

# Life at the Top Chapter 776

“It’s true that as the general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, she has the right to lower your commission fee. However, this is also money that Colossal should receive, so she needs to provide a reasonable excuse for such a decision. One that neither she, nor you, has provided thus far.

“That alone is enough to screw her over!

William’s expression was wretched and twisted with delight, as if nothing sparked more joy in him than seeing Celine and Jasper in trouble.

At that moment, the Vice President returned and told Jasper, “The President’s willing to see you. Do you want to go over now?”

Jasper nodded. Instructing Jack to entertain the guests present properly, Jasper then followed the Vice President away.

Standing amidst the group of people, William stared sinisterly at Jasper’s disappearing figure and sneered.

The sneer was still on his face when a hand came to slap him right on his forehead.

“What the f\*ck are you smiling at, looking so ugly and vile. Laugh again and I’ll slap your teeth out, is that what you want? F\*ck right off, you disgust me.”

...

Colossal Investment Headquarters in Wall Street was not too far from the hotel that Jasper was staying in, being only two blocks away.

Following the Vice President in, Jasper took the designated elevator after alighting the car and arrived at the top floor.

In a luxurious-looking office, Jasper saw the head of the global economic and financial industry—Wharton Paulson.

Despite being past the age of sixty, Paulson still looked full of vigor while his eyes shone as if he could read minds.

Jasper was greeted exceptionally respectfully when he entered through the doors, with Paulson standing up and walking over from his office desk. He reached out and shook Jasper's hand. "Hello, Laine. It's nice to finally meet you."

No matter how you looked at it, Jasper did not hold a candle to Paulson's glory and capabilities. Thus, he was rather shocked by Paulson's politeness.

Jasper shook Paulson's hand and spoke, "You've heard of me, Mr. Paulson?"

Paulson invited Jasper to sit on the sofa in the meeting area and spoke with a smile, "I've been watching the Somerland stockmarket all this while. I thought that the western economy had reached a bottleneck after the year 2000 and that it would no longer be the center of the world's economic development like it was a few decades ago. I personally believe that Somerland was more qualified to take on such an important responsibility instead."

Jasper was shocked by Paulson's foresight, as reality would indeed unfurl as he had predicted. Somerland's position in the world's structure would also grow more important, while its economic development would also account for a greater percentage of worldwide growth.

However, neither of these were reasons behind why Jasper had come to see him today.

“Mr. Paulson, while I very much wish to continue exchanging views and opinions on the world’s future, please forgive me, as I have come today to speak about Celine Maynard instead,” Jasper spoke straightforwardly.

Paulson gave a small smile and replied, “I knew that you’d come to speak to me about this. But do not worry, Colossal Investments is not some violent hoodlum agency. A probity review is merely an investigation whereby we inquire about the reviewee’s previous work.

“Thus, Miss Maynard is very much alright now. Should you find it necessary, you are welcome to meet her at anytime.”

“But before we start, Laine, would you like some tea or coffee? I believe we should talk.”

“Tea, please. Thank you.”

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After the secretary brought two cups of tea over, Jasper spoke, “Mr. Paulson, I’d like to know how Colossal views Celine.”

Paulson chuckled and spoke, “Before I tell you that, I’d like to know how you view Celine.’

Jasper arched his brow slightly and replied, “She is my friend. When it comes to our working relationship, she has capabilities that others could only wish to possess, and thus, is able to save a lot of my time. In terms of our private life, she has a very unique personality and charisma, and I am fortunate to call her my friend.”

Paulson nodded. Leaning against the sofa, he replied, "That's a great answer. Honestly, I think I'm starting to envy you for having such a great friend. But Laine, you have to understand that the investment industry is very different from other industries.

"I encourage my employees to be friends with their clients, but they can only be friends professionally. The moment a client oversteps what we consider a normal friendship, it becomes a problem for both the investment company and the employee themselves."

Jasper replied calmly, "I understand the investment industry has its own rules of survival. But don't you think it's a bit too much to suspect Celine, who had just brought the investment company such a huge business deal, Mr. Paulson?"

"It's a necessary review. You have to understand that Colossal has its reasons too. Firstly, the biggest issue now is that neither you nor Celine can explain the reason behind the reduction in 20commission fee.

"There are clearly stated regulations within Colossal Investments. Someone in as high a position as Celine does indeed have the authority to reduce commission fee, and her limit coincidentally happens to be 20%... however, while she does have the authority to do so, it is also crucial she provides us a reasonable explanation when she does.

"She has to explain why she did it, and what benefits her action will bring the company. The truth now is that she cannot come up with a reasonable explanation for the 20% discount, so an internal review has to be conducted."

Jasper's mind went back to that night, of how Celine reminded her of a stubborn girl who wanted the pair of high heels in the showcase window. He could not possibly tell Colossal that Celine had given him a 20% decrease in commission fees because he had broken the glass and gotten Celine the pair of heels she wanted.

“You might not know this, Laine, but when a senior executive objected to her plan of helping Sena go public, Celine had promised me that she was willing to accept any investigation as long as the plan went through as stated.

“Moreover, she has also promised to resign immediately and compensate the Colossal three times the commission fee if Sena did not meet an IPO of 100 US Dollars.”

Jasper shot to his feet at Paulson’s words.

“Has she gone mad?” Jasper spoke angrily.

Jasper never had to cooperate with Colossal Investments, for they were not the only option available to him. There were other investment companies like Layman and Merlene elsewhere.

Jasper would never have agreed to work with these people if he knew that Celine had paid such a high price just to keep the deal going.

Jasper felt a nameless fury fester within him as he thought back to how carefree Celine had acted with him these days. She acted like nothing was wrong, despite the immense pressure she was under.

Jasper could still accept it if Celine was under review because of the 20% decrease in commission fees. However, if William was the one who was causing the problem that resulted in Celine paying such a high price and betting her entire professional career, then this was something Jasper could not accept.

He was both angry and frustrated.

Angry at himself for not knowing about this earlier, and frustrated at Celine for making her own decisions without first informing him.

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“Looks like you really don’t know about this. You’re not the only one who thinks she’s gone mad. I do too.” Paulson sighed and spoke, “More than her superior, I was also her uncle who brought her up. Her father and I have known each other for decades—we’re best friends.

“But I’ve never seen her make such a huge gamble before.”

Paulson looked at Jasper intently and continued. “That’s why I want to know what you plan on doing next.”

Jasper immediately quelled the flames within him. After a short moment of thought, he came up with a response.

“Mr. Paulson, I would like Colossal Investments to immediately end all investigations on Celine, and make William, the President of Terra regional branch, pay instead. Otherwise, Sena will unilaterally apply to the Nasdaq Review Committee and decline on going public.”

When he heard this, Paulson’s expression darkened.

He looked at Jasper and spoke angrily, “That isn’t a very smart decision, Laine. Are you threatening me? You have to know that doing so will put Colossal in a very embarrassing position. Sena will also lose a great chance to go public and you will have to repay those who had already bought shares through the pre-IPO allocation. You’ll also have to repay Colossal for a breach of contract!

“I’m sure a smart businessman would not make such a bad deal.”

Jasper replied calmly, “President Paulson, I am indeed a businessman, but more than that, I am a man. While every businessman does indeed weigh the pros and

cons before every decision, a man does not care too much about such things when making a decision.”

Paulson heard the change in how Jasper was referring to himself and stared at the other party seriously. “Is that your final decision?”

Jasper nodded. “I won’t compromise!”

“Still, you have to know that Celine loves her career more than anything else. Sure, you’re free to look for another investment company if the relationship between Colossal and Sena goes cold. After all, all you lose is time and money.”

“But what about Celine? Not only will Colossal have to fire her after this, but other investment companies won’t employ her either. Have you not thought about that?”

Jasper frowned slightly at Paulson’s words.

With a victorious smile, Paulson took a hot sip of tea. The man before him was outstanding, but he was too young to be a match for him.

“Worse comes to worst, I’ll just open a bank and have Celine work for me,” Jasper suddenly looked up to tell Paulson.

Paulson froze mid-sip. After a long while, his eyes widened as he looked at Jasper who oozed with dominance and spoke, “Do you know how difficult it is to open a bank? Not only will you need hefty capital to sustain it, but you’ll need contacts and a constant flow of business. Especially in Somerland, I don’t think Somerland allows private banks.”

Jasper spoke calmly, “Allow me to repeat myself, President Paulson, my only problem now is the fact that Celine is under review.”

Paulson’s caressed the corner of the hot teacup. After a long while, he replied slowly, “I can immediately end Celine’s investigation, but you must promise that

Sena will reach a price of at least 120 US Dollars. Or I will not be able to explain myself to the board of directors.

“As for William, if Sean’s share price is high enough, Celine’s capabilities will be on display to everybody, at which point it will be very possible for her to assume the position of President of the Terra regional branch. However, as I said, the condition here is that Sena’s share price has to reach at least 120 US Dollars!”

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Walking out of Colossal Investments Headquarters, Jasper’s mind echoed with the words Paulson had said before he left.

“There are no emotions here in Wall Street, nor do we care about who’s right or wrong. The only thing that separates me from my enemy are benefits.

“Whoever brings me benefits is a friend, and everyone else is my enemy.”

Jasper admitted that Paulson’s words had affected him deeply.

This was the cruel reality of a capitalist market. Without experiencing it first-hand, one would never understand how bloody the rules of the games are.

Take his partnership with Colossal Investments for example. In a short conversation, they had already decided who would assume the position of the President of the Terra regional branch.

Should Jasper truly manage to reach an IPO of 120 US Dollars for Sena, then he would have successfully proven his benefits and worth to Colossal Investments.

Colossal Investments would only toss William out if a happy partnership with Jasper mattered more to them.

Firing the President of the Terra regional branch to gain Jasper's trust and friendship was a very good bargain.

However, the premise was that Jasper had to prove his worth.

Sena's share price would be the quickest and most direct way to do this.

If he failed, Colossal Investments would not pay Jasper or Celine another glance.

This had nothing to do with who was right or wrong. This was a relationship purely comprised solely of monetary benefits.

The person who brought the larger cut of profits would be their friend.

After all this, the banquet was over by the time Jasper returned to the hotel.

Jasper did not know where Henry had gone to. However, he was not worried that this top-notch Harbor City trust-fund child would get into any trouble while out on a date in New York, so Jasper let him do as he pleased.

After conversing with Jack and coming to the conclusion that it was extremely difficult to push Sena's share price to 120 US Dollars, Celine arrived whilst seeking out Jasper just as they were about to formulate a plan.

Jasper returned to his room and poured Celine a cup of milk with practiced ease. Then he looked her over, "Not bad, very beautiful."

Celine was in a white chiffon tight-fitting dress while an exquisite red belt wrapped around her waist. The simple outfit spoke volumes of the wearer's excellent style.

Celine grabbed the milk and stared straight at Jasper.

"So, you went to look for Paulson?"

Jasper nodded.

“So you know everything now?”

Jasper continued to nod.

“And you also promised Paulson that the share price will reach 120 US Dollars?”

Jasper also nodded.

Celine suddenly spoke disappointedly, “Are you crazy? Do you know how difficult it is for a new stock to surpass a price of 120 US Dollars? No company’s ever produced such a result after the dot-com bubble burst.”

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“Am I crazy?” Jasper’s eyes widened as he looked at Celine and spoke, “You’re the crazy one here. Why didn’t you tell me anything?”

Celine lifted her hand to tuck the stray wisps of hair behind her ear as she replied, “It’s my business. Why do I have to tell you what I do?”

Jasper replied calmly. “In that case, my promise with Paulson is also my business, and I don’t have to explain it to you, yes?”

“You!” Celine’s eyes widened as she glared at him, infuriated by Jasper’s words.

The next second, however, the woman’s eyes shifted and she smiled secretly, “You’re actually planning to provide for me? Why else would you go through all that just to get me out of the investigation?”

“I just don’t want you to get involved in other matters because of me, especially when I’m certain that nothing is going on between us. I don’t make it a habit to sit and watch as someone else gets blamed for something they didn’t do.”

“Moreover, if you can tell Colossal Investment’s board of directors that you’ll resign and pay thrice the value of the commission if Sena doesn’t meet an IPO price of 100 US Dollars, then what’s stopping me from raising it to 120 US Dollars?”

Jasper looked at Celine seriously and spoke, “You have to trust me and Sena. 100 US Dollars to 120 US Dollars isn’t that big of a difference.”

“In that case, what are you planning on doing next?” Celine asked.

“Advertise it, what else? I have to try and tell all the investors within the United States that Sena is a share that they will definitely profit from. If I don’t you’ll lose your job, and I’ll lose both my reputation and my dignity,” Jasper spoke with a shrug.

Celine furrowed her brows as the cheerful look that she always wore vanished.

She was thinking of a plan that would greatly raise Sena’s share prices.

“To be honest, it’s all the same for me regardless of if this promise existed or not,” Jasper looked at Celine as he spoke.

“The higher Sena’s share price, the more I benefit. The only difference is that I didn’t have a specific target before, but I have one now. Anything less than 120 US Dollars is a failure, so even without this deal, my goal will still be to bring Sena up as much as I can.’

“But this target is too unattainable.” Celine frowned.

“Not really,” Jasper chuckled, “I’ll just have to spend a bit of money. We’ll do advertisements in television stations throughout the United States, then interview

a few stock market experts and advertise it in financial magazines. What we need to do is sweep this information through the United States as fast as possible.

“All United States investors will be able to do is see and hear of Sena for the next couple of days.

“Couple this with the titles Sena holds, ‘the first Somerland internet company that’ll officially registered in the Nasdaq’, and ‘the first truly profitable internet company in the world’. What we need to do is tell the investors that a great way to earn money is standing right before their eyes.”

Celine’s expression lightened slightly at Jasper’s words.

She sighed and spoke, “That’s the only thing we can do now anyway. I’ll think of another plan. I do have some contacts here in the United States.”

“Thank you, then,” Jasper spoke.

Both he and Sena were considered foreigners here in the United States. Forget contacts, they would not be able to get anywhere if not for Colossal Investments.

Thus, these were things that only Celine could do.

The corner of Celine’s lips lifted upward, and a light and familiar smile graced her lips. “Paulson told me that you threatened the entirety of Colossal Investments for me. Do you know what you’re doing? That’s a financial behemoth we’re talking about here. The best investment company in the world. How could you just threaten them?”

“And yet, reality shows that it still works on them.” Jasper smiled.

“You also claimed, very dominantly, that you’d open a bank for me to work in if I resigned from Colossal?” Celine leaned over, with her four limbs on the couch as she pushed her small face right in front of Jasper’s.

Because of her position, Jasper only needed to tilt his head and he would see her collar exposed before his eyes.