

Life at the Top Chapter 206

To other people, this looked like good news.

However, Jasper sensed something amiss.

The main force of the short-selling party must be a top-notch expert. It would be impossible for him not to know why Jasper was insisting on protecting 7,600 points. At this moment, he was getting closer and closer to victory.

The treasure was right in front of him after working so hard and it was within arm's reach, however, he was suddenly backing away now.

This move was very unusual.

To the outsiders, this meant that the main force of the short-selling part had exhausted their resources. However, Jasper had been fighting with them this whole time and he was sure they still had energy left over.

“Something’s wrong!” Jasper yelled all of a sudden.

“He’s going to run!”

“Increase the stock price now! All of them! Use the fastest speed you can to increase the Hansel Index!”

Jasper’s voice startled Zack. He instinctively carried out Jasper’s orders as if it was in his subconscious.

It was like magic. The Hansel Index skyrocketed as if someone had used a cheat code on it.

The screen was initially shrouded by a gloomy-looking green color, but after the increase of the stocks, the numbers turned from dark green to bright red.

The stock market had a rebound and was increasing!

At the same time, it was as if the short-selling party did not dare to continue the fight. They were retreating.

The Hansel Index increased from 7,602 points to 7,650 points.

7,680 points.

7,800 points.

8,000 points!

It surmounted all difficulties and there were no obstacles on the way!

“We won?”

Spencer yelled in excitement.

Not only him, but the entire Harbor City was going insane.

“We won!”

“The stock market is rising!”

“We saved it!”

Everyone was frantically celebrating the victory.

After the last transaction of the short-selling party was taken down, the Hansel Index went up to 8,500 points.

Even though there was still a long way to go to reach the top, it would all be a matter of time.

After all, Harbor Stocks plummeted because of an irresistible trend. The bubble would eventually burst if it became too big, so when that happened, not even the gods could stop it!

Jasper had saved the points, and it was equivalent to saving the economy of Harbor City. This was pretty commendable.

This battle of the two main forces finally came to an end.

The living room fell into a state of boiling merriment.

The heads of the four rich families were beaming. Even the officials from the government were high-fiving each other in celebration.

Outside of the crowd, Jake's face was white as he murmured, "How is that possible... How could they just retreat like this? He won just like that? Impossible..."

Jake looked ghastly pale, and his first thought was to run!

He felt as much panic as the arrogance he initially felt.

However, the moment he turned around, he saw the young master of the Laws, Henry, blocking the door with a grin on his face. He looked as if he was waiting for him to make a mistake so that he could beat him up authoritatively and fairly.

Jake gritted his teeth and withdrew his foot that had already stepped out. The look on his face changed irregularly, and he looked horrible.

“Congratulations! Mr. Laine, you did it!”

Kennedy came over to Jasper unbeknownst to him and said with a grin.

Jasper had no joy on his face.

It was because this entire script was completely different than the one he had in mind.

The main force of the other party had retreated at a crucial moment, causing Jasper’s initial plan to be fruitless for the greater part.

Even though they won for now, for Jasper, he knew he had lost a little to his opponent!

The other party had obviously seen through his objective.

They did not step into his trap but on the contrary, they turned around and walked away.

Jasper composed himself while facing Kennedy’s words of congratulations. He smiled lightly and said, “I just did what I should do.”

“We always have to remember that there’s always someone who’s better than us in this world, no?”

Kennedy said this significant statement.

Jasper’s eyes twinkled as he looked deeply at Kennedy. Then, he nodded and said, “Yes, but I believe the truth will come out one day!”

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Was there a mole?

This was the biggest possibility Jasper could come up with.

However, he did not eliminate the possibility that the opponent had predicted what he was about to do.

In short, it did not matter if there was a mole or not. Judging from the current situation, Jasper should enjoy the fruits of his victory.

It would be impossible for Harbor City to get through the burst of the economic bubble this time unharmed.

The global economy had been badly affected and suffered a great loss. These were the rules of economics and also the trend that Jasper was talking about, so it would be impossible to change this.

As such, as long as he was able to stop Harbor City's economy from being further destroyed, this was the biggest victory for him!

Jasper had done it.

However, it just did not reach his expectations.

Jasper got rid of these thoughts and walked in front of Jake. He only smiled and did not say anything.

Jake looked at Jasper sinisterly and frenetically. He gritted his teeth and said, "Why are you smiling at me like that?"

“Honor your promise,” said Jasper insidiously, “You said that if I win, you’ll kneel, grovel, admit your mistakes, and even become my apprentice. Did you forget that in such a short time?”

Jake laughed from anger. “You want me to kneel, grovel, and ask you to make me your apprentice? You’re dreaming!”

“The heads of the four rich families have all witnessed what you said just now. If you plan not to own up, then can you guess what your consequences will be?” Jasper said flatly.

Jake said with animosity, “Jasper, don’t go too far!”

“Am I going too far or were you too egotistical?” Jasper asked, and his eyes that were looking at Jake were emotionless.

“I never liked competing with someone verbally. I prefer to talk based on facts. Now, you’ve seen it for yourself. I won, so... you should honor your promise.”

Henry chuckled and walked over. He lifted his hand and patted Jake’s shoulder. He pressed him down, saying slovenly, “You son of a b*tch, you bet, you pay. Now, a weasel like you should kneel, grovel, and admit your mistakes before asking him to take you as his apprentice.”

After he said that, Henry said meaningfully, “If you don’t kneel, do you think you can walk out the door of Law Manor?”

After Jake heard that, his face turned white.

He knew a child of a top aristocrat like Henry would have the guts to do anything. There were also a lot of people willing to risk their lives for him.

Jake pondered for a while before bowing his head deeply. He bent his knees and knelt on the floor heavily.

“I was wrong. I’m sorry!”

Jake gritted his teeth and suppressed the anger in his heart. “Please take me as your apprentice!”

Jasper looked at him unenthusiastically and said to Henry, “Let him go and let him leave.”

“You’re not taking him as your apprentice?” Henry asked with a grin. He wanted to use this opportunity to insult him some more.

“Next time.” Jasper narrowed his eyes.

If one overlooked the rest, a person like Jake really had professional skills. He was a suitable candidate to be his subordinate to manage the properties in Harbor City after he left.

However, it was not suitable to talk about this now.

“Alright, get lost.” Henry kicked Jake. “Remember to be humble next time. Don’t go about with your nose in the air just because you have some kills.”

After he heard this, Jake got up hurriedly. He glanced at the two of them with bitter resentment in his eyes and was too embarrassed to stay here anymore. As such, he turned around and ran away.

The heads of the four rich families were very busy, especially now. After exchanging courtesies with Jasper and leaving promises of working with him in the future, they left hurriedly.

After Kennedy got out of Law Manor, he did not go to put his assets in order like the rest of the gang. On the contrary, he went back to the secluded villa.

After he stepped into the villa, he saw Rogers smiling at him while raising his wine glass.

“My number one spy is back.” Rogers joked.

Kennedy shook his hand nonchalantly and asked, “How’s our profit?”

“We can make a ton of money, of course.”

Rogers said and shrugged. “However, there’s still some disparity with what we expected. That young man, Jasper, is very skilled. The trap in the end was pretty interesting!”

“Yet you still managed to solve it, no? I saw Jasper with a horrible look on his face when I was over there,” Kennedy said with a smile.

“He’s still young and needs to pay some tuition fees after all,” said Rogers while standing up.

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”I’m also heading back to the United States to report myself in. There’s a celebration banquet awaiting me as well. All the investors were extremely satisfied with the cooperation with my fellow partners. From now onward, we’ll have opportunities to work together.

“The share that belongs to you will be transferred to your designated account within this week. For now, let’s stay low as currently, Harbor City is experiencing a massive crash in the dot-com bubble. Many potential shares are on the lower side, and it’s just the right timing to enter now.”

Rogers said as he burst into laughter.

“To be honest, I’m looking forward to the day when I cross paths with Jasper. This young man has intrigued my interest.”

After making only a few comments, Rogers led his team to leave the scene.

In the villa, only Kennedy and Bob were left there.

Kennedy tossed a cigarette to Bob and said with a complicated expression, “This bunch of foreigners has earned quite a ton.”

Bob said with a rather jealous feeling, “Their ability is overwhelming. What can we do about them?”

“However, this is also a lesson for Jasper. It should make him realize others are more capable than him and he shouldn’t be too arrogant.”

Kennedy breathed out a mouthful of smoke and said, “In the future, there will be plenty of chances to teach youngsters in Harbor City about their standings in society.”

While he was in the middle of the conversation, Kennedy received a call.

It was a call from his son, Mitch Langdon.

“What’s the matter?” Kennedy asked.

On the other end of the call, Mitch’s voice was followed by a sobbing tone.

“Dad, I’m... I’m broke!”

At that moment, Mitch’s hair and clothes were in a mess. It was as if he was a poor guy running for his life. He glanced at Zane who was on the ground and

unable to move an inch. The man was not saying a word while Mitch was speaking with a shaking voice.

“I thought Harbor Stocks would still drop today, so I used up the family’s assets and put it into a short sale. I didn’t expect that b*stard, Jasper, to be chosen as the host for the market rescue fund. In the first wave, he immediately cleared off our orders.

“Currently, the prices are continuously rising. Me and Zane... have been liquidated and are bankrupt!”

Kennedy, who initially was still in a somewhat pleasant mood, immediately had a dark expression after hearing it.

“Didn’t I order you to behave yourself and stay at home without doing anything?! Who gave you the guts to make your own decision and go forth to play with stocks?!”

“Don’t you know what the current situation is? Even I’m being cautious and dare not do anything rashly. Who are you guys to be so daring?!”

Kennedy was getting more exasperated as he spoke, and he suddenly roared as he asked, “How much did you and Zane lose respectively?!”

“We’re both broke. I’ve lost billions. Zane has it far worse. He even mortgaged his house and suffered a loss of 600 million,” said Mitch with a shaky voice.

Kennedy took in a deep breath and said through his gritted teeth, “What a piece of trash who can never accomplish anything and only fails!”

“At this period, there are tons of eyes watching over the actions of affluent families like us. If this news spreads out, that my son carried out a short sale on shares and attempted to engulf the hard earn monies of those shareholders only to end up losing billions... Say, what do you think those reporters will write about it?!”

“The pride of the Langdon family, my pride, and your grandpa’s pride will all be tainted by rubbish like you!

“I’m with Bob right now. You two spoiled brats better come back home this instant!”

...

At the Laws’ household.

Jasper was calculating the rewards from this operation. He did not feel good whenever he thought of the mistake made at the end of the market rescue plan.

“After deducting the 100 billion funds to save the city, we managed to earn 98 billion from the 40 billion capital during its peak. However, in the afternoon, I used that sum of money for the market rescue plan. On the surface, we’ve won.

“However, at the very last moment, it was obviously my loss when I was having a contest with the opponent. I lost an additional 18 billion!”

Jasper was shaking his head in Zachary’s office. There was a look of dismay on his face.

“So, right now, we still have 80 billion with us, which coincidentally has been doubled. It’s just that most of the money couldn’t be taken out, all so that we can stabilize Harbor Stocks.”

Zachary tapped on Jasper’s shoulder and said, “You’ve already done the best. Don’t be too harsh on yourself. You’ll only wear yourself out.”

“I’ll take control over that sum of money. Previously, you spent five billion and gained back your capital with some profits. Later, I’ll give you ten billion. Michael is just the same as you. He took out five billion of capital. I’ll do the same and give him an additional ten billion. The remaining 60 billion, I’ll gladly accept it.”

Zachary was smiling. He sensed that this young lad, Jasper Laine, would one day be a big shot in the future!

No, it should be that he was heading to a much higher stage in the world where he would stand at a higher level!

The thought of it made Zachary glance at Jasper with an astonished gaze. He admired and respected Jasper from the bottom of his heart.

“To be honest, at the very beginning when you said you’re able to help the Law family earn back that ten billion, I was still doubting you, but now, you’ve helped the Law family earn 30 billion! You didn’t let us down, you even exceeded our expectations!”

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Jasper shook his head and said, “We both gained some benefits. Without the Law family, I wouldn’t be earning this much as well. At the end of the day, without the help from the Law family, I’m afraid that I wouldn’t even have the opportunity to show my talents as well!”

Zachary nodded his head with satisfaction when facing Jasper’s humbleness. He said with a smile, “Regardless, you’ve indeed done a huge favor for the Law family in this matter. The Law family shall always remember this.”

Jasper waved his hand and said with his expression suddenly becoming much more serious, “Uncle Law, please allow me to say something on my mind. Just keep these words in your heart after hearing this.”

Seeing that Jasper was speaking in such a manner, Zachary became all serious as well. He said, "Spit it out. I'm all ears."

"At the very last moment, I was actually planning to set up a trap for the opponent. Once he was in the trap, he would be within my control. With that, we could have gobbled up the main funds for a short sale, at least half of it!"

"I know about this. You mentioned it previously," said Zachary.

"But at the eleventh hour, we just lacked that one step. The opponent was very decisive and backed off instead. I'm suspecting that there's a spy among us."

Hearing this made Zachary's expression become extremely stern.

"We can be absolutely sure that the main force doing the short sale has its funds from the western countries. However, the investigation about who the leader is is still ongoing. You're saying that among us, there's a spy who's helping out the western countries?"

Zachary's tone was extremely serious.

Earlier, there had been lots of people in the hall. They could exclude Zack and the trading team. Since two days ago, they had been staying together under the tight surveillance of the security guards.

Even if they had the intention of leaking out information, they would not have had that opportunity to do so.

Next up were the heads of the four affluent families, along with the two officials with the government of Harbor City, and... Jake Cullen!

"Who do you think is the most suspicious?" Zachary asked.

“I’ve got no idea.” Jasper shook his head. “Actually, the conclusion that there’s a spy among us is also my own guess without any concrete proof. So as for who’s the most suspicious, currently I only have very little information to go on. I can’t say for sure.”

“Alright, I’ll conduct an investigation on this matter,” said Zachary with a dark expression.

At this point, being a spy for the funds to the western countries was no different than selling one’s own country to others.

Zachary despised people who betrayed their country for their own luxury.

“There’s something that you might need to consider.”

Zachary said to Jasper, “The financial weekly magazine that’s the biggest and most famous throughout Harbor City, Terra’s Financial Weekly, hopes to have a special interview session with you.”

Jasper waved his hand and said, ‘I’ve got lots of work to do. I might not be free.’”

It was an opportunity to integrate Gladness Entertainment Movies when Harbor Stocks were still in a recovery phase. He got to enter rapidly in those potential stocks that might rise in the future. There were tons of things awaiting for Jasper to accomplish.

“It won’t do you any harm to spare some time to go over. They can follow your schedule. Besides, you’ll still be able to gain some benefits from this weekly magazine. Regardless of what happens, Harbor City is a place that emphasizes reputation. There are many times where reputation might be more useful than benefits.”

Zachary’s thoughtful words made Jasper change his mind. “Alright then. Then please ask them to get in touch with me.”

...

In a quiet study room in a villa.

Smack!

A slap landed across Mitch's face.

Due to that slap, Mitch stumbled and took two steps back. He nearly fell hard with his bottom hitting the floor.

The burning pain on Mitch's face made him clench his fist, but he dared not retaliate or vent out his frustrations. He knew that his father, Kennedy, had a temper that was much worse than himself. Hence, he did not have the guts to speak even a word.

"You scumbag!"

Kennedy's exasperated roar exploded in Mitch's ears.

"It's one thing if you lost your mind and lost some money. But how dare you be so daring, even dragging Zane along and selling the family's assets, tossing all of it away?!"

"Do you two fools know that you guys are the sons of affluent families? If news were to spread out about you guys doing short sales and trying to earn the hard earned monies of Harbor City during the financial crisis, do you guys think that you'll be able to raise your heads high in Harbor City?"

"Even the family's business will be affected as well!"

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Zane was hiding at a corner, shaking out of fear. He dared not let out a single word under Bob's stony gaze.

He was feeling utterly aggrieved as well. Initially, he did not have the guts to do such a thing, but it was all because Mitch was overconfident. As such, he got all hyped up and both of them gathered about two billion. They then placed all the funds into the shares.

If it was just because of the two billion in funds, Kennedy would not be that exasperated. The main problem was that Mitch's actions could possibly expose him to everyone in Harbor City.

His cooperation with Quantum Fund was a top secret and should never be known to any outsiders. For safety purposes, he had not told his son about it either.

He had been cautious while working on it on the side but his son nearly got into huge trouble. The thought of it made Kennedy disgruntled.

"It's all because of Jasper!"

Mitch clenched his teeth and shouted, exasperated, "If it's not for him provoking me, I'd never have done short sales with such a big fund!"

Kennedy's expression darkened as he roared, "You've committed such a foolish mistake, yet you still want to put the blame on others? Being easily provoked by others will only mean that your composure is not sturdy enough!"

"Wait a moment!"

At that moment, Bob voiced out and said, “Mr. Langdon, it’s useless if you continue being angry. It’s better if you think of a way to fix things. Mitch, earlier you said that Jasper provoked you. What actually happened?”

Mitch and Zane both blurted the entire incident on the day they were at Victoria Harbor.

Finally, Mitch gritted his teeth and said, “Back then, Jasper should have already known that he would be hosting the market rescue plan. That’s why he intentionally provoked me and set up a plot against me. This man is utterly cruel!”

Zane was also so mad that his face had turned pale. He yelled, “Don’t ever give me the chance. If I seize that chance, I’ll be sure to make that Mainlander suffer!”

Bob and Kennedy looked into each other’s eyes, and everyone fell silent.

“Jasper...”

Kennedy softly called out that name.

“This brat is not as simple as he seems,” said Bob with a deep voice.

With a smirk, Kennedy said, “What’s there to be afraid of? As long as he’s in Harbor city and intends to run a business in Harbor City, we’ll get our chance to go against him.”

Mitch opened his mouth to say, “Dad, we can’t just let this matter slide aside.”

“Obviously not!” Kennedy’s expression darkened. “However, for these two days, you two better not show up anywhere. Don’t leave the house. I’ll arrange for someone to do their best to cover up this matter. At least there’s good news, which is that the outsiders are temporarily unaware of you guys doing short sales.”

“Let me handle this matter,” said Bob, “I’m still able to say something to the media of Harbor City.”

“Sure.” Kennedy nodded. There were some things that would not be appropriate for him to handle himself, and Bob would be just the perfect person to do this.

...

While Kennedy and his son were having a secret discussion, Jasper was already at the International Commerce Center of Harbor City.

Even though it was named a center, in fact, it was the iconic building of Harbor City.

As the tallest building in Harbor City, its outline had appeared in lots of dramas and movies made in Harbor City.

On the 118th floor at the top balcony.

An umbrella, a coffee table, and three chairs.

Jasper was sitting on the balcony, feeling the chilly breeze and the sunny weather. He had a lazy yet calm smile on his face.

Henry, who was sitting beside, yawned. He was lazily lying and sunbathing. He sneaked a peek at the troop of security guards who were lined up at a place not far away and was jealous of them.

“Right now, you’re occupying a higher place in my dad’s heart. He even said that he’s worried about your safety. He has dispatched all the elite security guards to you. I’ve never received such treatment.”

Jasper smiled and ignored that statement, saying, “Has Jake arrived yet?”

“Don’t worry. I’ve already sent someone there to get him. Even if he has the guts, he won’t be so bold to refuse to step forth!”

While he was talking, Jake, who looked famished, showed up at the entrance of the balcony. They both locked eyes. The moment Jake saw Jasper, the corners of his mouth twitched. He had a very dark expression on his face.