# Life at the Top Chapter 1841 - 1845

Many people could not grasp the concept of 100 billion US Dollars.

Basically, in 2001, Somerland's foreign exchange reserves totaled just over 210 billion US Dollars.

While the GDP was only 1.43 trillion US Dollars.

It was no exaggeration to say that the 100 billion US Dollars that Wall Street brought right now was completely capable of setting Somerland's economy back 10 years.

"One more thing we have to understand is that this 100 billion US Dollars is just what we are aware of right now. Wall Street is backed by the United States government, so they can bring in more money at any time. When that happens, what should we do?"

Jasper's words made Mr. Mason and Tony's faces become more serious.

"Then tell me your opinion," Mr. Mason

said after a long time.

"A two-way battlefield," Jasper replied

unhesitatingly.

"What do you mean?" Tony asked.

"I have to focus most of Wall Street's

energy in the capital market of the United

States. Fortunately, we have achieved

results before, so this is relatively easy to
do. We have to force them to invest more
manpower, material, and financial
resources in the United States to fight
with the funds from JW Foundation. If
not, their hometown is at risk of being

"As for the domestic market..."

ransacked.

Jasper pondered for a moment and

hesitated whether or not to continue.

According to the memory of his previous

life, there were several big news and

moves in the domestic stock market in

2001.

In the case of the overall market, the government officially started the high pressure situation of key supervision this

year, and at the same time, they made more concessions toward the market for the listing of state-owned enterprises. More importantly, this year, the National Social Security Fund was approved to enter and operate in the stock market.

Naturally, there was no such thing in the current life, but a series of market stimulus measures had already been introduced.

Generally speaking, this year, the government wanted to rectify the financial market and make the financial market develop in a more orderly and healthy manner, followed by the introduction of favorable measures to stimulate economic growth.

Now, what Jasper had to do was to pre emptively propose the policies that were already going to come out, but he was not sure whether doing so would alarm the government.

After all, many of these policies were confidential right now, and according to the timeline, some of them might still be in the drafting stage.

If Jasper came up with the plan at this

time, would the officials be unhappy even

though they would enact this in the future

anyway?

Or he might make me the officials suspect

him of having underground sources for

this information.

This was not a good thing.

As if sensing Jasper's hesitation, Mr.

Mason solemnly said, "This is not a

formal meeting, so just speak your mind. I will use the spirit and character of my political party and principles to guarantee that it will definitely not have any negative impact on you."

"Sigh, Mr. Mason, you're too serious."

Jasper sighed.

He knew that now was not the time to

hide. As for whether there would be any

impact in the future, he would worry

about it when the time came.

"My opinion is that the domestic market

still needs to deal with this while relying o

n the strength of the domestic market.

"No matter how rich the country is, it will never be wealthier than the total wealth of all its citizens. The stock market is a market that can make money. As long as this market is built up, social capital will flow in. Everything else aside, we will at least be able to devour the 100 billion from Wall Street."

"Be specific." Mr. Mason frowned.

"First, strengthen market supervision. Why are so many large retail investors or institutions willing to invest in Harbor stocks or foreign markets? It is because the domestic market believes that the traces of trading are too heavy and too simple. Various illegal operations are common, and they are breeding like flies.

"Investors will be unwilling to enter an unhealthy market because everyone is not playing the game with the same rules. The winner takes all while the ones with huge capital can devour all the small investors easily, which is very unreasonable.

"Therefore, the strengthening of financial market supervision and the introduction of high-pressure policies when necessary to deter the bad seeds with heavy penalties is a step that must be taken. Just look at the large foreign financial markets, they also went through similar periods. In this way, it will inevitably guide more private capital to come in and revitalize the water in this pond.

"Second, speed up the listing of state owned enterprises. Due to our special national conditions, the real giants of the real industries are state-owned enterprises, especially in certain monopolistic industries, such as petroleum, tobacco, and telecommunications. The state-owned enterprises in these industries are good assets, and they do not need to worry about bankruptcy because of their monopoly status. Therefore, once they are listed, they will inevitably increase market enthusiasm.

"At the same time, listed state-owned enterprises must be bound by policies and must give the market a profit of at least 10 % of their total equity. Otherwise, the benefits will not be sufficient and fewer people will be enticed to invest.

"Third, promote the entry of the National Social Security Fund into the market."

of these three suggestions, Jasper only mentioned the third one in part, and did not offer any further elaboration. However, everyone knew that the third one was the nuclear bomb.

"Social security fund!"

Tony took a sharp breath and said, Jasper, the social security fund is an important guarantee for the stability and order of our society. If something goes wrong with this fund, it will cause a huge mess and no one will be able to bear this responsibility."

Jasper frowned. He knew that social security funds would definitely encounter huge resistance when entering the market, and the most important factor was the viewpoint of conservatives like Tony. They would be scared to take responsibility, so they would simply not act.

However, could this kind of mentality ever achieve great things? Hence, Jasper answered

unceremoniously, "Our ancestors used their flesh and blood to forge our current national fortune, and we're backing down now?

"Inflation and currency devaluation are inevitable for a country's economic development. As long as the economy is developing, the currency will inevitably depreciate, and their purchasing power will deteriorate. This has already begun to appear as our country's economy starts to boom.

"Meanwhile, the social security fund is dead. If it is left there untouched, after ten, twenty, fifty years, its rate of depreciation and loss will eventually crash the market.

"So many foreign countries invest their social security funds. If you let it make money on its own, it will at least outpace the rate of inflation. This is the only fundamental way for a fund of this kind to last for a long time.

Tony still wanted to say something, but M r. Mason stood up and said excitedly, Yes, Jasper's words went straight to my heart!"

## Life at the Top Chapter 1842

Mr. Mason's words made Tony, who originally wanted to scold Jasper for saying such outrageous things, shut up in an instant.

"Jasper, although you are an outsider, you see more clearly than a lot of the insiders.

"If you didn't already control such large industries, and I couldn't afford your salary right now, I would have liked to take you as my assistant."

Mr. Mason's words made Jasper laugh wryly.

Although this was an exaggerated joke, it also represented Mr. Mason's appreciation of Jasper.

"I'm not afraid to tell you that there are many opinions and voices regarding the use of social security funds, but at the end of the day, they are divided into conservatives and radicals. I agree with you very much and I will definitely repeat every word you said in the meeting with Swallow Capital."

Jasper said with a smile, "Actually, after I said so many things, I only have one core belief, and that is to launch the market's own forces against external forces.

"Now that we are reforming and opening up, the economy is just at the stage of taking-off. The citizens won't starve as they did in the past so as long as they can see that this is beneficial to the country and the people, I believe that it won't only be Wall Street, as even we will be shocked by its power."

Mr. Mason nodded thoughtfully and said, "Okay, I understand your opinion now, and I will bring them back to those in authority."

"Please hurry."

Jasper said earnestly, "We can't wait."

"I know."

Mr. Mason nodded solemnly and said to Jasper, "We shall not wait and I will go back immediately. Don't worry, I can promise you now that Swallow Capital will never allow any foreign power to incite trouble in the country. Besides, everyone can see the sacrifices of the people with knowledge and experience. The country and the people will not forget you guys.

The two of them shook hands again at the

door. Then, they looked at each other but did not say a word. Everything was being said in the silence.

After bidding farewell to Mr. Mason and

Tony, Jasper summoned Jake and Baz.

"From now on, Jake is mainly responsible for keeping watch of the United States market, and Baz, I will assign you a team. You are mainly responsible for keeping an eye on the domestic A-share market."

It was only when he needed to assign tasks did he realize that he did not have enough people under him. Although Jasper had already begun to cultivate the talents working under him, at this time, h e still felt that there were too few people whom he could really use and trust.

In the face of the two-way combat, he had to split up the team, otherwise, there would be no one available to him.

Jake hesitated, "But if this is the case,

won't we lack manpower on both sides?"

Jasper replied, "I know, but please bear

with it. Right now we will face a shortage o

f manpower, but we have a serious matter

at hand, so we can't allow a team who's

background we are unaware of to come in

and help us."

Jake nodded and replied, "You're right."

"Mr. Laine, what's our main duty while

watching the A-share market?" Baz asked.

This was the first time he was leading a

team project, so he was slightly excited

and anxious.

"Keep an eye on every single cent

belonging to the Wall Street capital."

Jasper ordered.

"This is what I need you to do. Just keep a

n eye on the Wall Street capital. I want to

know their every move, and I need to

know everything from the number of

accounts, their positions, and the

direction of their funds."

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Baz froze for a moment and said, "But this needs data support from the Securities Regulatory Commission..."

"I will make arrangements in this regard and ask them to give you a data interface s o that you can monitor their capital positions at all the time."

Under normal circumstances, it would be absolutely impossible to ask the Securities Regulatory Commission to help them cheat.

In market transactions, even the top professional team could not 100% guarantee that they would be able to perfectly capture the flow of funds in the other party's account. After all, there would be no name written on a transaction in the market.

So, this required a powerful intelligence collection team to monitor all transaction data in the market, filter out those trading orders that were most likely to be from the other party's account, and then determine the other party's position and how many more positions they held.

However, right now it was a duel between two state's capitals. So, needless to say, Jasper could get the full support of the Securities Regulatory Commission for this small convenience.

"Because of the time difference, the domestic market will open during the day and the United States market will open in the evening. So, for the next period, our work intensity will be very high. Please make appropriate arrangements and try to ensure that the people in your teams have a sufficient amount of rest."

Jasper rubbed his temples and said, "I will find a way to increase manpower, but you should not have too much hope. I can only say I will do my best."

Jake and Baz looked at each other. Then, Jake said, "Mr. Laine, the most important thing is your physical condition. During this period, your sleep schedule has been messed up and you haven't had much rest. If you collapse, we will be finished."

With a wave of his hand, Jasper smiled and said, "I know myself best. There is nothing wrong with my health."

Jasper stood up and stretched. Then, he

continued, "There are still four hours before the United States market opens. After the United States closes, the domestic market will open five hours later. Right now, everyone should leave everything and rest while you still have time. I have a hunch that the people of the United States will not give us a chance to breathe." Right now, on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. "Mr. Dugg, we agree to your terms. Half-the-Harbor Langdon pondered for a long time and finally said to Dugg from across the negotiating table. The eyes of Dugg and his team lit up upon hearing that.

"But there is one thing I need to

emphasize, that is, we must occupy the majority of Layman's board of directors in the future."

Half-the-Harbor Langdon's words were

indisputable. "Otherwise, it would be

meaningless for me to spend such a large amount of money. I need to use Layman's influence and assets to expand the family business and influence of the J. Langdons."

"Sure."

Half-the-Harbor Langdon had already given in on the most critical core issues, such as funding and providing insurance services to small and medium-sized banks, and Dugg did not intend to pursue these trivial matters.

He was already planning to get out of this fire pit anyway.

Dugg, who had obtained the inside information from certain sources, understood that in the upper echelons of the United States, Layman had already become an abandoned chess piece, and this decision was made by the Freemasons. Hence, Dugg had no power to resist.

He could only escape as soon as possible.

"Then, let's sign it."

Dugg asked his people to prepare the

contract as he beamed. He was looking at Half-the-Harbor Langdon with an overwhelming friendliness in his eyes.

This guy from Somerland took the initiative to get into this sinkhole that the people of the United States could not get rid of. Therefore, why would he not have great affection for this man from Somerland who was helping him survive a t this most critical moment?

## Life at the Top Chapter 1844

Now that the bigwigs on both sides had reached an agreement on the core conditions of the negotiation, the negotiation could be said to be successful.

There were bound to be many details in such a large merger that needed to be negotiated, but this would not longer affect the overall situation anymore.

Hence, the atmosphere that followed was very enthusiastic.

Both of their senior management teams immediately held a celebration party. They were holding wine glasses while chatting and laughing.

Kayden found his father, Half-the Harbor Langdon, after some socializing. Then, he said in a low voice, "Dad, is that it?"

Half-the-Harbor Langdon said flatly, "W e can't afford to delay it, and Layman also lost patience. If we still didn't reach a deal this time, they were likely to have started contacting others."

Kayden nodded and said, "That's true.

The spy I planted next to Henry came back

and told me that the Laws were ready to

accept Layman's terms."

With a smile, Half-the-Harbor Langdon

said, "This is the reason why there's the rule of first come, first serve. While the

Laws were still hesitating, we have

already taken over Layman."

As he was saying of this, Half-the-Harbor

Langdon patted Kayden on the shoulder

and said, "This acquisition is basically a

gamble using all our assets. Therefore,

there must not be any slip-ups. By the

way, has a deal been reached in terms of

the funding?"

Kayden nodded solemnly and said, "It's

settled, we can mortage our assets in

Harbor City and abroad with banks in

various countries. After adding our own

liquid funds, it's enough to complete this

acquisition."

He let out a sigh of relief. Even a character

like Half-the-Harbor Langdon was

feeling a little excited at this moment. He

whispered, "This is the most important step for us to move from Harbor City out into the world. I will eventually prove to everyone that the stupidest thing they can do in business is to care for relationships and emotions."

At this moment, Dugg came over with a wine glass in his hand.

"My friend, a toast to celebrate?" Dugg lifted his glass at Half-the-Harbor Langdon and said with a smile.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon recomposed himself and clinked his glass with Dugg's. Then they took a sip.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon smiled and said, "Mr. Dugg, I hope that after the acquisition is completed, you and your team can still stay in the investment bank. This is also the promise I made to you at the beginning."

Dugg shook his head and said, "No, I changed my mind. I am tired and I have been working for so many years. I think I should spend some time with my family and children now."

As soon as this statement came out, Half the Harbor Langdon's eyes turned cold...

He was having mixed feelings.

He was happy that Dugg was willing to give up the position of chairman, but at the same time, he was worried that Dugg had given up too decisively and suddenly. The suspicious Half-the-Harbor Langdon wondered if there was any conspiracy behind this.

"Mr. Dugg, you are very familiar with the business and internal conditions of investment banking, so I need a veteran like you to help me navigate the investment banking business as soon as possible," Half-the-Harbor Langdon said sincerely.

At least, his expression and tone of voice were very sincere, which did not seem odd to others.

However, Dugg laughed. He waved his hand and said, Langdon, you don't have to keep me. It's not good for you if I continue to serve as chairman. As for my team, I'll try my best to hide the news of me leaving until the end. It depends on you how many people you can retain. With their help, I believe you can also master investment banking within the shortest possible time."

With a smile, Half-the-Harbor Langdon said half truthfully, "It's a shame then, but I respect your choice."

Dugg shrugged. Then, he said strangely, "Langdon, trust me, you won't regret this purchase."

Half-the-Harbor Langdon laughed and said, "I think so too."

They touched their wine glasses again, creating a crisp sound. However, they were the only ones who knew what they were thinking.

A few hours later, a shocking piece of news broke out from the global business community.

Half-the-Harbor Langdon and his son from Harbor City in Somerland had successfully acquired Layman Investment Bank.

As a well-known Somerland merchant

company, Fongroup, had swallowed Layman Investment Bank, the world's fourth largest investment bank, like a snake swallowing an elephant. This merger involving tens of billions of dollars had become the largest commercial merger in human history.

Moreover, it had occured in this special period when Somerland Capital and Wall Street Capital were fighting each other to death. This merger and acquisition case successfully attracted the attention of countless people.

Some people even thought that this was just a trial for Somerland capital to conduct sweeping acquisitions after the United States economy was destroyed.

The great citizen of the United States and the fourth largest investment bank in the world was actually acquired by a Somerland company.

This made countless racists in the United States feel terribly uncomfortable.

In addition to this, Jasper had just appeared on the cover of Times Magazine, and the appearance of Half-the-Harbor Langdon and his son had made people

exclaim that Somerland capital was controlling the world.

However, no matter what the outside world said, the United States Ministry of Commerce still approved the acquisition.

Hence, this M&A case of the century was officially declared a success.

While the outside world was talking about this merger, Henry and Conrad were celebrating.

"Cheers!"

Henry laughed. Right now, he was blushing and was in a great mood.

"Not bad. The whole plan is proceeding as you said. Sure enough, there won't be a problem if we go forward one stage at a time. The Half-the-Harbor Langdon father and son duo have entered the trap step by step, almost as if they had planned this alongside us.

"Before this, I was really worried that we would not be able to get out of this mess. I f Half-the-Harbor Langdon and his son ran away, this plan that we worked so hard to set up would have failed. It

would've been such an embarrassing

situation."

Conrad smiled and said, "Actually, they had no choice.

"They are different from big families with long histories, like the Laws. The latter have their own fortune which was accumulated over a period of nearly a hundred years. Meanwhile, the father and son duo emerged from Half-the-Harbor Langdon. Most of their industries are in the Harbor City, but Harbor City is too small in terms of area or population, which severely restricts the development o

f Half-the-Harbor Langdon and his son.

"This is not a problem that's exclusive to them, big families like yours are also burdened by this. So, everyone has to seek development outside of Harbor City. But now the problem is that whether it's Harbor City or the Mainland, Half-the Harbor Langdon and his son have already offended too many people to go back now.

"Thus, they can only set their sights overseas. On the surface, Layman Investment Bank seems fine, but they're on

the verge of bankruptcy because of the subprime mortgage crisis. Yet, the world's fourth-largest investment bank has the background and foundation that is enticing beyond measure, so of course, 1 they wouldn't be able to resist taking this bait.

"Unfortunately..."

When Conrad said that, he shook his head and said flatly, "This is a bait laced with poison."

# Life at the Top Chapter 1845

Jasper knew the news that Half-the

Harbor Langdon and his son finally

succeeded in acquiring Layman

Investment Bank before the financial

media outlets did.

Looking at the television broadcast of the

news by the host, Jasper smiled and

turned to Wendy who was massaging his

shoulders behind him, and said, "Say,

what are these people thinking? Are

things abroad really better than in the

country?"

Wendy pursed her lips and smiled. "I

don't know whether foreign things are

better, but I haven't seen you relax like

this in a long time."

Jasper closed his eyes and sighed. Then, h

e raised his hand to cover Wendy's tender

little hand and sighed ruefully, "I have no

choice. There's always one thing after

another. I want to take a good rest too but

the world changes, whether you want it to

or not.

"I feel that the biggest reason I wanted to make money back then was that I don't want to give up on the things I want to do simply because I don't have enough money. I want to do anything I want.

"As a result, I am getting richer and richer now but why am I getting less and less freedom? This is no better than staying back in town and occasionally going to the stock market to casually earn people's wages for several years. At that time, I was at ease and happy."

Wendy thought for a while and suddenly said with interest, "Why don't we go back to take a look at the scene there after this is all over."

"Okay."

As soon as Jasper raised his hand, he pulled Wendy into his arms and onto his lap. Jasper chuckled softly as he felt the softness and sweet scent of the woman in his arms. "I have already decided. When this matter is over, I will plan a vacation for both of us. Then, it will be up to you where we go and what we do."

"You've said this many times now, so you

have to keep your promise." Wendy raised

her eyes to Jasper and said seriously.

"Definitely." Jasper laughed.

A few hours later, the United States stock

market officially opened.

Jasper walked into the command room

full of energy and said to Jake, "Now that

the Layman and Half-the-Harbor

Langdon's acquisition is successful, don't

hesitate anymore. Set off the financial

turmoil for me."

The reason why they had been operating

steadily and not taking advantage of the

chaos before was that on the one hand,

they were worried that Wall Street and the

United States government would have a

way of escape. On the other hand, they

could not set off too big of a storm in case

Layman went bankrupt instantly.

Now, the United States government and

Wall Street capital had shown their escape

route, and Layman was now in the

embrace of Half-the-Harbor Langdon, so

naturally, Jasper would not hold back

anymore. When Jake excitedly went back to execute

the plan, Jasper approached Reuben, the

person in charge of the palace guards,

"Let's do it," Jasper said.

Reuben did not hesitate, but he also did

not appear too excited. Instead, he

answered plainly with two words, "Got i

t."

After putting down the phone, and

without waiting for Jasper's order, the

huge display screen began to show the real

-time conditions of the major stock index

markets in the United States.

There was also a window in which it

displayed the exchange rate of the

international dollar to gold.

The entire financial market of the United

States immediately gapped five minutes after the opening. In the beginning, many people thought that this was just because of the stock market crash, which was why the market fell naturally. However, they soon discovered that the short-selling went far beyond their imagination. All stock indexes were falling like crazy, including the Dow Jones and Nasdag. Moreover, this decline immediately radiated to the international exchange rate of the US Dollar. The modern financial system was a complex and sophisticatedly engineered system. A drop in a single link would trigger a series of chain reactions. When it dropped to a certain level, it would cause turbulence in the exchange rate of the domestic currency. The US Dollar, as the cornerstone of the world monetary system, had not fluctuated

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much in the past 100 years because its value was directly linked to gold.

Moreover, the US Dollar itself was the settlement currency selected by most countries and organizations in the world, and its circulation rate was also the highest in the world. Therefore, when its exchange rate fluctuated, it could instantly have a huge impact on the global economy.