# Life at the Top Chapter 1901 - 1905

However, the Harbor City government had been generous enough to sell it to JW Company now without even disclosing the price. Evidently, the Harbor City government sincerely welcomed JW Company to invest in Harbor City. As for the third article, that was even weirder. By right, it should belong in the Harbor City government's market administration. Why had it been included i n the agreement? Soon, the people of Harbor City understood why. A flurry of investigations started soon after the press conference.

Everyone in the real estate and rubber industry became subjected to thorough investigations. The first to be investigated were those who had conducted sales with Fongroup, Atticus Group, and Hope Group not too long ago. Investigations conducted by the Harbor City government revealed that in a large number of these property transactions had been sold illegally and at a price significantly lower than the market value. Thus, fines came one after the other. Once they did that, and when connected t o the last article in the agreement, it painted a vivid picture of the Harbor City government's attitude on the matter. They were doing this to target Fongroup,

Hope Group, and Atticus Group.

They were doing it in plain sight, without even bothering to try and cover up their tracks.

Most of Harbor City's millionaires relied

heavily on real estate, so the Harbor City

government's investigations did not

affect the market too greatly, as their

investigations were targeted at Hope

Group and Fongroup. However, things

were different when they turned to the

rubber industry, an industry that Atticus

Group dominated. While the Harbor City

government conducted thorough

investigations into Atticus Group's illegal activities, they also brought to light prior restrictions on entering the rubber industry.

Countless people sensed a conspiracy behind the Harbor City government's tough attitude.

Just then, Wendy made an appearance at Spencer Boyle's home.

The Boyle family resided in a mansion on top of a mountain. Here, Wendy received a n enthusiastic welcome from all members of the Boyle family.

Everyone knew who stood behind this woman, and that person was also who the Harbor City people, had chosen to place their bets on. Thus, once Wendy arrived, the Boyle family gave her the best treatment possible and called for everyone who could make it to meet her.

Among them was the man who Wendy

had set her sights on, Spencer's second

son-in-law, Zed Walters.

"The Boyle family holds a very special standing amidst Harbor City's millionaires, You're the leader in the

shipbuilding industry, but as the economy and market developed over the years, the shipbuilding industry has fallen into bad shape. Coupled with the increase in popularity of the real estate market, the Boyle family has become much less influential.

"However, we must never ignore the families who usually maintain a low profile and only showcase their powers during the most critical moments. They possess much more knowledge than your average millionaire.

"The strongest and most powerful ones in this family are not Stephen's direct offspring, but his sons-in-law instead. Each one is more powerful than the one before.

"Wendy, when you meet them, you must establish a collaboration with their second son-in-law, who's also in charge of Nine Dragon Corporation. It'll be much easier to carry out our plans if he works with us."

When Wendy recalled what Jasper had told her before coming, she smiled at Mr. Boyle and Zed, who was standing beside him, as she said, "Mr. Boyle, Mr. Walters. The reason for my visit this time is that I'm hoping to utilize the piece of land at Sharp Promenade that I bought from the Harbor City government. We hope to work with the various

shopping malls under Nine Dragon Corporation's name and construct the largest and most luxurious shopping complex in the entirety of Terra. I've even come up with a name. It'll be named Harbour Palace!"

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The world-renowned Harbour Palace had once been the largest shopping complex i In all of Terra. Most people had learned of its existence after the year 2010, but in reality, it had begun construction back in 1986, under the lead of Nine Dragon Corporation. However, at the start, it had just been several shopping malls which merged to form a shopping complex. Although large, it had not achieved any actual scale-up. It had just been a concept that Nine Dragon Corporation came up with to simplify their management and achieve

uniformity in their products.

However, its fame was propelled in 2002

when Nine Dragon Corporation did an

entire renovation and redesign of Harbour

Palace. After that, this massive shopping

complex took advantage of Harbor City's

capitalist fame and instantly became

famous.

How famous did it become?

Harbour Palace raked in a shocking total of 95 billion dollars just from rent alone. and Nine Dragon Corporation earned no less than 100 billion dollars every year from this one industry alone.

A shopping complex did not get its income purely from rent alone. They also earned revenue from things such as parking fees on the property grounds.

Who would suffer the most losses from Harbour Palace's rise to prominence?

It would be Hope Group, which owned over 20 shopping malls in Harbour City.

Thus, what Jasper intended to do was to

drive the blade right into Hope Group's

chest and cause them to suffer massive.

losses.

Mr. Boyle did not show any expression as he listened to Wendy speak. On the contrary, Zed was the first to raise his eyebrows.

Indeed, the Boyle family owned Nine

Dragon Corporation, but he had always been the one in charge of managing it, and he had done so pretty well too.

However, despite that, the industries under Nine Dragon Corporation's management had always only performed mediocrely. Larger-sized ones had an advantageous edge, but it also meant the industries would be overly complex and cause them to struggle to survive with their mediocre earnings. Hence, he had no idea why Wendy, or perhaps Jasper, pointedly asked to work with Nine Dragon Corporation in constructing this shopping complex.

Wendy noticed the questioning looks on the Boyles' faces and continued saying, "We'll take the land JW has just gotten and combine it with the shopping malls under Níne Dragon Corporation's name.

Moreover, JW has plans to purchase over a hundred thousand square feet of the land and industries surrounding the property. When you put everything together, Harbour Palace will take up no less than 230 thousand square feet of land.

"Once the project is settled, we'll not only

have the largest shopping complex in

Harbour City, but the largest shopping

complex in the entirety of Terra. Harbour City has a well-developed market with high costs of living. Various luxury brands across the world will be able to set up specialty stores here, so they won't have t o worry about a lack of customers or supply of goods."

Wendy gazed at the members of the Boyle

family, whose eyes were sparkling before

she smiled and asked, "Are you interested

in a project like this?"

Zed forced his racing heart to calm down a

s he gazed at Wendy with excitement in

his eyes. He had seen his vision come true

in Wendy's blueprint just now.

The largest shopping complex in Terra. That was what he had always dreamed of!

"How much money will we have to invest? How will the ratio of the shares be divided?" Zed asked the most crucial questions.

Wendy replied, "The overall investment

will be no less than 80 billion Harbor

Dollars. As for the percentage of shares, that depends. Does the Boyle family have any cash to spare now?"

The Boyle family members blushed when

they heard that.

After what had happened in the past, the

Boyle and Law family had ended up just

like the other rich families. They had used

up the very last reserves of their fortune, and the cash they had now was barely enough to maintain operations in all their industries. Although the companies under their name were constantly earning revenue, the amount was only enough to defend themselves against lesser risks. They did not have 80 billion Harbor Dollars worth of spare cash to invest. Without waiting for the Boyle family to respond, Wendy said sincerely, "Both Jasp and I have seen the sacrifices your family made for JW Foundation. Thus, we currently plan to shoulder all the financial investments. The Boyle and Law family. will invest using their surrounding industries or plots of land. In terms of shares, JW will take 40% while the Boyle

and Law family will take 30% each."

Mr. Boyle and Zed exchanged looks with each other after she said that. They had no further comments.

"Jasper is truly virtuous. This is a huge

favor."

Both Mr. Boyle and Zed had been in the business industry for many years. They could tell at a glance that once the project was completed, they would be raking in several billion dollar's worth of earnings every month. What JW was doing now by giving away shares for nothing was equivalent to giving away their money. All they needed to do was locate several industries that were nearby and rope them into the mix. No matter how you looked at it, they would be making guaranteed earnings

without suffering any losses. Wendy chuckled and said, "Jasper said that he's the one who's indebted to everyone in Harbor City. JW's main reason for joining Harbor City this time is mainly to work against the alliance formed by the three families, and the second reason is to set up a scenario. where everyone can earn money together." "Alright, we agree to this collaboration!" After gaining approval from Mr. Boye, Zed spoke in a pleased tone. "In that case, let's wish for a pleasant collaboration in advance." "It will be pleasant for sure. Hahaha!" Several hours later, JW Company announced this business plan to the

public.

Harbor City's business circle immediately went into an uproar. The three shareholders in this business project included the Boyle family and the Law family, both of whom were Harbor City's most well-established big shots. As for the third shareholder, it was the up and-coming JW Company. It was an alliance between three strong parties. Everyone could tell that this project would be a massive success as the three shareholders invested their assets into it. Thus, it had a massive impact on Harbor

City's commercial real estate.

Harbor City had a well-developed economy, but the size of the available land was limited. Everyone could tell that adding such a massive shopping complex t o a place

where there were already plenty of shopping malls would cause a massive impact on the other shopping malls.

Those who paid attention to the details.

immediately directed their focus onto

Hope Group.

After all, Hope Group used to own the

largest number of shopping malls in

Harbor City.

It was obvious that this project was aimed

to work against Hope Group.

Harbor City's stock market was still closed because it was still a rest day. However, as a stream of both good and bad news arrived, not even the most experienced investors could guess how Harbor City's stock market would look like when it opened again.

All everyone could do now was wait.

The news soon reached New York, United States.

Three people sat in the study of Joe's mansion. The atmosphere was tense and boarding.

Kennedy slammed his fist onto the table with a loud thump. He had a dark expression on his face as he said, " Everything Jasper Laine did shows that he's trying to take our places!"

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Sawyer had a brooding expression on his face. Although he was not saying anything, he felt a deep surge of annoyance within himself too. Joe was the only one who was still calm. "Calm down. The situation is what it is now, and there's no point in us going off i na huff. We might as well think of ways to resolve the problem." Sawyer felt even more infuriated when he heard what Joe said... He could not stop himself from looking at Joe. The old fox had sold his industries in Harbor City to the other two families to pay for his collaboration. As such, he had sold off most of his domestic assets except for his telecommunication

company.

Thus, this meant that Joe Langdon and Fongroup had suffered the least losses after everything JW had done in Harbor City.

Sawyer could not help but wonder if the

old fox had long since guessed this would

happen.

"How about we seize the chance to retract

our contracts to short sell stocks in

Harbor City?" Sawyer cleared his mind of

his frenzied thoughts and made a

suggestion.

The atmosphere in the study grew even

tenser when he said that.

Kennedy said slowly, "We were sure that

the news of our joint venture would cause

a massive drop in Harbor City stocks, so w

e raised a large sum of money to short sell our stocks in Harbor City. However, it seems that Jasper saw through our plans." When Kennedy finished speaking, he turned to Joe and said, "We still have time to withdraw now. The stock market isn't open yet, so the order we submitted has not been finalized. If we wait for the stock market to open, it'll be too late." Joe furrowed his eyebrows together slightly as he said, "We've spent so much

time prepping to short sell, and we've

sacrificed a lot for it too. If we give up now, not only will our previous efforts all go to waste, but do you two think that Jasper will stop whatever he's doing in Harbor City now just because we give up o In shorting them?"

Both Sawyer and Kennedy fell silent when they heard that question.

They were forced to admit that at this point, there was no stopping the alliance between them versus the alliance between Jasper and the Harbor City big wigs. Giving up would not result in peace but in even further suppression.

They could no longer afford to lose.

"The problem now doesn't just lay in Hope Group and their real estate industry, as the Atticus family's rubber industry. has been impacted too. Do you know how many rubber-related companies were established in Harbor City just one hour after the Harbor City government announced they were lowering the criteria to enter the rubber industry? 78! A whole 7 8!"

The more Sawyer spoke, the angrier he

became. He was nearly roaring as he said,

"The rubber industry used to not be something that anyone or any company could work in. The Atticus family called the shots in Harbor City. There wouldn't b e anyone who dared work in the rubber industry without gaining our approval first!

"But look what's happening now. All sorts of people are dabbling in the business now, and even worse, a third of the upstream and downstream companies that used to work with the Atticus family have gone ahead and registered themselves as an import company for rubber!

"There are also people hiding in the shadows and purposely lowering the price of rubber. As they lower the rubber prices, they use that money to locate suppliers who used to work with the Atticus family and tempt them with the higher fees to give up their partnership with the Atticus family and work with them instead!

"I'm willing to bet that that scumbag son of a b\*tch Jasper Laine came up with these tricks. He's the only person who would be this shameless!"

The corners of Kennedy's mouth twitched as he listened to Sawyer rage.

In terms of being shameless, it seemed that the three of them were no better either.

"Everyone suffered losses. It's not just the Atticus family. What's the point in being so angry?" Joe asked with a frown o In his face.

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Sawyer said indignantly, "But I didn't hear you mention that we would run into a situation like this before our collaboration."

That managed to aggravate Joe, and the latter replied without hesitation, "Are you a rookie who just started doing business? Or have you lost your mind just because you've run into problems?

"Don't you know what sort of person Jasper Laine is? We were bound to face his revenge once we begin this work, and we should have thought of what he would do a long time ago. If you can't withstand even this, we should abandon the alliance."

Joe spoke with so much conviction that the color of Sawyer's face alternated, between green and white as he found himself in an incredibly awkward position.

Sawyer did not want to offend Joe at such a critical time. He repeatedly glanced at Kennedy, motioning for him to say something and extract him from the awkward position he was in.

However, Kennedy pretended not to

notice as he took his cup and took several

languid sips from it.

As time passed, the only sound that came

from the study was the sounds of

Kennedy drinking. The look on Sawyer's

face also gradually grew even uglier.

Just then, someone knocked at the door.

Sawyer heaved a sigh of relief. No matter

who was on the other side of the door,

this would at least allow him to extricate

himself from the awkward position.

"Come in."

Joe spoke calmly. Kayden and Fabian

walked in after that.

After they paid their respects, Sawyer

asked them, "What are you guys doing

here?"

Kayden and Fabian exchanged glances

before saying, "We know things aren't

going too well over at Harbor City now

and that a lot of things are going on.

We've been brainstorming, and we

managed to come up with a plan that will help us tide over the storm for now. It won't resolve the problem's root cause, but it's enough to mess up Jasper's plans. We might even be able to identify a chink in his armor once he's flustered.

All three people's eyes lit up when they

heard that.

Both Kayden and Fabian were among the best of the best in the younger generation of Harbor City businessmen. The elders might genuinely be able to gain a new perspective that they could expand on by listening to their ideas.

"Let's hear it," Joe said.

Kayden glanced at Fabian and motioned

for him to speak, allowing Fabian the

chance to shine.

Fabian took an excited breath. His eyes

glinted murderously as he said, " Everything JW has done at Harbor City so far has indeed impacted us massively. In particular, the stream of announcements they just made all include plans that will stimulate a rise in Harbor City stocks.

"If we allow them to succeed, our plans

will all be ruined when the Harbor City

stock market reopens on Monday."

Kennedy frowned slightly and said, "We

all know that. You don't have to repeat

yourself. Get to the point."

Fabian paused for a while before saying, " Alright, I'll get to the point.

"There's actually a loophole this time,

and that is the fact that it was not Jasper

Laine who represented JW this time but

Wendy Schuler instead."

Fabian narrowed his eyes slightly and smirked as he said, "She's a woman. There are so many ways we can deal with her. For example, we could contact some associations in Harbor City and plan a kidnapping. If that happens, everything J W has done so far will backfire."

"Panic will infiltrate society, and Harbor City stocks are bound to plummet. Most importantly, Wendy Schuler is one of the women who've been with Jasper since the start. Her position in JW is irreplaceable. Would Jasper have the heart to do anything else if something happened to her?"

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All three older men frowned when they

heard Fabian's suggestion.

Kennedy spoke again. He sounded slightly

worried as he said, "But that's against the

rules."

His son had a rare chance to shine, so

Sawyer would defend him no matter what.

He replied, "Rules? If you want to talk

about rules, we're breaking tons of rules b

y forging an alliance and planning to short the Harbor City market. Would this even be a big deal to us? "We'll do anything to win. Any plan that leads us to victory is good. Would real men consider rules?" Sawyer sounded like he was boasting, but i It was the truth. "No one in Harbor City is better than the Law family when it comes to contacting gangs. After all, Old Master Law made his first fortune by smuggling firearms. Are you sure this will work?" Joe turned towards Fabian and asked. "It'll definitely work!" Fabian answered with confidence. He said, "The Law family has always treated Jasper as their son-in-law. Anna

would replace Wendy if anything happened to her. Who knows, the Law family might even be praying for Wendy t o vanish from the picture too." "No."

Joe shook his head slightly, an image of a n old man's face that was tanned and thin but at the same time emanated a majestic aura that unnerved people flashing through his mind. "Old Master Law is not such a narrow-minded person. He looks a t the big picture before he does anything." "Dad." Kayden spoke. "We don't have any other choice now. It is the best plan we have. It shouldn't be too big of an issue as long as we're careful.

"All we need to do is kidnap her and

spread the news to incite panic. If we

manage to drag it on until Monday when

the stock market reopens, prices will fall

like an avalanche. By the time they regain

their senses, we'll have collected the

money and scrammed."

Both Kennedy and Sawyer nodded their heads after listening to Kayden's explanation.

Thus, Joe said, "Alright, then we'll do as previously agreed. We'll have a democratic voting process whenever we need to make important decisions as a group. Raise your hands if you're in favor of Kayden and Fabian's plan."

Joe had just finished speaking when

Sawyer and Kennedy both raised their

hands.

Thus, Joe raised his hand slowly too as he said, "Alright, we'll proceed with the plan!"

"Everything's going smoothly. The big wigs are all very polite and cooperative. Our plan is proceeding at an even faster rate than I anticipated."

Wendy sat in her presidential suite on the top floor of The Westin, located near Victoria Harbour, as she spoke to Jasper on the phone.

It was both so they could spend time with

each other as well as discuss work-related

matters.

Jasper's voice rang out from the other end of the line. "That's good. Joe and the other two are doing so much with such fanfare just so they can suppress Harbor City's economy and then use that as a way to curry favor with the people of the United States. "I'm betting their final target is still on Harbor City stocks. If not, they would have had no reason to make everything public so quickly and with so much fanfare. Thus, we must proceed with our plans even quicker and cause even more o f a ruckus. "As long as we stimulate the economy

enough, Harbor City's stocks will not be

impacted so much by all these negative

news when the stock market reopens on

Monday.

"The domestic market is unstable too,

and there's a high chance it'll continue

plummeting when the stock market

reopens on Monday. There's not much left that I can do in the United States stock market, so we must ensure that the Harbor City stocks maintain a stronghold and don't run into trouble. The big wigs in Harbor City can't afford to be thrown into. another storm again.

Wendy nodded as she listened to Jasper speak and said, "Alright, alright. I got it. I'll take care of it."

"Make sure you stay safe too. After all, Harbor City is not in mainland," Jasper said as he chuckled.

"But don't worry. After all, you have the

Law family in Harbor City. No one there

would dare lay a finger on them."

Wendy raised an eyebrow as she said, " The Law family? I heard that Anna is back in Harbor City."

Jasper, who was currently in Nauritius, felt the expression on his face stiffen slightly,

"How did you know..." Jasper tried his best to make himself sound less sheepish.

"I saw you answer a phone call before I

left. Did you think I couldn't tell from that delighted expression on your face? You were so loud that I could hear you from the next room. Were you still trying to keep it a secret from me?" Wendy asked sarcastically. Seemingly sensing Jasper's awkwardness from the other end of the line, Wendy said exasperatedly, "Fine, fine. I'm not going t o talk to you about this anymore. I'm going to go take a shower." Jasper felt a trickle of dread wash over him as he listened to the dial tone. Anna had indeed returned to Harbor City, but it was for no other reason than the fact that Zachary Law would be celebrating his 55th birthday soon. No matter what, Anna would have to return i

n advance for that.

Wendy was also in Harbor City...

That was dangerous.

The more Jasper thought about it, the less at ease he felt. Thus, he called Henry, who had also returned to Harbor City a while ago. Jasper frowned when he heard the loud music blasting from the other end of the line.

"It's still light out, but you've already

started messing around?"

When Henry, who was busy drinking and

having fun with two young models, heard

Jasper's voice and chuckled. "I lived life

like a monk when I was working with you.

Of course, I had to have some fun after

returning to my world of sensual

pleasures. What orders do you have for m

e, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper massaged his aching head and said, "Anna is back in Harbor City, and Wendy will also be there to take care of some matters for several days. I'm afraid they'll bump into each other, so you need t o keep an eye on them for me. You must ensure that they'll never be in a situation where they might r inunto each other. Call me if anything happens." "Hiss"

Henry gasped and said, "You want me to

spy on my little sister? I don't think my

skills are a match for hers,"

"No one asked you to spy on her. You just need to keep an eye on her and make sure they don't meet each other. Everything else will be fine so long as that doesn't happen.

"I'm counting on you for this, so don't

mess up!"

Jasper hung up the phone after he finished speaking.

Henry pursed his lips and tossed his phone aside, spreading his arms wide to pull the two young models towards him as he said to his friends, "See, this is exactly why I don't want to get married or get a girlfriend. Why would I give up the entire forest for one tree?

"Men become leashed dogs once they get married or have plans to get married. They have zero freedom."

As Henry spoke, he pinched the young girl's cheeks and laughed as she whined. " Isn't this life amazing?"