

# Life at the Top Chapter 446

Investing in every single thing that came around?

Brandy?

They must be joking.

How much profit could a share in alcohol earn even if it were deemed the nation's pride?

If they had that much free time, they might as well start a business. That would earn them even more money.

Jasper was indeed the kind of person who walked on air after achieving a tiny accomplishment.

When Erik thought of that, he said, "I have a little knowledge regarding investments too. Brandy is a new addition to the stock market, and it's not performing well even though it's new. Its share price has been weak for some time.

"The stock market is in the early stages of becoming a bull market. Every share you see is profiting, and brandy is the only one that's not. Even so, you're saying it's worth investing in? What a joke."

Erik was very pleased with what he had said. He felt as if he had stolen some of Jasper's limelight for himself.

He could not let Jasper take all the credit. He, Erik Turner, had real talent too!

Jasper said calmly, "Every person has their investment strategy. Don't invest in it if you feel it's not worth it. No one's forcing you to."

Erik scoffed. "I think you're embarrassed. To be frank, you're quite good at hosting banquets, but you should give up on investing. It's a complicated place where not even I have the confidence in securing profits, let alone you?"

"Preposterous!" Henry tapped his fork against his glass and said mockingly, "Erik Turner, do you know what it means to show off your mediocre skills before an expert? How dare you say Jasper Laine knows nothing about investing in shares? The people of Harbor City would laugh their heads off if they heard what you just said."

The expression on Erik's face darkened as he said, "Did I say anything wrong? The share price of brandy has been dropping, but he said it's worth investing in. What's that if not bullsh\*t? I dare say he knows nothing about investing just by that one sentence."

Henry was even more amused as he said, "I can't bring myself to expose your stupidity when I look at how foolish you seem now."

"Did you know he organized the Harbor City billion-dollar shares rescue plan some time ago?"

"Did you know he made his fortune from the stock market?"

"Did you know he earned several billion dollars in a night through crude oil trading?"

"What the hell does he know? If he knows nothing, you would know even less! You wouldn't know anything at all, you f\*cking maggot!"

The expression on Erik's face turned into a gloomy, exasperated one after hearing what Henry said.

He knew Jasper was good, but he never knew that Jasper had made his fortune from the stock market.

Henry could not speak without thinking, given his identity and the current occasion.

Thus, what Henry said must be true.

This meant that he had indeed just shown off his mediocre skills to an expert in the most embarrassing way possible!

Erik's face was grim. He was in a sticky situation now.

However, he was also secretly surprised at the same time. Was Jasper so good in investments that he earned several billion dollars just through crude oil trading?

What was even scarier was the Harbor City billion-dollar shares rescue plan. He had heard about it even though he had been at the Mainland when it happened.

It was a huge event that caused huge stirs in the global financial market some time ago.

Jasper was the host for that?

What the f\*ck, was he a god?

Was there anything he could not do?

Just then, Old Master Turner spoke up and helped him out.

“It's good that you young people are good at this, but you should also dabble in other industries. After all, money might travel quickly in the financial market but it

doesn't do much in actually boosting the economy or creating more job opportunities in the market.

"You youngsters should be more open-minded. The only way to become rich and benevolent is by giving back to the community."

That light-hearted sentence Old Master Turner uttered was enough to put Jasper, who had been glorified throughout the entire banquet, in a precarious position.

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Everyone stared at Jasper. They seemed to be waiting to see how he would react.

Not even Old Master Law spoke as he was also gazing meaningfully at him.

Anna's eyes twinkled, and there were several times when she seemed to want to speak up and help ease the pressure Jasper was receiving from Old Master Turner. However, a strict look from Zachary stopped her.

Only Jasper could answer Old Master Turner now.

If anyone else spoke, it would mean they were disrespecting Old Master Turner.

The corners of Erik's lips turned upward into a mocking smile.

He had long since been annoyed watching Jasper be praised by everyone.

However, he now understood what it meant by 'the higher you climb, the higher you fall'.

Old Master Turner was still the best!

“You’re right, Old Master Turner.”

Jasper spoke as everyone stared. He was submissive from the very first sentence.

The crowd could not help but be slightly disappointed.

Erik’s disappointment stemmed from how Jasper had decided to be a goose. If Jasper had dared to go against Old Master Turner, he would have had the chance to not only reprimand but slap Jasper in front of everyone. That would have been so fun.

However, without waiting for anyone else to speak up, Jasper continued saying, “But as the greats who have come before me said, it’s permissible for a small portion of people to gain richness first, as they’ll be the ones who lead the majority population to shared prosperity in the future. It’s also one of the guidelines for the development of our economic policy.

“Financial activities can stimulate the economic market. When enterprises receive investments, they will increase the scale of their productions. Won’t that increase job opportunities? The activities in the market accelerate when it receives funds. Won’t that boost the economy as a whole?

“Thus, in my opinion, no matter what methods are employed, they should be valid as long as they’re both legal and logical.”

InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom fell silent after the people present heard what Jasper had to say.

No one imagined Jasper would dare refute Old Master Turner to his face.

Old Master Turner had a serene expression on his face. No one could guess what emotion he was feeling.

However, Erik could not bear it and bellowed as he stood, “Jasper Laine! You should know your place. How dare you refute my grandfather?!”

“You said I should know my place?”

Jasper immediately retaliated by saying, “I’m just your average citizen. My parents were farmers, and I’m nothing more than a businessman. However, I must say what I think is right!”

Erik scoffed as he pointed at Jasper and said, “Hey, you’re making things more complicated than they need to be, aren’t you? You were still a nobody when my grandfather was out fighting on the battlefield. What makes you think you can go against him?”

“I’m trying to make matters clear because I respect Old Master Turner. In other words, if you were the one who had said such things, I wouldn’t even bother refuting you.”

Erik’s temper nearly erupted when he heard what Jasper just said!

“What the f\*ck do you mean by that? Are you looking down on me?!” Erik gritted his teeth as he asked.

“Yes.” Jasper nodded calmly as he admitted it casually.

It was simple and straightforward, and its effects were immediate.

Erik completely lost control of his temper as he glared at Jasper and said coldly, “Don’t think you can be cocky just because you’ve gained temporary power. You’re still far from families like us who have been around for decades!”

“That’s the difference between you and me,” Jasper said calmly, “You open your mouth and speak only of your family, but I represent myself wherever I go!”

Creak...

Erik's eyes were bloodshot as his anger increased tenfold.

"Erik!" Brad said in a low voice. Erik was once again the loser in this conflict. He could not allow his son's big mouth to continue embarrassing him.

Otherwise, things would not end well for everyone.

Erik took a deep breath and laughed coldly as he said, "Let's see how long you can continue running wildly."

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Eric sat down after saying that.

Finally, Old Master Law spoke. He smiled as he said to Old Master Turner, "Brother Jason, it makes me happy to see how energetic these youngsters are. Don't you agree that these youngsters will be the ones who will further the development of our country in the future?"

Old Master Turner said softly, "I'm just worried that some will take the wrong path and find it difficult to turn back in the future."

The smile on Old Master Law's face gradually disappeared as he said, "Paths are created by man. Some might think that it's a cliff, while others view it to be a highway. We're old now and are no match for these youngsters in terms of vitality."

Old Master Turner glanced at Old Master Law as he said calmly, "Tom, I'll let you know my bottom line now that we're talking. We're all old men now, and I hope

everyone can evolve at their own pace without getting into arguments over the tiniest things.”

Old Master Law replied, “I agree wholeheartedly with this. Whether it be in the business field or anywhere else, every person has a place where they belong. One should not let go of what naturally belongs to them.”

“So, you’re going to fight till the end?” Old Master Turner frowned slightly as he gazed at Old Master Law.

Old Master Law might be old and skinny, but he was showing that he had gone through a lifetime’s worth of legendary ups and downs. He might seem like a skinny old man sitting at the head of the table, but the aura he emanated was as tall and majestic as a mighty mountain.

“I, Tom Law, would have starved to death on the streets if I had not fought!”

That was a heavy claim to make.

Not even Old Master Turner could brush it off.

As such, the frown on Old Master Turner’s forehead deepened.

No one could tell what he was thinking.

After a long while, Old Master Turner said, “We’re old now. Shall we let the younger generation deal with some things themselves?”

This statement intended to limit the severity of an unavoidable battle.

At the very least, influential old men like them did not need to enter the battlefield themselves.

Otherwise, the situation would worsen even more.

Coincidentally, this was what Old Master Law wanted.

He nodded as he said, "Alright, that's what I meant too. We should enjoy our retirement now that we're old. We should take care of these creaky bones and live an extra two years to take care of these youngsters."

When the two finally came to an agreement, Old Master Turner smiled as he stood and said, "In that case, I'll be taking my leave now. Thank you for your hospitality."

Old Master Law also stood. "Zachary, please send the guests off on my behalf."

Zachary stood and said politely to Old Master Turner, "After you, Old Master Turner."

Old Master Turner nodded and gave Jasper a meaningful look before he slowly walked away.

Brad and Eric followed right behind him.

Before leaving, Eric gave Jasper a murderous look. His gaze seemed as sinister and poisonous as a venomous snake.

As Zachary sent the Turner family off, Old Master Law called Jasper to him.

"Based on my understanding of your character, you would never have directly contradicted Jason Turner the way you just did," Old Master Law said gently.

Jasper smiled bitterly as he said, "Old Master Law, there are some things that no one will be able to do if I don't do them."

Old Master Law nodded in understanding as he patted Jasper on the arm, saying, "It's alright. Jason isn't so petty that he'll harbor a grudge against you because of this. Do whatever you need to."

Henry blinked and asked curiously, “What are you talking about? Why can’t I understand it? What does Jasper need to do?”

Old Master Law glared at Henry as he said angrily, “This is the difference between you and Jasper!”

Henry, who had ended up making a fool of himself, grumbled as he sank back into his seat.

Then, Old Master Law turned to Jasper and asked him a question that made his hair stand on end.

“That girl named Wendy Schuler, is she really your girlfriend?”

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Jasper felt awkward.

That was a difficult question to answer.

After all, Anna was sitting right there.

However, no matter what, Jasper had never thought of denying things.

This had to do with his principles.

Thus, Jasper nodded as he said, “Yes, we were classmates in high school before later going on separate paths before university. By chance, we managed to reconnect after graduating this year.”

Old Master Law smiled and said, "Not bad. Fate is the most important thing in a relationship between a man and a woman. If fate won't have it, they won't have a future together even if they see each other every day."

Anna interrupted and said, "They have a great relationship. I already knew about this back when Jasper was still in Harbor City."

Jasper gave Anna a grateful look.

Tonight was not the first time Anna had helped him out in regards to this matter.

Henry dangled a toothpick from his mouth and leaned against the back of his chair as he said nonchalantly, "Who cares if you have a girlfriend or not? My grandfather has three mistresses. And if we're talking about my dad, I think we all can guess whether he has a mistress or not..."

The things Henry said were so shocking that Anna immediately gave him a murderous glare.

"Why do you seem to hope that Jasper will have mistresses as well?" Anna smiled coldly as she asked.

Henry was stunned. It seemed unreasonable that his sister was choosing to direct her attacks on him.

Jasper was the one with a girlfriend, not him. If he brought up the topic of mistresses now, would that not give Anna leeway to butt into things as a mistress?

Yet, not only was she not grateful, but she was also glaring at him?

"Do you know what era you're living in now? Aren't you worried about being laughed at when you bring up the topic of mistresses?" Anna asked with a cold expression on her face.

Then, Old Master Law spoke up, “What Henry said makes sense. Both men and women should hold on to the relationships they cherish. Live your life for yourself, not for others.”

That statement seemed to have a deeper meaning to it. However, it was hard to tell if it was directed at Jasper or Anna.

However, the topic of conversation soon changed. No one brought it up again.

Old Master Law’s age could not be denied. When Zachary returned, arrangements were made for them to return to the hotel.

When they were in the hotel lobby, Anna smiled at Jasper as she said, “I’ll go back with my dad and grandpa. The two of you should get going too.”

Jasper nodded as he gazed at the woman before him and said sincerely, “Thank you for today.”

The corners of Anna’s lips curled upward. “What are you thanking me for?”

“...” Jasper was speechless.

He could not thank her outright for helping him cover up and smoothing things over, could he?

As if she could sense Jasper’s hesitance, Anna smiled slightly and said, “Alright, I was just teasing. I understand.

“Besides, this has always been something between the three of us—you, me, and Wendy. It has nothing to do with anyone else, and they have no right to use this to stir up trouble even if they’re family!”

At that moment, Anna was domineering like no other person.

When she finished speaking, Anna gazed bemusedly at Jasper as she said, “Indeed, many people in Harbor City have mistresses. The same thing happens in Mainland, just that they’re much more quiet and private about it over there. Most people are very open to having mistresses in Harbor City. Back in my grandfather’s day, it was legal to have concubines.

“What are your thoughts?” Anna asked meaningfully.

“I think what Old Master Law said makes sense. Let fate decide matters between a man and a woman. We should live our lives for ourselves and not for others. It’ll be fine as long as we think it’s fine.”

Jasper had thought twice about every word and spun them around his mind several times before he uttered them.

Anna glared at him as she said angrily, “I knew men were all b\*stards! I knew you would never be able to satiate your appetite!”

Jasper hurriedly said, “I didn’t mean it that way. I’m just stating facts as they are.”

Anna burst into laughter when she saw how frantic Jasper was and said, “Alright, I’m not blaming you. I grew up in that kind of environment and have witnessed quite a few things myself. In terms of grandmothers, I already have three just from my dad’s side of the family.”

Then, Anna gazed meaningfully at Jasper as she said, “But times are different now. Don’t let your imagination run away from you. I might not be willing to do such things for you.”

While the two talked, Henry was wise enough to walk away and go for a smoke.

He had actually wanted to eavesdrop, but Anna’s glare was enough to scare him off.

As Henry smoked, he thought sadly to himself how his dignity as an older brother was diminishing day by day. It was not a good sign... even though he never really had much dignity as an older brother.

Zachary frowned as he sat in the car and watched his daughter speak to Jasper.

“What are you looking at? Anna’s growing up now. You can’t control her anymore. Did you think you could tie her by your side forever?” Old Master Law asked nonchalantly.

Zachary smiled bitterly as he said, “Jasper was originally the most suitable candidate, and I approved greatly of them. However, the problem is that he already has a girlfriend.”

“You’re holding that against Jasper? Perhaps you should introduce us to your mistress, Blair Callow,” Old Master Law said calmly.

The expression on Zachary’s face changed as he hurriedly asked, “Dad, how did you know?”

Old Master Law glared at Zachary as he said, “Did you think you could keep it from everyone and anyone? Anna’s mom simply can’t be bothered to get involved, and she knows she can’t do anything about it either. Either way, what gives you the right to judge Jasper when you’re the same?”

Zachary said indignantly, “How is that the same? Anna is my daughter and your granddaughter. How could she become someone’s mistress?”

“That’s not up to you to decide, nor is it up to me to decide. The decision is hers to make. What’s more, Anna has a fiery spirit. She might not want to be one even if you allow it. She has a mind of her own.”

Old Master Law said softly, “I won’t allow you to interfere with their relationship. No matter if it ends well or not, it’s up to them how they wish to proceed.”

Zachary said rather reluctantly, “But Dad—”

He had not finished speaking when Old Master Law interrupted, “You think Jasper doesn’t know what he’s doing? The worst thing you can do now is intervene. If Anna is okay with it, we don’t need to offend Jasper regarding this matter. Once a grudge over something like this is created, it can be held on to for life.”

Zachary sighed as he said, “I don’t feel good about it, but how can I separate the two lovebirds? I can’t bring myself to do that.”

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“I have to go now. See you.”

Jasper sighed as he watched Anna’s car drive off.

Since olden times, only beautiful women would not be disappointed.

However, Jasper got a headache when he thought about Anna who was always calm and kept a delicate distance from him. She had such a good gauge on their relationship that they never felt too distant or intimate with each other.

That woman was like poison, plucking at his heartstrings when he was not paying attention to her.

Most importantly, she knew what to do or say at the right time. She always had a good grasp of the situation.

She would make you think that she would do anything for you.

At the same time, she would make you think she would leave you at any time. It was how she kept you on your toes.

“Holy sh\*t, did you drug my sister or something?” Henry asked as he leaned toward Jasper.

Jasper glanced at Henry before he asked exasperatedly, “Don’t you think the question should be asked the other way round?”

Henry’s lips twitched as he said, “That’s because you didn’t know what she was like before. I’m not one to brag, but have you ever met a man who’s at the right age but doesn’t want to date my sister? But she’s never given any of the men as much as a smile.

“Everyone says I’m stubborn and obstreperous, but if we were to actually take things seriously, I’m nothing compared to my sister.”

Then, Henry stroked his chin and said, “Sometimes, I think she’s a machine programmed to not have any feelings for men. Or maybe she’s a lesbian, and that’s why she doesn’t seem interested in men.

“But do you know how much she’s done for you ever since you two met? There’s so much you don’t know. Would she be this bewitched by you if you hadn’t drugged her?”

Jasper’s eyes followed the vehicle until it disappeared into a sea of flashing car lights. He smiled and said, “Do you think a relationship between a man and a woman is more like a battle or a game?”

Stunned, Henry had a serious expression on his face as he said, “Everyone has to strip naked before they fight, so I would say it’s a battle?”

Jasper, “...”

...

After the banquet that ended the night before, the situation in Swallow Capital began its turbulence the next day.

It was as if both the local faction and Harbor City's business groups had realized that a battle was inevitable.

Thus, within a single day, four branch offices of Harbor City's four richest families submitted their registration forms.

Their registered capital was all no less than a mindblowing 100 million dollars.

They were not only showing their attitudes, but it was also a declaration of war.

As for the local faction, they did not resign to their fate even as they faced the aggressive business groups from Harbor City.

They began continuous research and gathered the brains of each industry together as if they were determined to fight to the death with Harbor City's business groups.

However, even though the situation was tense, both the local faction and Harbor City's business groups maintained basic restraint and calmness. At least they had not begun fighting openly yet and were only flexing what they had at the moment. They were only showing off their assets and determination.

With the tacit understanding established between them, even if a fight broke out, it would be contained within a limit. At the very least, people on Old Master Turner's level would not be dragged into this.

It was what the top management had wanted.

It was an agreement all three parties could accept for the time being.

As for the Law family, they had fallen right into Erik Turner's trap.

That was undeniable.

However, the Law family's losses had been lowered to their very minimum after Jasper got involved.

The branch company's assets were all transferred elsewhere, and the project proposal was nullified.

This meant Erik had gotten nothing more than the shares of a shell corporation. They were worth nothing at all.