

Life at the Top Chapter 651

Jasper explained casually.

“Alright, are you going to Coreana in a couple of days? Can you take me with you?” Henry grumbled.

“The amusement park will be completed in two months, and the Southface River Project will have already held its topping out by then. You should keep an eye on the amusement park and not go anywhere for these two months.” Jasper immediately rejected Henry’s request.

Henry himself knew he had his duties to tend to, but he was so used to being rebellious that his force of habit caused him to resist this little. However, he had no choice but to obey Jasper upon hearing his displeasure.

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The next day, Jasper met with Grant and his team in the hotel.

“Mr. Laine, forgive me for being forward, but you’re so much younger than I imagined.”

Grant, who was one of America’s most well-known architects, was already past 60. He had met countless successful people, but they were all around his age.

Grant Morgan had thought his mysterious order from an Eastern country was from some rich kid who came from a prestigious family. He had not expected Jasper to have built his empire from the ground up.

He sighed in admiration as he gazed at Jasper, genuine respect and appreciation shining in his eyes.

Jasper smiled as he shook Grant's hand and said, "Mr. Morgan, thank you for your praise. I'm a big fan of Sky Theatre, the building in Sauof which you designed some time ago. In my opinion, you're the only architect who has succeeded in fusing both modernities with tradition among all other world-known architects."

People were supposed to praise each other. Grant was obviously pleased with Jasper's flattery as he said politely, "You're a very likable man, Mr. Laine. I think we're going to enjoy working with each other."

Smiling, Jasper invited Grant to take a seat as he said, "Henry Law has already explained the conditions of the surrounding terrain to you via email. May I know how long it will take for you to come up with a first draft for the design, Mr. Morgan?"

The expression on Grant's face turned serious as he said, "Mr. Laine, what you want to design is the tallest building in the world. A building that's at least 630 feet tall will pose a huge challenge to any architect. It's not an easy feat."

"But a design fee of 1.2 billion US dollars is not cheap either, is it? Furthermore, every architect dreams of designing the tallest building in the world. Wouldn't you want to put your best foot forward for that, Mr. Morgan?" Jasper asked as he laughed lightly.

Grant had an excited expression on his face as he said, "It's indeed tempting, which is why we rushed all the way here last night. We'll be conducting site visits this time. Do you have any other specific requests, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper said calmly, "I won't have much time because I'll be traveling to Coreana tomorrow. But I do have one request. It's to do what you do best, Mr. Morgan. I want you to combine both modernities and tradition. I want a skyscraper that the entire world will marvel at."

Grant said probingly, “This is a huge building that will require a lot of resources. Based on my team’s experience, we estimate that it won’t be possible without at least 15 billion Somer Dollars.”

Jasper massaged his temples. Grant’s statement had hit him where it hurt.

He had calculated the amount of money it would take to construct the building, and 15 billion Somer Dollars was only a modest estimate. In his past life, the construction of Waterhoof City Financial Tower had used a total of 17 billion dollars, while Jasper’s estimation was around 18 billion dollars.

This was just for the outer shell of the building. A tuned mass damper that needed to be used in reducing the building’s vibrations would already cost two billion dollars.

The cost required to purchase equipment and furnish the buildings would require at least another seven billion dollars.

An investment that cost nearly around 25 billion dollars was not something the average person could take part in.

Thus, Jasper realized that he was out of money!

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Jasper’s current financial situation was not complicated. He had about six billion dollars in funds in his investment company.

He had another billion dollars from his long-term investments in the country’s stock market.

He also had a little more in Harbor City, around four billion dollars.

Moreover, he had around 1.5 billion dollars in cash in his personal account.

Which meant Jasper could procure only 12.5 billion dollars if he did not sell any of his existing assets.

It was already a shocking number.

However, he had to take out 1.5 billion dollars from that 12.5 billion a couple of days later to pay Waterhoof City Hall as a deposit for the 266 commercial properties he had purchased on Golden Pedestrian Street.

Thus, Jasper would only have, at most, 11.1 billion dollars left.

It was still a mind-blowing number.

However, it was far from enough to construct the building that would require at least 25 billion dollars.

It was the first time Jasper was feeling poor since his reincarnation.

It was this sense of urgency from feeling poor that had Jasper in such a rush to travel to Coreana to obtain the agent rights for United Legends and the patent for the MP3 player.

These two projects would generate huge profits for Jasper within the next two years.

“Mr. Morgan, an architect is supposed to stick to the person in charge’s requests as closely as possible to complete the design, not worry about their financial status,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Grant laughed and said, “Mr. Laine, please don’t misunderstand. I just meant that I could come up with an even more radical design if you have the sufficient funds.”

“I wouldn’t want to design the tallest building in the world if I was being conservative, would I?” Jasper asked.

Grant’s eyes lit up. He could not care less about how much money Jasper had and whether he would go into debt by constructing this building. All he needed was a moneymaker who would fund his lifelong dream in architecture and let him work to his heart’s content for once.

“Mr. Laine, I understand what you mean now. I must say you’re one of the most special people of Somer descent that I’ve ever met. I have a feeling that we’ll not only be partners but also friends,” Grant said solemnly.

“That would be my honor.”

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After four or five hours of bouncing off ideas with Grant’s team, Jasper finally got these western architects to understand how he wanted the building to look.

Grant’s team would stay in Waterhoof City to conduct inspections after this. Jasper could not get involved in this.

Jasper was satisfied when Grant’s team promised him they would come up with a design draft by the end of the month at the very latest. Taking Julian with him, the two boarded the plane to Coreana.

Nearly at the same time when Jasper and Julian were boarding the plane...

In an office in Coreana that belonged to the person who invented the MP3 player, Damond Golding.

“Mr. Conrad Monty, congratulations on obtaining the patent to sell MP3 players within Somerland.”

After exchanging contracts, Damond laughed and clapped Conrad on the shoulder as he spoke.

The patent fee cost 80 million US dollars, and Conrad would have to pay a commission fee of one US dollar for every MP3 player he produced.

These terms were enough for Damond to treat Conrad as his closest business partner.

Although the MP3 player had only recently started gaining popularity, the majority of the people had yet to fully accept this product. Additionally, Somerland’s level of consumption was still extremely low, which was why Damond had not expected to earn much from selling the patent.

However, Conrad’s generosity managed to both shock and surprise him.

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People of Somer descent were really stupid people with a lot of money.

However, Conrad was extremely satisfied. After he rejected Damond’s invitation to stay back for dinner, he left the office with the patent licensing agreement.

In his car downstairs, Conrad flipped through the documents he was holding as he said calmly, “So, this is what Jasper Laine wanted so badly?”

A look of deep hatred flashed through Conrad’s eyes when Jasper’s name was mentioned.

His previous defeat had been so painful he would probably be depressed now if it were not for his strong will.

He had only managed to snap out of it in the shortest time possible when his father related to him a piece of news.

According to a reliable source, Jasper was just about to head to Coreana to negotiate for a patent for MP3 players.

That proved why Jasper had spent so much money taking away the right to represent the electronics industry from the Hanks family.

Admittedly, it might be to defeat the Hanks family. However, there were plenty of ways to defeat the Hanks family. There was no need to pick the most costly one.

More importantly, Jasper had even increased his investment in electronics after the Hanks family was defeated.

“JW Electronics spent 60 million dollars in a week to purchase four product lines. Preparations for the plant, equipment, and its employees are in full swing right now, and it’s all for this?”

Conrad smiled as he pinched the documents in his hands.

He would take everything Jasper wanted from him. He wondered what the expression on Jasper’s face would be like when he made the long trip here and realized that Conrad had been a step faster than him.

His assistant, who was sitting in front, turned and asked confusedly, “Mr. Monty, Damond Golding knows he’s committing daylight robbery on us. He sold his patent to other countries for half the price he offered us, and yet you still agreed to it?”

Conrad said calmly, “I don’t mind giving him a little more money. After all, these problems can all be solved using money.”

“Jasper must think this product will do well if he’s this desperate to get his hands on the patent. The people I sent to research the market will return with results soon. I’m more than willing to dominate the market for MP3 players in the country before Jasper does.

“Even if we don’t make any money, this deal will be considered a success as long as we manage to make him feel pissed.”

The assistant shrugged and said, “Mr. Monty, in my opinion, you could just get someone to kill arrogant men like him.”

“This is why you can only work as my assistant and can’t hope to fly solo,” Conrad answered calmly.

Realizing that he had said something wrong, the assistant hurriedly changed the subject and said, “So are we going back to the hotel now?”

“We’re flying back home now. I want to finish assembling the production line before Jasper does. Let’s see how he can retaliate this time!” Conrad said coldly.

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This was Jasper’s first time traveling overseas. In his past life, a colleague of his had a girlfriend who worked as a personal shopper. She frequently posted photos of her plane tickets and the products she had bought on Instagram.

Ever since then, Coreana had established itself as a modern, commercial country in Jasper’s mind.

In reality, Coreana did not disappoint Jasper as well.

Sela, Coreana’s financial hub, was an area that exuded strong business vibes. Tall buildings could be seen everywhere, and the faces of every person on the crowded streets were lit up by flashing neon lights. Everyone seemed to be hurrying as if they had countless matters to attend to.

The person whom the Law family had appointed to be in charge of the Sela office had come to pick them up from the airport. His name was Edmond Kelley.

After exchanging greetings, Jasper was sitting in the car and admiring the beauty of Sela when Edmond, who had just contacted one of his men through the phone, broke the news to Jasper with an uncomfortable expression on his face.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve contacted Damond Golding’s office and expressed our intent to visit as per your request. However, we’ve been informed that the patent for Somerland has already been purchased by someone else.”

The expression on Jasper’s face turned incredibly dark when he heard that.

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Jasper never thought that he would end up being intercepted by someone else when he had been using his memories from his past life to progress without any hiccups thus far.

He had always been the one who intercepted others. What did this mean?

Did that mean things were returning to bite him on his bottom?

At the same time, this served as a punishment to Jasper. It led him to understand that his memories from before he reincarnated were not invincible, and mistakes were inevitable. He could not rely solely on his memory to do anything.

Else, he would suffer great losses.

“Can you find out who it is?” Jasper managed to recover from the regret and anger he was experiencing. He chose to focus his attention on solving the problem instead.

Edmond breathed a sigh of both relief and admiration when he saw how quickly Jasper had managed to regulate his emotions.

“Damond isn’t willing to disclose that information. He says they’ve signed a privacy policy.”

Jasper laughed coldly as he said, “Is he afraid his thieving actions will be exposed? Let’s see if he’ll be able to never use that patent after buying it.”

According to his memories from his past life, no one in the country had bought the patent for MP3 players. Even in his later life, fake ones could be found everywhere on the streets. Any random workshop could produce one, but no one had ever bought the patent for it.

After all, the country had been known for its counterfeit products then.

In many cases, patents were the last resort for many companies to avoid repercussions.

For example, Jasper’s goal was to establish a multinational consortium, so he could not let foreigners use any issues regarding patents against him.

Thus, whoever had managed to buy the patent for MP3 players was definitely coming for him.

Who could it be?

Countless thoughts emerged and dissipated from his mind. Sighing lightly, Jasper said, “Make an appointment with Damon Golding for me. Tell him I would like to have breakfast with him tomorrow morning.”

Edmond nodded and said, “Very well, Mr. Laine. I’ll do that right now.”

“That’s right, about Damond, I have zero understanding of him. Did you make any preparations on that part?” Jasper asked.

Edmond smiled and said, “Mr. Laine, this is what the office was established to do. Don’t worry. According to our sources, Damon has a 16-year-old daughter who he treasures a lot. We’ll prepare the relevant gifts tomorrow.”

Jasper nodded in satisfaction.

At the same time, he observed the difference between himself and the Law family.

The Law family had even established an office in Coreana for the sole purpose of finding out what the higher-ups liked and forming good relations with them. This way, they would be giving themselves a chance to collaborate in the future.

It was his first time in Coreana, and if he had not had the help of the Law family’s office here, he would be running around like a headless chicken.

After all, the local higher-ups could not care less about who he was. It was not that simple to arrange a meeting with them.

JW still had a lot of room for growth in this area.

When they returned to the hotel, Jasper shut himself in the study for three to four hours. He did not come out for meals even when Julian called for him.

However, Jasper was not demotivated. Instead, he was working hard to solve the crisis at hand.

He got in touch with Anna who was far away from him in the west.

“Hey, busy bee. You’re finally the one who called first.”

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On the other end of the video call, Anna's background showed that the sun was shining where she was. She was sitting in an office, her delicate fingers fiddling with a pencil as she rebuked him.

Jasper said somewhat embarrassedly, "I've been really busy. A lot has happened."

"My dad told me all about it. Everything's been taken care of now, right?" Anna asked as she smiled slightly.

As he nodded, Jasper was still thinking about how he should bring up the topic when he heard Anna say, "So tell me, how can I help you?"

"How did you know?" Jasper asked in surprise.

Anna's flirtatious behavior was evident even though she was thousands of miles away. She stared at Jasper with her beautiful eyes and said, "I know you better than you think I do."

Seeing how his goal had been exposed, Jasper gave up trying to be secretive and said, "I remember you once told me you had a friend who's part of the Sentel family?"

Anna nodded and said, "That's right. She's the third granddaughter of Sentel Corporation's current president, Kit Lang. We're on pretty good terms."

Jasper hurriedly said, "I was hoping you could introduce us."

Anna said in surprise, "You want to meet her? That might be a challenge."

“What’s wrong?” Jasper asked as he frowned.

“She just left for Greece last week and won’t be back for another month.

“But can you tell me what’s going on?” Anna asked.

Jasper did not hide anything from her and told her his objective, “I’m planning to buy the patent for MP3 players from Sentel Corporation.”

Anna was startled. She might not be in the business sector, but she was still part of the Law family and was well-informed in what went on in the business sector.

She said, “I’ve heard of MP3 players, but I remember the person who invented it is Damond Golding, the current president of Sunrea Company. Although he used to work in Sentel, the patent was only completed after he began working at Sunrea. Shouldn’t you meet with Damond instead of Sentel if you intend to purchase a patent?”

Jasper smiled as he said, “There are still things you don’t know about. Back when Damond was working in Sentel, he was already using the company’s resources to design the first MP3 player. He had even built a prototype, but Sentel didn’t pay much attention to it at that time.

“Damond only arrived at Sunrea after Sentel encountered a financial crisis and fired him.

“According to Coreana law, Sentel has the right to 50% of the patent because Damond used the company’s resources to complete his invention while he was still employed there.

“However, Damond was given priority to its benefits, which is why Sentel is not earning from the sales of MP3 players even though they’re slowly gaining popularity now. Not only is this patent worthless to Sentel, but it also annoys them.”

“So, you’re planning to buy off the 50% of the patent that Sentel holds?” Anna immediately understood what Jasper was thinking after a brief explanation.

Jasper sighed and said, “As Coreana’s largest monopolistic corporation, Sentel is both a brutal and greedy corporation. Moreover, this affair will include several legal disputes, which is why I’m leaning more toward purchasing the patent from Damond. However, I’ve been intercepted. This is my only way now.”

“You’ve been intercepted?” Anna asked as she raised an eyebrow.

“I’ll help you get in touch with Sentel, it shouldn’t be a problem. But you can’t just ignore the fact that you’ve been intercepted. Do you have any ideas yet?”

“Seems like I can’t fool you,” Jasper said as he smiled.

“It’ll be impossible for me to get the patent from Damond now. Since that’s the case, I can still obtain authorization to upgrade the MP3 players. By promising to upgrade and develop the technology used in MP3 players, Damond will waiver his rights to the patent.

“The technology used to produce MP3 players isn’t that advanced. It can easily become MP4 or MP5 players if we just change the design slightly and conduct a little product iteration. That way, not only can I dodge past the patent required for MP3 players, but I can also force the person who intercepted me into a dead end.”

“We’ll see who’s the embarrassed one when that happens,” Anna said happily as she immediately caught onto Jasper’s train of thought.

Jasper’s eyes shone as he said slowly, “That’s right, but Damond only holds 50% of the patent’s ownership and priority rights. Thus, the 50% of rights that Sentel holds to the patent is key!”