

# Life at the Top Chapter 261

Jasper chuckled at Julian's words.

He patted Julian's shoulder and laughed softly. "I don't need you to give me your life. You just have to stay by my side and work hard. I won't mistreat you," he said.

Julian nodded slowly.

He had previously come here to destroy Jasper. Although Jasper had given him 2 million dollars, he had also kept to his words and chosen not to take revenge on him.

Despite this, Julian knew that Jasper absolutely dared to do so.

Julian had watched how Jasper defeated Mark Zion and Steve Quare right before his very eyes.

He knew that if Jasper intended to seek vengeance against him, that he would easily be vanquished despite his abilities.

He could escape, but what about his sister?

Nevertheless, not only did Jasper choose not to take revenge on him, but he also treated him well and employed him as his personal bodyguard.

Julian viewed Jasper as his saving grace due to the kindness he had bestowed upon him.

Thus, he decided to stay by Jasper's side loyally and continue protecting him in the future.

"Anyone who wants to bring harm to Mr. Laine will have to do so over my dead body," Julian said solemnly.

At that moment, Jasper was holding hands with Wendy as they left the ward and headed downstairs. Thus, he did not hear Julian's words.

With their financial power, Cathy's transfer procedure went smoothly. The procedure was completed within half an hour.

While waiting for the operation to be completed, Jasper met up with Mr. Lambert.

"Mr. Laine, take a look. This is the contract for the shipyard. It has already been signed," Mr. Lambert said. He took out the contract and held it before Jasper with both hands.

Jasper took the contract and flipped through it. "I will arrange for someone to take over later. In the meantime, find a few reliable men to look after the shipyard," he ordered.

The shipyard was equipped with top-notch facilities. The raw materials stored there were extremely valuable as well.

If nobody looked after the place, the materials may be stolen by greedy people.

It would be unwise to underestimate these people. There was once a gang of seven to eight thieves that stole a batch of steel worth tens of millions in three days. Their skills were comparable to that of a professional transport and demolitions team.

Mr. Lambert patted his chest and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Laine. With me there, nobody will be allowed into the shipyard."

“Has the project commenced?” Jasper asked.

Mr. Lambert chuckled. “It started this morning. Without the Zions causing trouble, those few stubborn jerks signed the agreement at once and moved away. The project is progressing very smoothly right now,” he replied.

Jasper nodded. “The resettlement compensation provided to normal households that have been demolished must be in strict accordance with the regulations. Meanwhile, welfare protection must be in place for the migrant workers. Wage arrears are absolutely prohibited,” he added.

“These rules are to be stated in black and white, and nobody is allowed to breach them. If anyone causes trouble due to non-compliance, I’ll fire them immediately. Is this understood?”

Mr. Lambert had a solemn expression on his face. “Understood, Mr. Laine,” he replied at once.

Jasper nodded. “In that case, you can continue with your tasks. If anything comes up, get in contact with the provincial headquarters. I can’t watch the project in Brac County every day,” he said.

“In short, you will have indispensable benefits if you do well. An executive like you can get dividends from the project’s profits, so you’ll be rewarded with at least a few hundred thousand dollars.

“However, if you don’t do well, whoever is in charge will have to take responsibility. As the manager, there’s no way you can escape from the brunt of the punishment.”

“I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll get going then,” Mr. Lambert replied courteously.

Waving Mr. Lambert off, Jasper accompanied Wendy into the car. An ambulance followed them, which Julian and his sister were seated in. They all headed back to the province together.

It was already late into the evening when they arrived at the province.

Jasper originally planned to let Julian send Cathy to the hospital and settle down before coming to work on the next day.

However, Julian came back immediately after sending Cathy to the hospital and ensuring that everything was alright. Jasper did not send him away either.

Back at the Schuler's household, Dawson had already arranged for their meals to be prepared while he waited for them.

"You handled the incident at Brac County pretty well," Dawson told Jasper with a smile.

Jasper chuckled in response. "It's all thanks to your support, Uncle Schuler. Your phone call alone managed to crush almost half the Zions," he said.

Shaking his head, Dawson replied, "The Zions' most important assets are in that shipyard. When those people saw that the Zions' shipyard had been destroyed, they began outsmarting each other. It was brought about by a collective effort. My phone call only fueling the fire and sped up the process."

"Right, I heard that you've taken over the Zions' shipyard?" Dawson asked curiously.

Jasper nodded and said, "That shipyard is a premium asset. I am close to the people-in-charge in Harbor City. If the shipyard operates well, it can bring in a large sum of profits in one year. Even if I don't have the time to manage it, I can sell it for more than a billion dollars. A business like that is a no-brainer.

"I have a friend that's involved in shipbuilding. I've heard that he is currently on the lookout for opportunities to expand his production capacity and is out and about looking for equipment. If you don't intend to operate the shipyard on your own, why don't I help you inquire to see if it can be sold off?" Dawson suggested.

Jasper's eyes shone in interest. "Sure, my main focus is still investing in the Internet, real estate, and entertainment industries. Shipbuilding involves high amounts of professional talent, and I don't have the ability to manage the shipyard either. If he proposes a suitable price, I'll sell it to him," he said.

Nodding in response, Dawson said, "Alright, let's eat first. I'll help you inquire about it soon. If he's interested, I'll ask him to come to the province for a meeting with you."

After having their meal, Dawson was surprised by Julian's arrival. Wendy explained everything to Dawson, who suggested that Julian should train with his personal bodyguards.

Julian wanted to prove himself as well. Hence, he immediately agreed to it after seeing Jasper nod his head.

Alas, Jasper's gamble in him was soon shown to have paid off.

Julian went against five of Dawson's personal bodyguards alone. Not only did he win, but he also defeated them impactfully.

Dawson looked upon Julian in admiration. His bodyguards consisted of highly skilled men that he had recruited via reliable sources. They were either ex-special forces or martial art specialists. Therefore, they were all highly capable men.

"Let Julian come over to train my bodyguards when he's free," Dawson proposed.

"Sure," Jasper said with a smile. "Julian, I'll leave this to you," he added.

Julian grinned widely. "No problem," he said.

The moon shone in the clear night sky, which was speckled with stars. Jasper was lounging on the balcony of the room on the second floor while reading a book leisurely.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

The call was from Hudson Moore.

Hudson's angry voice rang out from the other end of the call when he picked up the phone. "Mr. Laine, Sena has gone overboard. They hired hackers to attack our server! We're in big trouble now!"

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"What happened?" Jasper asked in a heavy tone, a frown forming on his face. He put down his book at once.

"Two hours ago, our users suddenly discovered that their connection was severed over a large area. The server was severely jammed, and the portal website completely collapsed. We have confirmed that it was an attack launched by hackers."

While listening to Hudson's account of the incident, Jasper walked into the study, turned on the computer, and logged into KK.

Like Hudson had described, he could not go online despite having logged in for more than 10 seconds. Not long after, a notification stating that there was a server connection failure appeared.

After that, Jasper clicked on Terizone's portal website. Similarly, the original webpage, which was rich in content, had become blank and was now completely devoid of words or pictures.

"Users are scolding us on discussion forums everywhere. What should we do, Mr. Laine?" Hudson asked bitterly.

Netizens were still relatively simple-minded back in the year 2000. The battles between internet companies were also not as competitive as they would be in the future.

However, due to these exact reason, the opinions and comments published online reflected the most authentic user experiences.

Hudson and the others frequently compiled user reviews from discussion forums because of this.

Unfortunately, they were all scolding Terizone right now.

KK kept disconnecting when they wanted to use the software to chat online. They could not log in and the webpage was completely blank as well. Who were the users to blame if not the?

Jasper pondered upon it for a while. "What about Zaine and the others?" he asked.

"They've gone to the machinery room to carry out emergency maintenance," Hudson said.

"Maintain the server first, then solve the problem of user disconnection as soon as possible. You guys are the top programming professionals in the country. You should be familiar with the groups of hackers within the country, right?" Jasper asked.

"Zaine was once the backbone of the Scarlet Union. However, he quit the group. Nevertheless, a lot of people within the hacking industry know him. Without him here, we might be in a worse situation right now," Hudson replied.

"In that case, use your connections to get in touch with the relevant people and ask them to help you deal with the attack. We must at least try to resist the attack no matter what. Purchase all the firewalls you need for the machinery room. Don't be afraid of spending money at times like this.

“Next, issue an announcement to notify users that the server has been hacked, and let them know that we promise to resolve it as soon as possible. We must first calm down the users, so write it with a sincere attitude.

“Should I tell everyone that Sena was the one who launched the attack?” Hudson asked, gritting his teeth in anger.

Jasper laughed. “Hud, have you lost it due to your anger? Do you have any evidence that Sena launched this hacker attack on us?” he asked.

“No,” Hudson said in exasperation.

“Exactly. Sena may be waiting for Terizone to mess up. Once you blame Sena for the attack, they will follow up with another step, which will bring much worse consequences.

“In any case, our first priority is to stabilize the server and shield ourselves against the attack. At the same time, we will have to appease the users. These two things must be carried out concurrently to resolve our problems. We’ll talk about how to get back at them after I arrive at Cavern City,” Jasper said.

“Alright, I’ll wait for you in the office tomorrow then.”

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The next day, Wendy sent Jasper to the airport. Julian followed them as well.

“Take good care of yourself. Remember not to overwork yourself,” Wendy reminded Jasper gently as she helped him straighten his collar.

Jasper stared at the beautiful woman before him and chuckled. “I realize that you’ve been acting more and more like a devoted wife and loving mother lately,” he said.



Wendy glared at Jasper and huffed out, “Devoted wife and loving mother? You make it seem as if I’m gray and old!”

“You aren’t old at all. You’ll forever be a goddess in my eyes,” Jasper teased Wendy as he reached out to pinch the bridge of her nose.

“Ah, you’re so annoying,” Wendy remarked, pursing her lips into a smile as she flicked Jasper’s hand off her. “Go ahead and build your empire. I’ll protect you from behind,” she said.

Nodding, Jasper squeezed Wendy’s hands and said, “Wait for me. I’ll build a huge empire and gift it to you as dowry.”

Wendy blushed and pulled her hands away immediately. She turned over in embarrassment. “What a load of nonsense. Who wants your dowry? I’m not going to bother you anymore. I’m leaving!” she said in a flustered, low voice.

Wendy then turned around and ran away.

Jasper chuckled at the sight of Wendy running away. He greeted Julian, turned around, and walked toward customs.

“Jasp!” Wendy’s voice suddenly rang out from behind him.

Jasper turned around and was met with the sight of a graceful belle standing in the middle of the crowd. She stared at him affectionately, her gaze reminiscent of brilliant stars shining in the night sky.

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“I’ll wait for you to come back.”

Resisting the urge to turn around and hug her, Jasper nodded earnestly. He then turned around walked toward the customs.

On the plane, Jasper took a light nap.

As Jasper's personal bodyguard, Julian sat right beside him.

"Mr. Laine, you have such a loving relationship with Ms. Schuler," Julian said.

Jasper opened his eyes and glanced at Julian. He chuckled. "You're not that young anymore. Should I ask her to introduce a girl to you?"

Julian shook his head solemnly. "Work is my priority," he replied.

"True. Since we are men, how can we start a family without first having a stable career?"

"Work hard by my side for the next two years. After that, I'll arrange something for you," Jasper said.

Julian smiled, but he did not put much thought into his words.

In his mind, protecting Jasper was his topmost priority. Everything else was secondary.

Two hours later, the plane landed at Cavern City International Airport.

Jack Tanner came to pick them up from the airport.

"Mr. Laine, you're finally here," Jack said after stepping forward.

Jasper could tell that he had spent an all-nighter working with Hudson and the others from his pale and tired complexion. "Work is important, but you need to rest as well," he said.

Jack laughed and said, "I can't help much in terms of technical skills, but it's my responsibility to manage and reassure all the employees."

"Let's talk in the car."

Jasper led the way as they walked out of the airport.

After they got into the car, Jasper realized that Jack kept staring at Julian. "He's my personal bodyguard," he explained.

Jack gasped in realization. He was not surprised. Considering Jasper's net worth and social status, he should have employed a personal bodyguard a long time ago.

"How's everything at the company right now?" Jasper asked.

"The competition between both parties lasted till four in the morning. Although it was extremely tough, we managed to protect our server. However, we took a huge loss this time round. The firewalls we purchased and the server upgrades in the machinery room alone cost millions," Jack replied.

"Nonetheless, the good news is that both the portal webpage and KK have been restored. This incident impacted us greatly. KK has been disconnected for nearly 13 hours, and the users are still not reassured about the situation."

Jasper's expression brightened a little after listening to what he said. He then nodded and said, "Since losses are inevitable, all we can do for now is try our best to minimize it."

Soon after, the car arrived at the two-storey commercial building that Terizone had just moved into. Upon entering the building, Jasper was met by the sight of dozens of employees working busily at their respective desks.

Terizone had recruited all of these employees later on, so Jasper did not know any of them.

Everyone was loaded with work right now due to the incident. Despite this, the atmosphere was lively as there were frequent exchanges of conversation and movement between desks.

Jasper was impressed with the vibrant work atmosphere at Terizone.

“Jack, it seems that you’re managing the company pretty well,” Jasper joked.

“I just proposed a general structure. I can’t deny that the founders of Terizone are all extremely talented. Most of the results should be credited to them,” Jack said in a humble manner.

Jasper nodded and told him, “You’ll have to return to JW Capital in the future. I allocated you here just to assist these start-up rookies so that they can familiarize themselves with the management methods of a contemporary company as soon as possible. It seems that everything is progressing well.”

After that, Jasper opened the door of the meeting room and walked in.

Zaine and the others were all fast asleep in the meeting room. Logan, in particular, was snoring loudly as he slept.

This seemingly unorganized and unrefined team would be known as the core of Terizone Inc., a world-renowned company, in the future.

All of it would be made possible because of them.

Thinking about this, Jasper reminisced upon the fact that regardless of in the past or the present, their success was definitely meant to be.

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“Everyone pulled an all-nighter yesterday, and they fell asleep not too long ago,” Hudson said in a hushed tone after making his way toward Jasper.

“Let them rest. Let’s talk in your office.”

After speaking, Jasper walked out of the meeting room with Hudson, Jack, and Cameron, who were all wide awake, following behind him.

Although Hudson had the highest-ranking company position in Terizone, he had the simplest office.

His office consisted of a small space separated by wooden boards. There was only a desk, a computer, a bookcase, and a few sofas in the room. Other than that, it was barren.

“It’s a simple room. After all, the company has a lot of expenses right now,” Hudson said, sounding slightly embarrassed. He poured a cup of water for Jasper.

Jasper chuckled. “That’s why I was willing to invest in the lot of you. From your stingy demeanor, I can tell that your future will definitely be bright,” he said.

Hudson nodded. He was glad that Jasper approved of his mindset.

“Although we have persevered through this incident, it was mainly because Sena stopped the attack halfway through. Otherwise, we may not have been able to recover our system even now.”

There was an overcast expression on Hudson’s face. Although he had not slept in more than thirty hours, he did not feel even a hint of fatigue. He was overcome with rage and aggravation.

“We’re still too weak. We had close to zero resistance against Sena’s treacherous means of attack!”

“How are our losses?” Jasper asked.

Hudson’s expression darkened. “We lost more than a million dollars in terms of funds. However, the loss in user count is way more significant. There has been a decline of one-third of portal visits!” he exclaimed.

Jasper nodded. The main priority of Internet companies was their user count. A decline in users was way more terrifying than a loss in cash.

“That b\*stard Dane Warren is being too harsh!” Cameron Scott huffed in anger.

“Sena is now vying against Terizone, so they must still have plans for us!” Jasper said after a momentary pause.

Worry filled the others’ faces after registering what Jasper said.

“To be honest, in terms of technical aspects, I don’t know as much as you guys do,” Jasper said, shrugging his shoulders in exasperation.

“However, I’m pretty skilled in fighting a business war,” Jasper added with a chuckle. “Leave this matter to me. I can deal with Sena,” he said.

Hudson’s gaze lit up almost immediately. Just as he was about to say something, his phone rang.

After exchanging a few words on the phone, Hudson hung up on the call excitedly. “Mr. Laine, our savior is here! If it wasn’t for his help last night, we wouldn’t have been able to withstand the attack,” he told Jasper.

“Does such a talented person exist? What’s his name?” Jasper asked in surprise.

“Theo Wright!”

Jasper slowly raised his brow after hearing this name.

This name belonged to a legendary man. He was the crème de la crème of hackers within the country. He was a godfather-level figure.

He was the founder of the Hawk Alliance, one of the top hacker organizations. Under the leadership of this godly figure, the Hawk Alliance would raise their national prestige through their groundbreaking performance in several global hacker battles in the few upcoming years.

In several global hacker wars a few years later, the master of the Eagle Alliance led by this great god can be said to have beaten the competition severely.

This man was also the only person publicly known to have hacked into the United State's military database.

Jasper did not expect Hudson to be well-acquainted with him.

Jasper met Theo Wright in the meeting room.

He assumed that a Hacker God like him must be someone who was cold and daunting.

Nevertheless, Jasper found it nearly impossible to associate the short, plump young man with middle-parted hair that was standing right before him with the most powerful man in the online world, the Godfather of Hacking.

“Theo, let me start with the introductions. This is the actual head of our company, Mr. Jasper Laine. This is Mr. Jack Tanner.”

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Hudson introduced Theo to everyone passionately.

Theo looked at Jack and smiled. "I know you. You used to be a high-level executive at Weresoftware," he said.

After the both of them shook hands, Theo turned over to look at Jasper.

Jasper grinned and extended his hand. "You're the number one hacker in the country. I've admired you for a long time," he said.

Theo was actually rather nervous. He was not accustomed to interacting with strangers in real life. Jasper's confident demeanor, which radiated from his actions and behavior, made him feel particularly uneasy.

"Nice to... meet you! I don't dare to claim the title of being the top hacker in the country. Hacking technology consists of extremely profound knowledge. No one would dare to say that they are the best of the best. I'm still learning."

Theo's words made everyone burst out into laughter.

A successful person must stand out in one way or another—this applied to any field out there. Take Theo as an example, who had an extremely normal appearance: He looked like any other average young man out there, and was not particularly good at socializing with strangers.

However, his reverence toward technology was enough to prove that he did indeed have the potential and ability to be the top hacker in the country.

Hudson and Jasper exchanged a glance. "Theo, I have previously told you that we would like you to join our company. You would be in charge of all aspects of network security. What do you think about that?" Hudson asked.

Theo chuckled in response. He said, "Hudson, you know very well that people like us are used to having all the freedom we want. I don't have the intention of joining a company, so..."



Jasper laughed. "You're extremely capable. Do you want to remain as a hacker for your entire life?" he asked.

Theo raised his head to look at Jasper. A look of distaste flashed across his face. Jasper's choice of words made it seem like he was looking down upon hackers.

Jasper did not pay any heed to the expression on Theo's face. He continued speaking, "You must know that as laws and regulations gradually improve, even the most highly-skilled hackers will start to experience growing restrictions on the Internet. It will be impossible for you to continue doing as you wish in such an unscrupulous manner.

"However, everything will be different if you join Terizone. With your skills, you can help Terizone build a protective firewall. During the process, you can also compete against hackers from everywhere around the world. The only thing that would be different is that you're doing everything for a good cause.

"Don't you want to rely on your skills to become someone respected and admired by those within the hacker industry?"

Theo's expression changed. Jasper's words had managed to speak to his heart.

"How do you find Terizone?" Jasper asked, suddenly changing the topic.

"It's excellent," Theo replied.

As one of the top hackers within the country, Theo had an even more precise and professional vision of the Internet compared to everyone else. He knew that Terizone had great potential right now.

KK, in particular, had attained massive control of the market.

It was truly the top online chatting software in the country.

“Terizone’s team of founders consists of individuals who are capable of dominating different fields. However, they currently lack a master that’s capable of handling cybersecurity issues. Join us. With you on the team, Terizone will soar to greater heights.”

Theo laughed at Jasper’s sincere words. “Since you guys are inviting me so enthusiastically, I can’t find any reason to reject this offer,” he said.

Jasper and Hudson looked at each other and burst out into laughter.

“However, I have a condition,” Theo suddenly announced.

“You can tell us anything,” Hudson said.

“I have two other friends. They’re currently in poor financial conditions and are in urgent need of a job. I would like to bring them into the company so that we can work together. After all, it would be difficult for me if I was to work alone. You can rest assured of their skills. They’re extremely competent,” Theo said.

Hudson chuckled. “Since you’ve recommended them, I’m sure their skills are impeccable. You can ask them to come over. I’ll have someone make the relevant arrangements so that you guys can start working as soon as possible,” he said.

Theo nodded. “Alright, it’s a deal,” he said excitedly.

“It’s a deal.”

With that, Hudson and Theo shook hands enthusiastically.