

Life at the Top Chapter 181

Gulping, Zack licked his dry lips and did his best to stop his voice from shaking. “Since this morning, the Hansel Index has dropped by 3,000 points and the 15 billion we invested in has become a total of 29.6 billion.

“In just one morning, we’ve earned 14.6 billion!”

“Stock god! Mr. Laine, you really are the god of stocks!”

Zack shook as he spoke.

At the same time, stock traders in the room all looked at Jasper with gazes of utter admiration. As executionists who merely followed his orders, they knew better than anyone how decisive and intellectual Jasper’s orders had been.

Many of his seemingly inexplicable orders had proven to have incomparable foresight, for the ever-changing capital market would shift a very short moment afterward.

It was as if Jasper could see through every secret in this treacherous capital market.

Jasper, who had been wearing a solemn expression for the past few hours, finally smiled and said, “Alright. Let’s go eat something now that the market is on break. Eat and drink whatever good food you want, and if there’s anything you need, just tell them and they’ll fulfill it!

“Oh, and everyone gets a 100,000 bonus.”

The stock traders immediately chortled at the news.

Meanwhile, Jasper and the rest left for their meal upstairs.

Both Michael and Henry kept staring at Jasper as they ate, for Jasper seemed as divine to them as God Himself.

“How are you so good at this?” Anna spoke honestly.

Jasper merely smiled. “Am I? It’s still too early for anything to be confirmed. We’ve only just started.”

Zachary heard him and asked, “When do you think the Hansel Index will stop dropping?”

Jasper fell into thought for a moment and tried to remember the result of the financial crisis in his past life.

A total of three trillion US dollars had vanished in this bubble. That was how terrifying it had been.

On the other hand, the Hansel Index had dropped to 8,000 points.

That was more than 60%.

To explain this concept with a simple example, imagine you invested 100 bucks into the stock market before the bubble. When the bubble was over, you would be left with less than 40 bucks.

If you happened to invest in a company that went bankrupt and had to exit the market, then you would be left without a single cent.

Such was the cruel reality of the financial market.

“There’s no way it’ll hold at 10,000 points. I’ll say it’ll drop past 9,000, at least.” Jasper gave a more conservative reply.

Zachary and Michael shared a look and sucked in a cold breath.

They understood what the figure Jasper gave them signified.

Such a figure meant that Harbor City's economy was set to lose at least five years of its economic growth.

"What's with your expressions? Don't we earn more the more it drops?" Henry asked dumbly.

Anna glared at him and replied, "That's why I told you to read more in your free time. Sure, we'll earn more the further it drops.

"But you have to remember that our family and Mr. Lane's family both have roots in Harbor City. How are business families like us supposed to continue making money when Harbor City's economy is screwed?"

Henry was stunned and quickly responded, "You're right! What do we do?"

Jasper was deep in thought.

He had been a mere bystander who could only witness what was happening after it happened in his past life. He had only learned of the economic crisis that burst the bubble afterward through reports.

Yet to experience it firsthand now, he could feel that there was an invisible hand controlling this financial crisis.

Someone seemed to be intentionally destroying Harbor City's economy.

"Harbor Stocks can drop, such is the trend. There's no way anyone can save it now with how the bubble has been enlarged. But that doesn't mean Harbor City's economy can be destroyed," Jasper stated solemnly.

He had intentions to invest in Harbor City, for its future development would undoubtedly bring unimaginable profits and return. As such, how could he let someone destroy Harbor City's economy?

"Harbor City must not be destroyed..."

Life at the Top Chapter 182

While the market was put on hold for lunch break, it gave a breather to every person in Harbor City who had been shrouded by gloomy clouds.

Just then, people suddenly realized that this storm had not come without warning.

In the United States across the ocean, a similar situation was occurring.

The entire dot-com bubble was being popped worldwide.

It had originated from the United States and slowly spread to Europe and Terra. Sweeping across the entire world, every stock market in every country and region was affected.

Everyone who entered the stock market with high prices now had to pay a tragic price for their impulsive decisions.

Almost one trillion US Dollars had been lost in the global stock market on the first trading day the bubble popped.

A flood of reports had brought the latest news to citizens of Harbor City, and the readers felt their scalps tingle in fear.

Harbor City had not fully recovered from the financial tsunami attack three years ago, and here they were with the popping of the dot-com bubble. Countless people had grown gray hairs overnight because of this.

With such unprecedented chaos happening in the background, all sorts of monsters and devils began to lurk.

Some so-called stock review experts on the economic channels were frantically advocating how the current crisis was merely a temporary adjustment and that everyone should hold their defenses so that they would not spread and create more panic...

As if anyone was willing to listen to them at this point.

Watching the stock prices drop by the minute and names of shares lining up at the limit down, everyone was worried that they would lose the money they had invested into the market. People were gloomy and they began to think of how they could extract themselves from the situation.

No matter how the outside world thought of and understood the situation, Jasper followed Zachary and Michael back to the living room that was their battleground after lunch.

“Say, Uncle Law, if Harbor City’s economy really faces irreversible losses, will the rich families of Harbor City save the city?” Jasper asked.

Zachary replied without hesitation, “Yes, or at least, most of us will. It’s just like the economic crisis three years ago. Most of Harbor City’s rich businessmen teamed up to defend against the invasion of western investors.

“Harbor City is our home, after all, and no one is excluded. If Harbor City’s economy is destroyed, then we rich families will also have nothing to rely on. Balancing the pros and cons, I think most people would be able to tell which is more important.”

Zachary's words had given Jasper something to think about.

"Let's see how it goes first." Jasper sighed.

Despite Zachary promising him, Jasper could not help but think that there was more to this incident.

If the mysterious force's target was Harbor City's economy, then it did not make sense for them to ignore the strength of Harbor City's wealthy families.

The biggest problem now was that the enemy was in the dark. Jasper did not have enough leads to go on.

However, Jasper had his advantages as well. His biggest one being the same as his opponents—a hidden identity. His only solace was that his opponent did not know enough about himself either.

That afternoon, the market opened again on time.

Just as Jasper had expected, after the short lunch break, bullish funds were gathered together and the battle began to focus on a few representative stocks.

Since it had just been a few minutes since the market reopened, both sides were still trading back and forth.

Such had given countless investors hope and reignited their trust in the market.

However, people in the industry, like Jasper, knew that this was merely a ray of light before death befell.

As expected, ten minutes after the market reopened, there seemed to be no end to the funds from the short position. The bullish people could not hold it up anymore and their line of defense fell again.

This time, it was a rapid drop.

The Hansel Index had instantly fallen by 500 points.

Steady flowing water in a river had suddenly turned into a waterfall that plummeted off the cliff. It sprayed everywhere like an avalanche, and no one could stop the attack from the short position.

“The market crashed!”

Jasper suddenly spoke, staring at the spectacular sight of pure, tragic green on the screen. Almost every stock was dropping.

Life at the Top Chapter 183

At that moment, calls were blowing up Zachary's phone.

They were all from Harbor City's rich families, some of whom even held senior positions in the government of Harbor City.

They had one goal.

In face of Harbor City's current economic crisis that was so severe, the rich were frantic and lost. They needed to communicate a plan.

As the wealthy held the life of Harbor City's economy in their hands, they were the only ones with the power to turn the tides at such a time.

Even Michael had received similar phone calls.

Both Zachary and Michael were torn between feeling ecstatic and sorrowful.

For the bigger dip the stock market took, the more they earned. Yet letting it continue to drop was no different than killing the goose that laid golden eggs.

Not to mention that the Law family's prestigious image would be destroyed if the outside world came to know about the situation.

"Not only are the wealthy families frantic, but even the government of Harbor City is urging for action too, Jasper. They need to discuss a plan to save the city. What's your say in this?"

Zachary had begun to see Jasper as an equal, instead of someone from the younger generation, before he knew it.

Otherwise, Zachary would not ask Jasper for his opinion on something so crucial.

"Saving them goes without saying," Jasper replied with certainty.

Even Michael could tell.

"Harbor City's economy is a base. It can drop, but it must not be destroyed."

Jasper glanced at the stock market that continued to fall without restraint. Harbor City currently had around 1,300 stocks on the market and more than 900 of them had reached the limit down.

With the way things were going, at least 1,000 stocks would reach the limit down before the market closed this evening.

This was a situation that Harbor Stocks had never encountered since its first opening.

To Jasper, Harbor City would turn to be one of his biggest golden cash cows, leading to the burst of growth in his wealth in the future. As such, how would he allow others to destroy this cow of his?

That was no different from getting sacked.

Logically and emotionally speaking, Jasper would not let such a thing occur.

Zachary nodded. "Michael and I will talk to them tomorrow."

"More than a thousand stocks have reached the limit down!"

Zack's voice suddenly rang out.

Jasper and the other two turned to look. The scene that was talked about by countless people in his past life had finally appeared.

On the limit down, the number of companies' stocks: 1,001!

Like some sort of signal, the Hansel Index's defenses completely fell and dropped by more than 1,000 points!

If one were to look at the market for Harbor Stocks right now, all the stocks they would be able to see were gathered at the limit down, and the entire screen before them would be filled with tragic light green lines.

"Profit report," Jasper demanded.

"Hansel Index closed at 8,700 points. Total account balance amounts to 45 billion, a total profit of 30 billion!"

15 billion in capital had brought them 30 billion worth of profit.

While everyone had expected it, their hearts could not help but shudder as Zack announced the figure.

Zachary wore an expression of utter shock. Despite being a hero in the business world, he could not stop his heart from shaking in excitement.

“Is... this the capital market? Earning 30 billion worth of profit in a day?!”

Life at the Top Chapter 184

'Popping of the Dot-Com Bubble!'

'Harbor Stocks Drops Violently by 10,000 Points!'

'Hundreds of Billion Harbor Dollars Lost!'

'Financial Tsunami Tragedy Three Years Ago Sweeps Harbor City Again!'

'Harbor City's Economy in Danger, Citizens Ask What Now?'

Countless news articles had spread throughout Harbor City that night.

Almost every citizen was affected by the crisis.

Switching on the television, every channel was reporting today's economic crisis.

What truly chilled the hearts of civilians was that the boss of Carefree Net, an internet company on the stock market, had gone bankrupt and proceeded to kill himself and his kids by jumping from the rooftop.

A true tragedy.

Sorrow and fright could be seen everywhere in Harbor City.

Meanwhile, a joyful party was held in a rural and safe villa somewhere in Harbor City.

“Haha. In these few years, I’ve never been as happy as I am today!”

Bob raised his wine glass and clinked it with Kennedy’s with a smile on his face as he spoke.

Kennedy smiled and replied, “Yeah. We earned almost ten billion today. What’s better than earning money?”

“But something still feels weird to me.” Bob rubbed his chin and explained, “According to our predictions, we knew that Harbor Stocks were bound to have a violent drop, but we never expected them to drop like this. It’s too exaggerated. I almost got a shock with the Hansel Index dropping 10,000 points in just one day.”

“Just our funds alone wouldn’t have gotten us this result,” Bob frowned and voiced out.

Kennedy seemed to be in thought as well. “I realized it this afternoon as well. There’s got to be another entity in the market aside from us and their funds are not in any way lesser than ours. They’ve taken the bearish stand too, and if I had to guess, I’d say they had prepared at least tens of billions of funds!”

“Who do you think it is?” Bob asked sullenly.

“I don’t know, but it probably isn’t Harbor City’s local forces.” Kennedy gave his own deductions.

Just then, Rogers descended the villa's stairs with a relaxed expression and turned to Kennedy. "Quantum Funds' headquarters are very happy with our results, my friends. Wall Street's investors have largely profited too. Shouldn't all this good news be celebrated?"

Unable to disagree, Kennedy and Bob nodded with a smile. Then, they told him of their suspicions.

Rogers frowned, but his expression was not one of concern. "Perhaps Europe's other capitals were sold, or it may even be one of your Somerland's neighbors? But I can confirm that the capital wasn't from Wall Street.

"Keep an eye out tomorrow, we'll watch out for their next course of action," Rogers replied plainly.

Bob hesitated before he spoke, "Mr. Rogers, our original plan was to knock the Hansel Index down by 10,000 points in three days.

"But it's only the first day and the Hansel Index has already dropped 9,000 points. If this goes on, the government of Harbor City and the other rich families will team up to help."

Kennedy interrupted, "I already received their calls today, saying that the four main families should come up with a plan and publicize it, then team up with the other wealthy families to save the city."

Rogers smiled playfully. "It's a shame that they don't know that among Harbor City's four main rich families, you're egging for Harbor Stocks to drop."

Kennedy replied plainly, "Still, you can't let them find out, or at least, not yet. Otherwise, that's goodbye to my foothold in Harbor City."

Life at the Top Chapter 185

“The Langdons’ business has already started moving out of Harbor City, hasn’t it? You’re everywhere in Southeast Terra, so what are you afraid of?” Rogers did not care.

“But there’s nothing wrong with you going. At least then we’ll get some insight on how Harbor City’s four major families plan to save the city. With intel on our side, how will they ever win us?” Rogers stated plainly.

Rogers clapped Kennedy’s shoulder when he took notice of the other’s calm expression. “There’s a saying in the United States that capital only makes friends with winners, Langdon. Harbor City’s still too small, not to mention that it has already returned to its previous state now. You have to know that the west is where true heaven exists for people like you.”

Kennedy smiled. “I know. We will always be friends with Quantum Funds.”

Rogers laughed aloud. “Of course, as one of its founders, I can promise you that Quantum Funds will always be willing to be friends with intelligent people like you.”

...

The night slowly darkened, and Zachary had much to do. In addition to the shock the stock market had suffered, people were very volatile right now. That was why he left the house after the market closed.

It was especially in times like this that celebrities like Zachary and Michael became busier, for most people expected the rich to provide them with rescue measures.

Meanwhile, their companies also needed to show their presence to calm the civilians' hearts.

Jasper, on the other hand, now had a lot of free time.

Watching the situation with the United States stock market, Jasper realized that its development was fundamentally different from his past life.

Perhaps it was his participation in Harbor Stocks, but the strength and speed of this storm had been greatly increased.

Harbor Stocks had only dropped 10,000 points three days after the storm began in his past life, yet it had dropped more than 9,000 points in one day this time. Today's daily decline had hit an all-time high.

It was the first time for any stock market worldwide to drop 10,000 points in one day.

The night was cold, and Jasper pondered over tomorrow's plan.

Anna had walked over before Jasper realized. She said to him, "You haven't been resting well these past few days. Won't you take the time to give yourself a break?"

"I'm not actually that tired. Plus, there are a lot of things that I haven't planned yet," Jasper replied with a smile.

Anna sighed. "Bystanders only see how brightly successful people shine, yet not many of them know that success has never come easy to begin with."

"That's the idea. You'll have to put in the effort if you want to reap rewards." Jasper agreed.

Anna gave it some thought before she suddenly invited Jasper, seeing as he did not have the intention to rest. “How about we take a walk around Victoria Harbor?”

Jasper was shocked. “Now?”

“What, are you afraid I’ll sell you off?” Anna joked. “I told you when you first arrived in Harbor City, didn’t I? That I’ll be your tour guide and bring you around Victoria Harbor? You’ve already been in Harbor City for so long and you still haven’t stepped foot there yet.”

Jasper smiled. “Alright. Let’s go, then. I’ll take the chance to relax.”

The two walked to the garage together, tacitly choosing to ignore Henry’s car with large headlights this time.

Sitting in Anna’s Porsche 911, Jasper felt his nerves unwind after the past few days of accumulated stress as he watched Harbor City’s night view zoom past him.

“Are you saving the city tomorrow?” Anna asked while driving.

Jasper thought about it and replied, “As a businessman, my main focus is business. Everything else is secondary to me. That’s why I did what I did today.”

“But being a businessman means you have to look at the bigger picture. And the crashing of Harbor City’s stock market is bad news to me and the whole Harbor City!”