

Mitch sneered and replied, “Those are your own words. I didn’t mention anything about a scheme.”

The commotion caused by Henry and Zane’s argument attracted a lot of attention. Jasper, who was paying some attention to them from a distance away, frowned slightly. Hence, he excused himself from the officials that he was talking to and headed over to the group.

As he made his way over, he coincidentally overheard what Mitch had said.

“Are the both of you here to celebrate the completion of the Southface River project?” Jasper asked with a smile.

Zane glared at Jasper and huffed in irritation. “I’m afraid that you’ve overthinking our actions,” he replied.

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“Oh? It seems like you aren’t here to celebrate then.”

Jasper turned around and called out, “Julian.”

“I’m here!”

Julian made his way toward Jasper.

“Kick these two people off the venue. They weren’t invited.”

As soon as Jasper finished giving his orders, Zane yelled out in a fit of rage.  
“Jasper Laine, what are you doing?!”

Mitch had an extremely unpleasant expression etched across his face as well.

He did not expect Jasper to act in such an arrogant manner and kick both of them out after exchanging just a few sentences with them.

If he and Zane were to get kicked out of the event like a wounded dog in front of everyone, it would be beyond humiliating for them. They would be too ashamed to even return to Harbor City.

“This is a topping-off ceremony. I had personally invited everyone present to celebrate the completion of the Southface River project. Since both of you aren’t here to celebrate, why should I let you stay?” Jasper asked them calmly.

The corner of Zane’s mouth twitched; What Jasper said made sense. Thus, he glanced at Mitch instinctively.

There was a dark expression on Mitch's face. He sneered coldly and said, "There's no need to use your tricks on me, Jasper Laine. Didn't you send out invitations to both our families? We're here to attend the ceremony, but you're kicking us out instead. If news about this breaks out, who will seem to be the one at fault here?"

Jasper raised his brow and said, "You're mistaken. I sent out invitations to your fathers, Mr. Bob Lancaster and Mr. Kennedy Langdon. I intended to invite both of them, but neither of your are on the guest list."

Mitch and Zane's expressions changed. They had both seen Jasper's invitation. As he had said, their names had not been on the invitations. The invitation did not invite Bob and Kennedy to bring their respective family members along either.

Mitch's face flushed red in anger as he let out a disgruntled huff and said, "Since we're not welcome here, we'll leave."

"If you're here to celebrate the completion of the project, you're definitely welcome."

Jasper's words caused Mitch and Zane, who were both walking away crestfallenly, to freeze in their tracks.

"Regardless of your original purpose behind coming here, there's no need to leave in such a hurry now. Stick around to greet some guests with me."

Zane laughed derisively after listening to what Jasper had said. "Are you crazy? What do you take us for? Do you think that we're your followers like Henry Law? Why should we follow you while you greet your guests? Do you think that you're that important?" He questioned.

"In any case, I've already told you what I wanted to say. It's alright if you don't wish to come along," Jasper said. He then led Julian toward the entrance of the building.

Zane stared at Jasper's silhouette suspiciously. "Mr. Langdon, what is he playing at?"

Mitch shook his head slowly and said, "I'm not sure. Let's see what's going on."

Henry sneered as he glanced at the two of them. Based on his understanding of Jasper, he knew that there had to be some kind of trap awaiting them.

Jasper had just walked back to the entrance when a few luxurious cars arrived and came to a stop in front of the entrance.

Initially, the arrival of these few cars did not attract anyone's attention. After all, apart from the reporters, everyone attending the event was of a noble and wealthy background. The event was packed with people, and there were plenty of rich and reputable bosses amongst the guests.

No matter how wealthy they were, could they compare with the Laws?

No matter how much authority they possessed, could they compare with the official from the provincial government?

Therefore, those who noticed the cars simply disregarded it after sparing it a brief glance.

However, everyone's hearts began to race once they caught sight of the person that stepped out of the car.

# Life at the Top Chapter 873

Kennedy, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Kayden, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Bob Lancaster, one of Harbor City's bigshots.

While Bob did not hold a candle to the four richest families in Harbor City, the man's wealth and status were definitely that of an elite in venues where the four main families were not present.

No one had expected Jasper to be able to invite three of Harbor City's richest families for his topping-out ceremony.

The reporters felt lightheaded and were moments away from going crazy. They were all too excited and could barely contain the urge to step forward and interview the newly-arrived guest, but the stern-looking bodyguards in black suits were very effective in deterring them.

Both Zane and Mitch were stunned when they saw their fathers.

They had not expected their fathers, who had remained impartial all this while, to suddenly rush over for this.

Even so, they dared not hesitate and quickly went to greet them.

"You've done well, Jasper." Kayden smiled at him after observing the surroundings.

Jasper shook Kayden's hands and smiled. "Quite a bit of hard work and ideas were pitched during the designing process back then, and we've taken inspiration from quite a few of Harbor City's design concepts in order to have Southface River look the way it does today. I could bring you around for a tour later."

Kayden nodded. "Sure, I've got to get a good look at it. If I could, I was hoping to buy a few businesses here, and wait for its value to rise."

"You're very welcome to do so."

Jasper then turned to extend his hand toward Kennedy. "Thank you for coming, Mr. Kennedy."

Kennedy chuckled and shook Jasper's hand while replying, "Not bad, it looks much better than I imagined. It seems like we elders need to learn more from youths like you, or we'll only get left behind and forgotten."

Jasper smiled. "Your experience and knowledge is something we youths can only dream of having. We're still young and there are many places where we'll need guidance from elders like you."

Kennedy shook Jasper's hand and turned to smile at Bob as he spoke, "See? I told you Jasper's the best wordsmith amongst all the youth in Harbor City. The way he speaks makes you feel good, doesn't it?"

Bob smiled humorlessly and replied, "That's not right. Jasper isn't from Harbor City, he doesn't count as one of Harbor City's youths."

"Harbor City's part of Somerland now, it means the same thing," Jasper replied calmly.

Scoffing, Bob spoke rather emotionlessly, "Don't think that you can butter me up with your honeyed words. I've got miles more experience than you; have you no shame trying to show off?"

Just then, Zane and Mitch rushed over as well.

“Dad.”

The two greeted their respective fathers.

“What are you two doing here?” Bob frowned at his son and asked solemnly.

“I, I...”

Zane stammered and kept glancing at Mitch.

Mitch frowned. He could not help but think that Zane was an utterly stupid motherf\*cker.

“We came over to the Mainland to scout the market, but we couldn’t find anything worth investing in. We were passing by the Southeast Province when he heard the news, so we came over to take a look as well.”

Mitch’s excuse was completely unconvincing.

However, in an event as grand as this one, no one truly cared whether your reason to attend was believable or not. As long as you had a reason, that was good enough.

Kennedy glanced at his son and turned to Jasper. “Jasper, the Boyle family wanted me to help extend their apologies. He’s on a business trip right now and his children are preoccupied with their previous arrangements, so he could not come this time.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly at Kennedy’s words.

He had sent the Boyle family their invitation alongside the Law family.

Despite this, the Boyle family had yet to inform them whether or not they would be attending.

Logically speaking, guests tended to inform the host if they could not attend the event due to specific reasons, or if they could attend, what time they would arrive.

It was unusual for someone else to pass the message.

Zachary had unintentionally mentioned to Jasper before that the Boyle family was the most fickle out of the four richest families. The man followed went wherever there were benefits to be found, which was also why the Boyle family had the most shallow roots compared to the other three richest families.

If he could not afford to offend anyone, then he would just steer clear of the event altogether.

Jasper's relationship with the Boyle family was rather amicable thanks to the Law family. They had worked together a couple of times and their cooperation was always all mutually beneficial.

In any case, Jasper had personally invited the four richest families for this event.

The Law family's attendance was a given, but even Kennedy, who was not on good terms with Jasper had come as well. Yet, the Boyle family was nowhere to be seen.

Kennedy was the one who brought word of this as well.

Not to mention, his message was rather intriguing.

Chuckling, Kennedy spoke, "Why, do you not believe me?"

Jasper smiled and replied, “Why would Mr. Kennedy lie to me? If Mr. Boyle can’t come, then we could always meet again in the future. Shall we go inside? Uncle Law and the officials from the Provincial and City Government are already inside.”

“Sure, let’s.” Kennedy smiled meaningfully as he followed Bob and Kayden, who were smiling silently the entire time, inside.

Zane glared at Jasper, who was walking away alongside the other bigshots, and spoke enviously, “What the f\*ck. We’re around the same age. Hell, that b\*stard’s even two years younger than me! Who gave him the right to be on equal footing as my dad’s generation?”

“How the f\*ck did you consider that equal footing?” Mitch glared at Zane and said irritably.

“Who does he think he is? He’s nothing more than an entertainer for the important guests here, okay? He’s nothing more than a clown in my dad’s eyes.

“Don’t worry, he’ll be nothing more than a stray dog on the street very soon,” Mitch murmured as he stared at Jasper’s retreating figure in disgust.

A content smile hung at the corner of both Mitch and Zane’s lips as they imagined Jasper’s despondent look in the future.

...

Now that all the bigshots had arrived, the ceremony could officially begin.

With so many impressive guests in attendance, Jasper and Dawson had a quick discussion and decided to change the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the last minute.

Ribbon-cutting was the most important part of the topping-out ceremony. The person in charge of cutting, as well as the placement of the guests were very important details.

“You can rearrange them then. Oh, and remember not to add me into the mix. I’ll just watch the ceremony.”

Dawson patted Jasper’s shoulder as he walked into the crowd and spoke with a smile.

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Jasper was momentarily stunned before he quickly spoke, “What? No way, you worked even harder than I did for the project. How can you not be here for the ribbon-cutting ceremony?”

Dawson pointed at the representatives of Harbor City’s richest families as well as the officials from the Provincial and City Government, then said with a smile, “You’re more suited for this kind of event than I am.”

Seeing how Jasper was about to protest, Dawson spoke meaningfully, “I’m growing old, Jasper, but you’re still young. The stage will be yours in the future, and you’re meant to reach further heights than I have!

“That’s why I’m going to help you as much as possible while I still can. I’m an old man about to retire, what’s the point in me joining this kind of event?”

“I have no intention of growing the Schuler Group anymore, it’s enough for me to have managed to obtain the majority market share of the supermarket industry. This is already way past what I ever imagined achieving, but I don’t have the energy to manage nor to fight in business anymore.

“However, it’s different for you. You need this event, so let the Southface River project become a halo over your head. This halo will help you find your footing among those people quicker and easier!

“So go!”

When he heard Dawson’s moving speech, Jasper stopped protesting and nodded solemnly.

He knew that Dawson was letting him take all the glory.

If both of them went up there, then the world would remember that this project that had shaken the entire country had been completed by two people.

However, if Jasper went up there himself, then Jasper would become the mastermind while Dawson would merely be the man that worked in the shadows.

The world was cruel in that it doomed its people with a horrible memory. Thus, people would only remember the first to achieve something, but never the second.

Dawson was too well aware of such a concept, so he decided that he would let Jasper enjoy all the glory.

Jasper then officially rearranged the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Zachary stood on the left with the Provincial official on the right. Following that was Jasper and Kennedy, who were located behind the former two individuals.

Kayden had declined the invitation to cut the ribbon, which was in line with the Langdon family’s low-profile style.

Jasper had also asked Bob out of respect if he wanted to join, but Bob had merely glanced at the position at the back of the stage before rejecting him darkly.

Under countless camera flashes from the reporters and the enthusiastic voice of the prettiest female host in the television station, the bigshots stepped onto the stage together.

Everyone, including celebrities, reporters, staff, and guests invited to the topping-out ceremony, all looked up at the decadent stage.

Everyone understood that only powerful people and those with extremely distinguished statuses could step up onto the stage.

Most of the people there were destined to never be able to step onto that stage.

Suddenly, the guest in attendance realized something strange.

Among the bigshots, Kennedy was considered one of the younger ones. This was despite the fact that the man was in his forties, and was almost halfway to his fifties.

Next was Zachary who was forty-nine.

The Provincial official was the oldest, at the age of fifty-two.

Even so, he was considered young for someone who held the position he did.

However, when they came to the topic of youth, everyone's gaze fell on Jasper.

This man, that stood behind Zachary and had stunned countless people in one year as he shot up to become one of Southeast Province's richest men, was unexpectedly young.

Everyone then realized that Jasper had achieved far too much.

To the point that everyone seemed to have forgotten that he was just a young man.

Only then did everyone remember that Jasper was only turning twenty-three that year!

Such a young man should not have been able to achieve such success and recognition, yet reality had proven them wrong right before their very eyes.

Wendy stared at Jasper excitedly among the crowd, happier for him than she would have been if she herself were standing on that stage.

Dawson sat beside her, finally taking a break after an entire day of work. He lit a cigarette and looked at Jasper happily, before turning to his daughter and asking, "Wendy, do you know why I agreed to the two of you being together?"

"Because he's outstanding, I guess."

Wendy did not even turn around as her eyes remained glued on Jasper. It was as if this man had become the center of her world right now.

Dawson chuckled at Wendy's reply and asked, "Outstanding? There are plenty outstanding people in this world and, and while Jasper certainly take them pound-for-pound, the reason why I admire him is not the same reason why I support your relationship.

"The former is an opinion I have on him as his senior, in that I hope that the business world will shine even brighter in the future. However, the latter is a consideration I have as a father. I have very different thoughts when looking at the same man but from a different perspective."

Wendy continued to stare at Jasper as she asked mindlessly, "So what's the reason then?"

“Because this young man remembers which woman means the most to him no matter the time or place.”

Wendy’s expression changed when she heard this, and she turned to look at her dad guiltily.

“What’s with that guilty expression? You’re not the one having external flings, he is,” Dawson spoke exasperatedly.

There was no hope for this daughter of his anymore. She was completely devoted to Jasper now, and even in times like this, her first thought was to defend Jasper in case Dawson were to reprimand him.

“Zachary’s daughter is called Anna, right?” Dawson asked calmly.

Wendy cleared her throat and said with a forced calmness, “I think so? We’re not too close.”

“Forget it, then. I don’t want to intrude into the relationship of you youngsters. I’ve thought about it, and considering his wealth and status at such a young age, I’d prefer that he finds someone with class to act as your competitor, rather than arbitrarily have relations with shady women in the future.”

“Dad! What are you talking about?!” Wendy was rather unhappy.

‘What do you mean have relations with shady women? Jasp is not that kind of person!’

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“Do you think I’m blind? Your dad is a man, I’ve been through this and I know it better than you do.

“There’s nothing wrong with men having flings outside, as the worst thing would actually be the inability to attract flings. Jasper at least has the capital and qualifications to do so.”

“But you are my daughter so I’ve hesitated for a long time over this. I don’t want you to end up suffering from this relationship in the future.

“I’ve watched him for a while, and I can say that Jasper still knows his limits. He knows that you’re the most important one and I can be certain that no matter how much JW Capital grows, no other woman will be able to tamper with its core!

“You’re the only exception in all of this. Didn’t you realize that he gave you have one of the main powers at the very beginning, and has slowly shifted the resources and authority over internal affairs over to you?”

Wendy was stunned for a moment before responding dumbfoundedly, “No? All I know is that I do my work every day. It is true that I’m getting busier though.”

“Silly girl, had it not been for Jasper, you’d be helping whoever scammed you now!” Dawson said in disappointment.

“Look at all those heads of the families onstage. Tell me who among them doesn’t have at least a few secret wives?

“Jasper’s only just started, but considering his growth and speed of development, it won’t be long before a whole new Laine family makes a name for itself. With an enterprise as huge as JW Capital and its subsidiaries, no one could possibly ignore its existence.

“While Jasper will spend the first twenty years trying to grow his enterprise, he’ll be spending the next twenty on how to continue the business and ensure that someone inherits it after him.

“You two will have children, and with children comes the issue of inheritance. Fights for authority and control will arise the moment the family grows bigger.

“These are all problems that you two will have to worry about in the future, but it’s obvious now that Jasper’s already made his choice. When it comes to his official wife, he chose you.”

Wendy waved him off and spoke nonchalantly, “You think too much, Dad!

“Jasp told me that he doesn’t like the family business idea, nor does he plan to hand his business to his children unless they’re outstanding enough and have won his approval. Otherwise, he’d much prefer the western model with plenty of professional managers, whereby he can spread out the authority and managerial rights... basically it’s not what you think.”

“Silly girl.” Dawson shook his head.

He was about to say something else when he was interrupted by the celebratory pop of confetti. He looked up to see Jasper, standing at the center of everyone’s gaze with a mature and confident smile. The man oozed an indescribable charm.

Dawson suddenly smiled and muttered to himself, “Perhaps. Maybe he trusts you with this because you’re so innocent and pure that you’ve never thought of such things.”

Meanwhile, among the crowd stood two pairs of eyes that reddened with envy as they glared at Jasper.

“What the f\*ck! Why! Why!” Zane held his heart gnaw maddeningly as if there were seven to eight crabs trampling over it with their pointy feet. It itched and it hurt, but as a whole, he felt sour.

“What the f\*ck does he think he is? He’s just a country bumpkin, a dog from the farms! How dare he walk all the way up there while all I can do is stand here and watch?”

Mitch’s gaze was stormy and his slightly shaking balled fist betrayed the unease within him.

Just then, Jasper's gaze swept over the crowd. It fell on Mitch and Zane for a short moment before he averted his gaze.

Zane could barely hold back their anger when they spotted this.

"What the f\*ck was that look from that son of a b\*tch? Is he looking down on us?"

"Or is he mocking uh, huh? Is he mocking us because we can only stand down here and watch him show off onstage?"

Mitch harrumphed and spoke sinisterly, "What's he even being so proud for? So what if he is up there? He's still standing behind someone isn't he? Does he think that he can somehow stand on equal footing with my dad and the rest now?"

"F\*cking naive! He's just a piece of trash that's joining in on the fun."

Right after Mitch said this, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was about to begin. Suddenly, Zachary turned around to speak to Jasper.

Under everyone's surprised gaze, they watched as Zachary swapped places with Jasper as the latter tried to refuse him.

"Motherf\*cker! What the hell does this mean?!" Zane was in disbelief.

'Jasper was standing in front of Zachary?

'What did that mean?

'The Head of Harbor City's richest family, the Law family, was acting as Jasper's second?!

'Has the world gone mad?'

“You’re the host today, Jasper. You should be the one to stand here,” Zachary told Jasper.

There was no way Jasper would let Zachary stand behind him, so he immediately declined, “No way, Uncle Law. You’ve helped me so much all this while. Moreover, because of your experience and everything else, there’s just no way I can stand in front of you.”

Zachary smiled widely and spoke, “This is where you’re wrong. Standing behind someone doesn’t indicate anything except who the guest and the host are. Now, this is something we can’t afford to mess up.

“Listen to me! Come on, stand here!”

With that, Zachary pulled Jasper to stand in front of him while he moved to occupy Jasper’s previous position.

This turn of events had stunned everyone offstage, and even Kennedy’s face darkened as he stood beside the Provincial official.

‘What is Zachary doing? Is he forcefully dragging Jasper up and letting him step over him?’

Kenney felt the urge to turn and leave, but he held back only because it would make him look back.

He thought back to the conversation his father and Rogers from Quantum Funds had with him and forced himself to accept the current situation. He continued to wear a smile on his face, but his gaze was frighteningly sinister.

“Here, Mr. Laine. Let’s cut the ribbon.”

On the other hand, the [rovincial official did not seem to care too much about this and invited Jasper gleefully.

Jasper turned around and took a pair of golden scissors from the tray held up by the hands of the province's number one female television host—hands that countless men in Southeast Province had dreamed about, and lifted it with the provincial official. He said with a smile, "Let's cut the ribbon then."

The long red ribbon was then cut in three places, in one spot by Jasper and the man from the provincial government, as well as Zachary and Kennedy, who each held a pair of scissors of their own.

The moment the ribbon was cut, countless fireworks shot into the air, lighting up the night sky over the Southface River. Half of Nauritius City's city folk looked up to see the blindingly bright firework show.

It was a sensational sight.