

Life at the Top Chapter 471

“That’s why I’m here to give you a final chance. Here is 300 million dollars. If you’re willing to bow to my conditions, take the money and hand the project over to me. If you’re unwilling to do so, the province may soon find itself left with only the Southface River north bank in a few months’ time. Haha, the south bank might just cease to exist.”

Jasper got up too. He looked Ian in the eye directly and said, “In that case, I’ll announce my stance here today as well.

“Since you’re not playing by the rules, let’s go against each other with the best of our abilities.

“I don’t have other abilities except being able to earn money fast. Even if I lose a few million or a few billion dollars, it won’t matter much to me!

“Since you’re so much older than me, I hope that you’re able to maintain the haughty sense of superiority that you currently possess, Mr. Hull. If you keep it up, you won’t lose too uglily when the time comes.”

Ian’s expression darkened. He glared at Jasper and growled, “Do you really intend to go against me till the very end?”

“I’m operating my business well, but you just had to go around causing trouble. You even resorted to using dirty tricks to cut off the supply of building materials to my construction site. Am I really the one going against you?” Jasper asked firmly.

“In any case, it’s good to phrase it that way as well, because I genuinely will go against you till the very end!”

Ian let out an angry bark of laughter. “Well, well, well, young people are hot-headed and stubborn indeed. I truly admire this attitude of yours. You won’t repent till you face total failure. Let’s see how this goes!” He exclaimed.

“I’m giving you a chance right now. You’re the one who rejected my act of kindness. When the time comes, you won’t even be able to find a corner to cry in peace!”

After Ian finished speaking, a knock suddenly rang out from Jasper’s office door.

“Come in,” Jasper said.

Sean Tucker entered the room with an overjoyed expression splayed across his face.

He was just about to say something when he caught sight of Ian Hull standing in Jasper’s office.

Being someone that was extremely observant, Sean could tell that the two of them had just been engaged in an unpleasant conversation at just a glance.

Just as he was questioning whether to discuss the news or not, Jasper told him, “If there’s anything to report, say it in front of Mr. Hull. There’s nothing that can’t be said anyways.”

Sean smirked and glanced at Ian with a satisfied gaze. “Mr. Laine, the company that you previously mentioned has agreed to our request. They promised to do their best to find building materials for us at cost prices.

“Furthermore, this company is really quite capable. Although it isn’t large in size, it’s deeply involved in the local market. The building materials that it can provide are enough to meet 80% of our needs.”

Since Ian was there, Sean was glad to announce the news before him in order to strike him with a blow.

However, Sean wasn't a fool. He wisely hid the key information, which were the names of Brac County and Ambition Corporation, so that Ian could not tamper with their plans.

Jasper was extremely satisfied with Sean's sensibility. He smiled at Ian, who had an unpleasant expression on his face. Mr. Hull, it seems like everything isn't under your control after all," he said.

Ian's face twitched in anger. His skin felt hot to the touch.

He did not expect Jasper to have come up with a plan so soon after he had cut off the supply of building materials to his construction site. This was right after he had told Jasper that nobody would provide building materials to him at the risk of offending himself.

"Right, Mr. Hull. I have a suggestion for you as well. I hope you take it into consideration."

Jasper looked at Ian and spoke in a slow and controlled tone, "I can acquire all of the businesses under your name for 3 million dollars, Mr. Hull. This proposal is effective in the long term. You can come to me and kneel down before me for 3 million dollars in cash on the day when you find yourself in a situation with no way out."

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Jasper's words caused Ian to launch into a fit of rage.

"F*cker, what did you say?!"

Ian glared at Jasper. His face was flushed red with anger.

He had gone through thick and thin in the business industry over the past few decades, and this was the first time someone younger than him had humiliated him to such a great extent.

“Just now, you offered me 300 million dollars in return for acquiring my South Bank project. At the end of the day, courtesy requires reciprocation. Since your family has a huge business, of course, you’d offer such a large sum of money. However, I’m not that generous since I’m just operating a small business. To me, 3 million dollars is enough.

“Of course, I can tell that the day that you’ll take me up on this offer will soon arrive. Rest assured that I will keep my word,” Jasper told Ian in a calm and composed manner.

Ian was about to explode with fury.

He raised a finger and pointed it at Jasper while letting out an angry bark of laughter. “Well, well, well! I’ve never been so humiliated in my entire life. Jasper Laine, you’re really one of a kind!” He shouted.

“Let me end things with this—I’d like to give you a piece of advice. Don’t act rashly just yet. I will immediately track down the company that dared to supply you with building materials. I hope your connections are strong enough to withstand this! Let’s see how it goes!”

Ian left the office with a grim expression on his face after speaking.

The outcome of this discussion was that both parties had completely fallen out with each other in the open. There was no need for false pretenses right now.

Despite this, Jasper could not care less about him. He simply asked Sean, “When will Ambition Corporation begin supplying us with the building materials?”

“They will begin tomorrow. Ambition Corporation is really a righteous company. Once they heard that the company was owned by you and that it was facing a

dire situation, their boss, Xavier Johnson, immediately offered us the most highly favorable terms,” Sean reported in excitement.

“Besides, instead of taking advantage of us when we were in a state of emergency, they charged us cost price. At most, they’d just earn a small sum for handling fees. What a rare opportunity.”

Jasper laughed. “Alright, noted. You can head out for now. Get in contact with Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd as soon as possible, and inform me if there are any updates,” he told Sean.

After Sean left, Jasper called Xavier Johnson.

“Mr. Johnson, it’s me,” Jasper said with a chuckle.

“I heard about everything. Thank you for your help.”

The art of human interaction states that others will only help you out during emergencies due to compassion. It was not mandatory for them to help you out. Other than your own parents, nobody else was obliged to aid you in times of need. Therefore, Jasper sought to remember this favor.

Xavier Johnson’s clear, loud voice rang out from the other end of the phone. “Haha, you’re being way too courteous, Mr. Laine. I didn’t have the chance to thank you for everything that had happened back in Brac County previously. Now that I have the chance to repay you, of course I have to do my part,” he said.

Xavier’s words were sincere as well.

With Jasper’s help, Xavier now controlled the market for building materials in Brac County. Furthermore, he was on a roll as his business was gradually expanding beyond Brac County.

Even so, he did not have many opportunities to express his gratitude toward Jasper.

Jasper chuckled and said, "According to my subordinates, you're providing us the supplies at cost price, Mr. Johnson."

"I'm someone who values friendship over business. Besides, I'm indebted to you. How could I profit from you when you're in a tight spot? Moreover, it'll be beneficial for my business if the stock is sold off quickly. I can just sell off a large quantity of goods at a low profit margin," Xavier said proudly.

"In that case, I won't act all sentimental in front of you. Let's just say that Ambition Corporation will have the priority supply rights over all future real estate development projects in the Southeast district of the province that JW Real Estates handles," Jasper suddenly suggested.

"If we need building materials, we will contact you first. If you have any stock available, we'll purchase it from you. We'll only work with other companies if you're out of stock."

"Take a trip down to the province when you're free, Mr. Johnson. Let's discuss the details when we meet then."

Xavier's gaze lit up upon hearing what he said.

JW Real Estates was an up and coming company in the provincial real estate industry. The company was in charge of real estate projects in various counties within the province. However, the projects were all of different scales.

There was a locally renowned high-end residential area with a sea view under construction in Brac County. Currently, Ambition Corporation was also the main supplier of said construction site's building materials due to Jasper's help in the past.

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The most famous one would be the Southface River South Bank project in the province.

Xavier worked in the building materials industry and kept himself up to date on the happenings in the real estate industry. He and his business partners had also reached a consensus.

When the development project on the south bank of the Southface River was completed, JW Real Estates had a high chance of soaring through the ranks to become the leading real estate company in the province!

Ambition Corporation had a high chance of rising in its ranks rapidly if it got on JW Real Estates' good side now.

Completely caught by surprise, Xavier hurriedly said, "Thank you so much. I'll make sure to pay you a visit in the province once I've taken care of matters on my end."

Jasper smiled and replied, "You're welcome any time."

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While Jasper was still taking care of matters at the real estate agency, Wendy arrived at a spa retreat in the province.

Spas were still a novel and fashionable concept back in the 2000s. Most people did not even know what one was supposed to do in a spa.

Thus, a single visit to the spa was not cheap.

Its starting price of 3000 Some Dollars meant only the richest of the rich in the province could visit such places without any scruples.

Naturally, Wendy was among those people.

However, the reason Wendy had come here today was not to have a beauty treatment.

“Julian, you can’t come in with me.”

Wendy gazed helplessly at Julian, who was standing in front of her with a wooden expression on his face.

Julian frowned slightly as he gazed at the opulent spa.

He did not know what it was, but he could tell this was a place that women frequented.

“Ms. Schuler, I must protect you during these unstable times. Jasper has ordered me to remain near you.”

“We’ll have to take our clothes off inside. Everyone in there is a woman, and they won’t let a man inside.”

Wendy smiled as she spoke.

Julian frowned slightly and said, “Ms. Schuler, can’t you just not go in?”

Wendy shook her head and said, “We’ve lost our supplier for the site, and it’ll be particularly difficult to deal with the issue regarding our steel supply because there are only two manufacturers in the country who produce high-quality steel. We can forget about Stellar Company, and it’s not that easy to secure a deal with Fortress Iron and Steel.

“A university friend of mine owns this place. Her uncle is a general manager at Fortress Iron and Steel. I plan to meet and talk to her today.”

Julian pondered, “Couldn’t you have invited her somewhere else?”

Wendy glared at Julian and said, “We can’t be so high and mighty when we’re asking them for a favor. Besides, she’s an extremely busy person, and it’s hard to schedule a meeting with her when we’re in such a rush. I haven’t told Jasp about this yet, but I’ll let him know once I have more news about the matter.”

“Alright, it’s time. I can’t talk to you anymore, so wait for me outside, I’ll be fine. This is much safer than other places.”

When Wendy finished, she left Julian at the entrance and went inside.

Julian loitered around the entrance for a long time and glanced at the two gorgeous female receptionists who were staring at him. Sighing, he dutifully returned to the car and sat inside to wait.

The only thing he could do now was remain on high alert and keep an eye on any suspicious targets nearby.

Just then, in a ramen shop across the street, Aaron put down his fork and held a walkie-talkie to his ear as he said calmly, “Our chance has come. The target has strayed from her bodyguard and entered Heartland Spa Centre. Initiate mission, go!”

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Once Aaron finished speaking, he immediately got up and paid his bill. Then, he snuck over to the back entrance to Heartland Spa Retreat.

Two men who could only be described as having a shrewd aura were already waiting inside.

“Mr. Aaron,” one of the men walked up to him and greeted.

Aaron nodded and glanced at Heartland Spa Retreat’s outer walls. When he saw a water pipe snaking down the wall to the ground, he said calmly, “This is such an easy break in.”

“Is Fiona and everyone else ready?”

“Ms. Fiona has already entered Heartland Spa Retreat in her disguise. She should be locating the target right now.”

Aaron nodded and said, “Alright, we’ll stick to the plan. You two wait here and I’ll go in. Keep in touch constantly.”

Once he finished speaking, Aaron leaped upward and grabbed the pipe that was two and a half feet of the ground with both hands. He clambered up onto the ledge onto the second-floor window with the nimbleness of a monkey.

Then, he nimbly twisted and turned a couple more times before jumping into Heartland Spa Retreat through the half-open window on the third floor.

Once he climbed in, Aaron saw a woman wrapped in a plain towel lying on the bed.

The woman’s first instinctive reaction was to scream when she saw a large man jumping in through the window.

However, Aaron’s reflexes were quick. He immediately jumped over to the woman and covered her mouth with his hand. As he stared at her, he smiled and said, “Don’t make a sound, or you’ll die. Got it?”

The woman's eyes widened in fear as she hurriedly nodded.

Aaron smiled in satisfaction before giving the woman a sudden strike to the neck with the heel of his palm. Her eyes instantly rolled into the back of her head as she passed out on the bed.

After adjusting the woman's limbs so that she seemed to be asleep, Aaron strolled out of the room.

At that very moment, Wendy was chatting happily with a beautiful woman in an office on the second floor.

"Carol, business seems to be booming," Wendy said as she glanced around the lavish office.

Carol Murphy smiled as she said, "My husband is always busy with his business, and I needed to find something to do. I opened this retreat for fun, but never expected it to achieve such popularity.

"Queen Bee Wendy, you never visit me unless you need my help. Tell me, is there anything I can help with this time?"

Wendy looked slightly sheepish as she listened to Carol gracefully highlight half the reason why she had come to visit her.

"You make me sound like a mercenary when you put it like that."

Carol covered her mouth and giggled, "Imagine if I returned to uni and said that Queen Bee Wendy is a mercenary. Your suitors would be able to drown me with just their spit.

"Alright, alright. No need for such formal talk between us. I know you've been busy with your company recently, and don't have time for any unnecessary visits. Just tell it to me straight."

Wendy did not bother with formalities once she saw how direct Carol was, and immediately said, "Well, it's like this. I know your uncle is a general manager at Fortress Iron and Steel. My family has recently gotten into the real estate industry, and we require a large supply of steel. That's why I need your help."

Carol asked curiously, "If you need good quality steel, we've got Stellar Company and Fortress Iron and Steel in the country. These two companies are both open for business. Why didn't you get in touch with them via the typical methods? They wouldn't turn away a chance to do business, would they?"

Wendy sighed and said, "You don't understand. This entire thing is really complicated and involves competition in the business world. We no longer stand a chance of working with Stellar Company, which is why we've turned to Fortress Iron and Steel.

"Moreover, we're in a rush now and require a large supply. It wouldn't be possible to strike a deal with Fortress Iron and Steel in such a short time, which is why we've thought of asking if you could pull any strings."

Carol had a thoughtful expression on her face as she listened to Wendy.

Although she was curious as to what Wendy meant by "competition in the business world", she did not ask any more questions and merely replied doubtfully, "You know that my uncle is growing old now. He's planning to retire and doesn't have that much of an influence anymore."

However, when she saw the disappointed look on Wendy's face, she said, "How about this? Wait for me for a while, and I'll help you call him."

Wendy smiled and nodded. "If that's the case, let me thank you in advance."

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As Carol stood, she waved a hand and said, "No worries, I'm just making the call. It's up to my uncle to decide what will happen next."

As she lowered her head to look up his number, Carol opened the door to her office.

Carol had just stepped out of her office when a woman brushed past her.

While waiting for the call to be answered, Carol glanced at the woman who brushed past her and was walking toward her office. Frowning slightly, she said, "Stop."

The woman paused in her steps.

"What's your name? Why have I never seen you before?"

The woman stood with her back to Carol. She did not move nor speak.

A bad feeling washed over Carol as suspicion arose in her.

She was just about to go forth and interrogate the woman when a hand clapped down onto her shoulder.

Aaron's smiling face loomed near Carol's cheeks. He used his fingers to stroke Carol's smooth, beautifully maintained skin as he whispered, "Don't say anything. I don't plan to hurt anyone, alright?"

Carol's heart was racing as she felt overcome by fear. However, she managed to retain a shred of her rationale and strength, saying shakily, "Who are you? What do you want? Is this a robbery?"

Aaron chuckled and said, "This is a kidnapping. But don't worry, we're not kidnapping you."

Then, Aaron slung his arm around Carol's neck and walked back into the office with her. The distance between the two was intimate.

However, Carol's body was as stiff as a stick. She was basically half-dragged into the office.

Wendy, who had been waiting for updates from Carol, stood instinctively when she saw Carol being forced back into the office. She asked in a stern voice, "You are..."

The woman Carol had stopped earlier placed a dagger at Wendy's throat. Her ordinary-looking face was expressionless as she said, "Don't say a word or I'll kill you!"

Wendy took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down. She gazed coldly at the woman and at Aaron, who was holding Carol hostage.

"You really are beautiful." Aaron's eyes shone as he looked at Wendy. "You're the most beautiful woman I've ever seen."

Wendy curled her hands into fists and remained silent. She merely glared coldly at Aaron.

She understood that she was a lone, weak woman who stood no chance against two thugs with weapons. It was impossible to fight back against them, and the best thing she could do now was remain calm. She could not afford to lose her cool.

“You’re very smart not to scream and make a fuss. I’m not a patient person, you see.

“You might be beautiful, but that’s a shame because someone already has their eyes on you.”

Aaron shook his head regretfully as he spoke. Then, he used a karate chop to knock Wendy unconscious.

Wendy wavered and nearly collapsed to the ground. The woman hurried forth and grabbed her.

“Let’s go,”

Aaron said in a low voice and was just about to knock Carol unconscious when she let out a blood-curdling scream.

The expression on Aaron’s face changed slightly.

When the sound traveled down the stairs and into Julian’s ears, it was already a weak scream. However, it was enough to make Julian jump as if he had been electrocuted.

Eyes blazing, Julian seemed to transform into a human dragon as he barrelled straight into Heartland Spa Retreat!