

The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

Chapter 26

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Chapter 26

After speaking to Alpha 1, Joseph fell asleep beside Chloe. However, he had trouble sleeping. Holding his daughter's hand, he looked at Chloe, who had suffered for many years.

In the morning, Chloe woke up early. Since Paige was extremely tired, she was still deep in sleep. Thus, Joseph took his daughter out for breakfast. They even bought some for Paige. Chloe was clingy to Joseph, so she kept asking him to hold her. Of course, Joseph also enjoyed being close to her. After all, fathers would usually be extremely fond of their daughters. In fact, Joseph wished that Chloe would never grow up, so he could hold her every day. "Dad, you should not lie to me. You are not allowed to leave, okay? I want to be with you every day from now on..." Chloe said to Joseph while tugging on his shirt. Looking at the dingy outfit on Chloe, Joseph figured once Paige was awake, they would go and buy some new clothes for his daughter. Displaying a smile, he nodded and said, "Okay. I will never lie to you in the future. When Mom wakes up, let's go shopping for new clothes, okay? We'll buy new outfits for you and your mother, okay?" Delighted, Chloe nodded. "That'll be awesome! I want new clothes. Heehee..." Joseph's heart ached slightly. Without saying a word, he only smiled at Chloe. Holding her in one hand, he went back to the hotel room while grabbing the packed breakfast in the other. When he approached the hotel room entrance, he noticed the door was ajar, and there was a commotion inside. With a frown on his face, he walked in quickly. When arriving at the door, Joseph saw Paige had already gotten up. She had even washed up and gotten dressed. Right then, several people were sitting beside her. There was an old man with gray hair, three middle-aged men, two women, and two young ladies. Lowering her head, Paige let all these people criticize her. She dared not raise her head, let alone speak... At the sight of this, Joseph frowned even harder. In the room, a woman with short hair in a nude-colored skirt scolded Paige, "How can you do this? Not only did you leave without a word, and now you're back all of a sudden? If your cousin's friend didn't see you here, how long would you want to hide everything from us? Pfft... Do you still care about me as your mother? Do you still even care about your father? You even brought a man back here! How bold of

you!"

This woman was Estella Sheppard, Paige's mother. As soon as Estella finished speaking, Yahir Mooney, who was Paige's father, snorted, "Paige! Are you trying to

piss me off? How old are you? Do you know that our family has become the laughingstock of the entire city because of you? My daughter has had a baby with a stranger, yet the man has left without a trace!" Yahir was livid. In the past, he was proud of Paige, but he became completely disappointed. When Yahir stopped talking, Estella pointed at Paige and continued scolding, "Since you're back now, you can forget about leaving. I have found the perfect match for you.

He is your college classmate, Brooks Nichols. He doesn't care that you have a child, and will be back tomorrow after a business trip. The day after tomorrow, you will officially get married to him." Paige's body trembled. Hearing Estella forcing her to get married, Paige finally replied, "Mom, I won't marry him." "You don't get to refuse anymore. He is an executive of a company, not to mention he doesn't mind that you have a child. What gives you the right to reject him? Huh?" Estella continued to roar at Paige. Noticing that Paige was about to cry, Joseph could no longer stay quiet anymore. Holding Chloe in his arms, he walked in and shouted at Estella, "It's because she is my wife! Why would she get married to someone else? How is that logical?" Shocked, Paige subconsciously turned her head to look at Joseph. "Will you really marry me? Didn't you say that you will only fulfill your responsibilities as Chloe's father?" Poor Paige, even at the time, was still thinking about Joseph. Joseph responded with a smile, "That's what you said. In my heart, I have long regarded you as my wife. I will be good to you. I will not let you suffer any grievances. You'll be my wife for the rest of my life..." "Wait a minute. Who are you? Are you the father of that bastard?" Estella asked coldly. When Joseph heard Estelle calling Chloe a bastard, his killing intent suddenly filled the room. In an instant, Estella was so intimidated that she took a step back. Staring at her with a cold gaze, he replied, "I dare you to call my daughter a bastard once more." "1..." Estella instantly stuttered as she was frightened. "SMACK!" At this moment, Yahir got up and gave Joseph's face a hard slap. He shouted with a gloomy expression, "How can you talk to Paige's mother like that? I dare you to lay a finger on me!" Suddenly, everyone became quiet. Naturally, Joseph could easily avoid Yahir's slap earlier. However, he was Paige's father after all. If Joseph were to retaliate that day, the situation would only become worse. He only looked at Yahir in silence, without fighting back.

"Dad, what are you doing? Don't hit him, okay? I've told you about the past. It's not his fault. He didn't know about what happened..." Paige cried and quickly got up. Then, she stood in front of Joseph, reaching out to protect him. Glaring fiercely at Joseph behind Paige, Yahir shouted back, "It seems like you can only stand behind a woman when you face trouble, huh?" Joseph then pushed Paige away. "It's okay... I should be responsible for the past..." "Boohoo... Grandpa, don't hit Daddy. He's also had a tough life. Don't hit him..." When Chloe saw what happened, she was frightened and burst into tears. "Shut up! How annoying! Get out of here!" Estella scolded when she heard Chloe's cry. At this time, a young girl standing beside her quickly took Chloe from Joseph's arms. She was Paige's sister, Serena Mooney, who was still in her fourth year in university. Serena was beautiful. She resembled Paige when she first graduated from college. While holding Chloe, Serene said, "Paige, Mr. Brother-in-law, the two of you should continue talking here. I will take Chloe outside for now. Let's not scare the child..." "Serena, he is not your brother-in-law. Don't call him that." At this time, Paige's cousin sister, Lily Mooney, sneered sarcastically. She was scantily dressed and had a face full of makeup. Displaying a frown, Serene stared at Lily. "Lily! You clearly know why you're so happy right now. You don't have any right to get involved in our family's business. Stop chiming in unnecessarily!" "How dare you! Alas. Your family can't even handle your own internal problems, yet you keep running your mouth... Haha..." Annoyed, Lily continued to sneer at Serena. "Both of you, shut up! Serena, how can you speak this way to your cousin? Get out of here!" Leonard Mooney, who was Paige's grandfather, scolded Serena. He did not even bat an eye at Chloe. After letting out a snort, Serene left the room right away. However, Joseph was delighted to see Serena's kind attitude toward Paige and Chloe. It seemed that Paige and Serena had a good relationship. Since Joseph wanted to return for Paige's sake, he had naturally investigated the Mooney's

thoroughly. Yahir was an honest man. However, his status in the Mooney family was not particularly high. Being suppressed by his two older brothers, he was not valued by his father, Leonard. This was especially so after the incident five years ago, when Paige became pregnant and gave birth to Chloe. Similarly, Yahir's immediate family members are relatively powerless. Lily was Leonard's favorite grandchild, and she was about to get married. Her fiancé was the heir of the Shelton family in

Oplen. He was both rich and powerful. Just as Joseph was pondering for a moment, Yahir's elder brother and also Lily's father, Tommy Mooney, said with a smile, "Lily, don't talk too much. Your uncle will take care of it..." After Tommy finished, he smiled at Yahir, "Yahir, don't vent your anger on Lily. She is now regarded as the savior of our family. She has negotiated many projects, not to mention that she will also cooperate with Gempoint Group in a few days. Don't affect her work..." Yahir was resentful when he heard Tommy speak of Gempoint Group. Why wasn't his own daughter the one who worked on these major business dealings instead? Thinking of this, he became even more furious with Joseph. This man was the person who ruined Paige's life! Yahir snorted in anger. "Will you accept it if I hit you? You've ruined my daughter's life and made her a laughing stock in the entire city. Will you bear this responsibility?" Joseph nodded. "Yes, I will! If Paige didn't save me, her life wouldn't have become like this. I am truly indebted to her." Hearing Joseph's generous admission, Yahir became less furious. Nonetheless, he still had a bad impression of Joseph. Yahir then continued, "Well, since you admit your mistakes, what do you think we should do? How will you take responsibility for Paige?" "Dad, don't force Joseph. He was recently retired from the military..." Paige continued to plead for Joseph. Before she finished speaking, Joseph stopped her and pulled her behind him. He looked at Yahir and said, "Dad, you're right. I deserve to be beaten. However, the ships have sailed. I naturally have to be responsible for Paige and what I did back then. Originally, I planned to come back to look for Paige, marry her, and take care of her for the rest of my life." "Haha... Will you take care of her? How so? You are a poor soldier retired from the army. You don't even have a position. Paige has become a big joke in the whole city. You owe her for the rest of your life. How can you compensate her? Can you change everyone's opinion of her? What a big joke!" Estella said scornfully to Joseph. Glancing at Yahir, Joseph responded, "Dad, please give me a month. By then, I will hold a grand wedding for Paige in Oplen. It will be so magnificent that it will shock the entire city, so much so that everyone who looked down upon her will regret it." "How brazen of you. May I ask if you have a job now? How will you hold a grand wedding that can shock the city?" Lily asked sarcastically.

Yahir and Estella remained silent. Deep down, they also felt ashamed of themselves. A grand wedding to change everyone's mind? What a joke. This guy seemed like a poor soldier, so how could he have money? He did not even have a job. Joseph did not care about what they thought. Looking at Paige seriously, he said, "A month later, I will hold a beautiful wedding for you. Do you believe in me?" Paige stared at Joseph. After a long silence, she sighed. "Joseph, please go out for now. I will talk to my parents about it. I appreciate what you said earlier, but you'd better go out first, okay?" She had become a laughing stock in Oplen, so she did not want history to repeat again. Although she had nothing at the time, she still wanted to preserve her tiny bit of dignity... Joseph initially wanted to say something, but he stopped himself from doing so. Finally, he could only nod. Indeed, if he were to be in her shoes, he would not believe it either. He then replied, "I understand. I'll leave first... No matter what, you should remember

that what I said is true..." Joseph walked out as he finished his sentence. When he was near the door, he heard some sarcastic comments once again, "Haha. You plan to hold a grand wedding for Paige next month. What a coincidence. Me and Rory Shelton will be tying the knot next month as well. When the time comes... We can make our wedding grander than yours. Hehe." Joseph paused and sneered in his heart. This Lily was truly a b*tch. Nevertheless, he did not want to say anything more. Since she intended to humiliate him, he would retaliate when the time came. After letting out a snort, Joseph walked out of the room... "Tsk... How pretentious... I've already been as respectful as I can... What an idiot..." The ridicule on Lily's face grew even stronger. She had always been jealous that Paige was more beautiful than her. Now that she finally found a chance to make fun of Paige, she naturally had to seize the opportunity... Faced with Lily's sarcasm, Paige lowered her head and clenched her fists tightly, but she remained quiet...

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As soon as Joseph walked out of the hotel, he called Alpha 1. "Tell Dennis and Ernie that no matter what, they have to hold the grandest wedding for Paige and me on the 15th of next month." After pausing for a moment, he continued, "Wait a minute! Since we want the wedding to be grand, prepare a thousand couples to attend the wedding ceremony. As long as they plan to get married next month, tell them that they can come to Oplen to do so. Make sure that they are all good-looking. Each couple's wedding expenses will be sponsored for one million, and I will fully bear all costs. However, the only condition is that each couple must give blessings to my wife that day!" o Joseph then hung up the phone. Looking up the hotel, he murmured, "Is this enough to make a sensation in the city? Will it be enough if I were to spend one billion?" Joseph sneered deep down. "When that day comes, I'll have a close look at your regretful faces..."

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Chapter 27

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After Joseph's phone call to Alpha 1, the two most powerful forces in Oplen started to make their moves. Dennis summoned Ernie over and ordered all employees of Gempoint Group to stop work as soon as possible. All the executives rushed to the conference room for an emergency meeting. As the leader of underground forces in Oplen, Ernie took charge of more than half of the city's entertainment industries. His company, Mysticorps Group, ranked second only to Gempoint Group in the entire region. The company owned theme parks, shopping malls, cinemas, nightclubs, and so on. Similarly, Mysticorps Group staff have also stopped all their existing operations. All members of the senior management team were ordered to rush to Gempoint Group's headquarters. When the hundreds of executives from both Gempoint Group and Mysticorps Group were all packed in a large conference room, everyone was shocked. These business elites were clueless as to what had happened. All they knew was that their respective bosses, who were not on good terms in the past, jointly held an emergency meeting all of a sudden. Soon, something even more shocking happened. At the entrance of the conference room, Dennis and Ernie were

respectfully following behind a young man. When Alpha 1 appeared, all the executives in the room were shocked once again. An unimaginable thought suddenly emerged on their minds. Did Oplen's two largest companies merge into one? Who was this person in front of Dennis and Ernie? Alpha 1 sat directly on the main seat of the conference room. Even so, Dennis and Ernie did not seem dissatisfied. Instead, they sat on both sides of Alpha 1 with great excitement. Suddenly, the conference room, filled with hundreds of people, instantly fell silent. After everyone was seated, Alpha 1 said to Dennis and Ernie, "It doesn't matter whether you can satisfy me or not. The two of you should know better. I'll repeat myself once more. On the 15th of next month, we'll hold a grand wedding in Oplen with a budget of one billion. We'll spend it all! All the cities within Central Region are eligible to take part, and we will select a thousand new couples. However, these couples must all pass a certain level of requirements. We can't simply let anyone in. We'll cover all their weddings expenses, which includes the food and beverages as well. You guys can discuss this within the next hour. The news of this event must spread throughout Oplen, and even the whole Central Region. Make sure this goes viral! Okay, I've done my part here. The rest is up to you..." As soon as Alpha 1 finished speaking, he sat calmly and did not care about anything

else. Although he remained silent, he exuded an imposing aura like that of a big boss. In fact, his aura completely overwhelmed Dennis and Ernie. Alpha 1 was a strong warrior, so he would only yield to one person-Joseph. Outside of Dragon Temple, Alpha 1 could rule over anyone else... After hearing Alpha 1's instructions, Dennis and Ernie nodded respectfully. Immediately, all the hundreds of executives were stunned by Alpha 1's words. At this time, a bold executive from Gempoint Group suddenly stood up and asked Alpha 1, "May... May I ask a question, sir? I'm actually getting ready to be married next month. Can... Can I participate in the wedding?" Although this executive knew that Alpha 1 definitely came from a strong background, he wanted to hold a grand wedding for his beloved fiancée. "How dare you! What gives you the right to speak now? Get out of here!" Furious, Dennis got up quickly and shouted, which scared the good-looking executive to death.

"Mr. Drake... Sir, I'm sorry, I... I'll get out now..." The executive was startled by Dennis' cold gaze, so much so that he wanted to leave immediately. "Wait a minute." At this moment, Alpha 1 uttered. Terrified, Dennis quickly replied, "I'm sorry, sir. My subordinates are ignorant. Don't be angry..." Dennis begged Alpha 1 so humbly that the executive was almost scared silly. However, Alpha 1 waved his hand. "Haha, it's okay. This person is good-looking, so it's fine. Nobody said that our own employees are not allowed to participate in this event, right? If there are benefits, of course, you should give priority to your staff. Mr. Drake, don't be stingy... Let this man participate, and offer him more resources when the time comes..." Letting out a sigh of relief, Dennis quickly turned to the executive and said, "You should thank Mr. Alpha 1." Alpha 1 waved his hand and nodded with a smile. Then, the atmosphere in the meeting room became extremely enthusiastic. More than 50 executives of the two

companies intended to get married this year. Soon, all plans were listed out. An hour later, official websites of both Gempoint Group and Mysticorps Group stated, "On the 15th of next month, a mysterious president will hold a grand wedding in the Oplen Cathedral, worth one billion! At the same time, up to 1314 couples are invited to participate in the ceremony. Each couple will be sponsored one million, including the wedding accessories, gowns, and so on. These items

may also be sponsored by Gempoint Group or Mysticorps Group. The one-billion budget will be entirely used up.” Upon discussion, Dennis and Ernie had extended from 1000 couples to 1314, while they would cover the additional costs. They chose 1314 couples as the number traditionally represented long-lasting love.

Ten minutes after the two announcements were released on the websites, all the billboards in Oplen were also broadcasting the same message. Many well informed individuals have caught wind about the event... Boom... All Oplen residents were completely shocked by this mysterious president’s actions. It was one billion, after all, not to mention that over a thousand other weddings would be fully sponsored up to one million each. People in Shelia could not imagine how grand it would be when the mysterious president got married. One billion was offered to support more than 1000 new couples, which excluded miscellaneous costs incurred on the wedding day itself. This wedding could easily cost more than one billion... A few minutes later, citizens from more than 100 cities in the whole Central Region were also completely dazzled by the news. Indeed, it was a huge project... Later, all the about-to-wed couples in the Central Region, including Oplen, began to sign up with great enthusiasm. They wished to be sponsored one million and hold a grand wedding along with the mysterious president. Which unmarried woman could resist such a temptation? Therefore, the event instantly became a sensation...

At the same time, members of the Mooney family, who were still talking in the hotel room, saw this piece of news. Lily immediately screamed, “My lord, isn’t this a tad too much? A wedding worth billions?” Then, Lily turned her gaze to Paige. “Haha, Paige. Didn’t your so-called husband say that he would hold a grand wedding for you earlier? Perhaps it’s the same as this one that’s worth billions. How wealth of Joseph, haha...” Paige’s body trembled. She was no fool, so she naturally knew that Lily was mocking her. Earlier, Joseph was talking big in front of her family, yet a mysterious

rich man suddenly decided to hold a magnificent wedding in Oplen next month. At the thought of it, she wanted to find a place to hide her embarrassment. As for the mysterious rich man, could it be Joseph? No way. She would never believe such a thing. Five years ago when she first met Joseph, he was dirt poor, so much so that she was the one who bought him a mobile phone. In five years, there was no way for him to make billions... Deep down, Paige wished that she was wrong this time. If Joseph were here, he would definitely confront Lily, “That’s right, I’m the one who planned this wedding! Do you have any problem with that?” Unfortunately, he was not there at the time. “Enough! Don’t you think it’s embarrassing enough? Lily, you should keep your mouth shut as well. Paige is your cousin, so can you treat her like family?” Leonard

was angry. What happened to Paige in the past made him ashamed. “Dad, I apologize on Paige’s behalf. No matter what, she is a member of our family,

so can you please let her return to the company? It’s not easy for her to raise a child now...” Yahir felt sorry for his daughter. Although he was furious, one could not change the past. What else could he do? As soon as he finished speaking, Tommy said scornfully, “Hehe, Yahir. There is no open position in the company now. Furthermore, there are also many other companies in Oplen. Why does she have to come back? Lily should be more than enough for the job, right?” At this time, Estella could no longer sit idle. Suddenly standing up, she retorted, “Don’t

cross the line, Tommy! Dominic hasn't even said a word yet, so why are you stopping Paige from coming back? Indeed, she made a mistake, but Yahir was right. Regardless of what happened in the past, she is a member of the Mooney family. Fine, Lily has power and influence in the company, but why is Paige not allowed to return? You might as well snatch all Yahir's shares away." "Estella, what do you mean by that? Why didn't you bring up the number of projects I've secured over these years?" Lily felt offended. "Enough, both of you! Will you only be satisfied if Leonard suffers a stroke? Is this something to fight over? If Max hadn't gone to the military, would you have a chance to fight for a position in the company?" Leonard's eldest son, Dominic Mooney, who had not spoken all this while, uttered. As soon as he spoke, the room completely quieted down. Indeed, amongst the third generation of the Mooneys, neither Paige nor Lily was the most powerful figure. Instead, it was Maxton Mooney, who served as a lieutenant commander in the military. Leonard often cared more about Dominic's and Maxton's opinions. After all, the future of the family's business still relied on Maxton. Money was not sufficient to thrive in this society. One would also need power and influence. Otherwise, no matter how wealthy one was, success was not guaranteed. Seeing that no one was talking, Dominic looked at Paige, who was in the middle of the room. "Paige, you are one of us, so it makes sense for you to return. In fact, it's also possible for you to take on some important positions in the company. Since you have brought shame to our family, you should also contribute. Why not test it out? By the end of your probation period, you will officially become a formal member of the company. What do you think?" Glancing at Yahir, Dominic then asked, "Yahir, what do you think?" Yahir nodded, while Paige bowed her head and tacitly approved. Then, Leonard took a deep breath and said, "Well, other companies have a probation period of at least two months, some even lasting up to more than half a year. In our case, we shall not fix a duration. Paige, I will list down three conditions. Once you fulfill them, you shall pass the probation period regardless of the duration. Firstly, the Porter family in Guplyae owes us two million. Since we have failed to collect this

debt for the past three years, you should get this settled. Secondly, our company now has a batch of new products, so you are required to expand three new sales channels. Thirdly, we've had some projects that have been difficult to be closed. You may choose one of them for further negotiation." After Leonard finished speaking, Yahir suddenly had a change of expression. He quickly said, "Dad; aren't these three conditions too difficult?" Tommy responded, "Yahir, didn't Estella always talk bad about Lily? But didn't Lily satisfy such requirements when she first joined the company as well? Paige is only a couple of months younger than Lily, right? She also graduated from a famous university, didn't she?" "Tommy! How can you compare them? How long did Paige work in the industry after graduating from college? It did not even last a full year! How can she fulfill these three conditions?" Yahir said anxiously. At this time, Paige looked up at her father. Although Yahir was angry with her, he still felt sorry for her. Similarly, Estella felt the same way. After taking a deep breath, Paige said to Yahir, "Dad, it's okay. I'll agree to the conditions. I am responsible for my actions. I will try my best to do what Grandpa said..." Glaring at Paige, Yahir said with a darkened expression, "You know nothing! If those three conditions were so easy to satisfy, they would have been completed long ago! Alas..." Leonard leaned forward as he shifted his gaze from Yahir to Paige. "Paige, your father is right. These three conditions are difficult to meet. Well, you are my granddaughter. If you complete at least one of the three, I will transfer you to a formal position. If you complete two, you will be promoted to a supervisor. If you meet all three conditions, you will be a manager." After saying that, Leonard looked at Yahir. "Alright. Paige is

my granddaughter, after all. Now that I've lowered my requirements, do you have any objection?" Yahir was silent. After a long while, he shook his head. "I... I have no objections." Glancing at Yahir again, Leonard warned, "Don't you help Paige with these three conditions. Forget it. If you can help, go ahead. That's all for today. I'll leave now. As for Joseph, you can deal with it yourself. I only have one condition: don't make the Mooneys a laughing stock in Oplen ever again!" After Leonard finished speaking, he sighed before getting up and leave. Dominic and Tommy also followed suit. However, when Lily passed by Paige, she paused for a moment and said sarcastically, "Paige, if you can't meet the requirements, you can ask me for help. However, I can only help you with the second condition. I can't help you with anything else." "Hehe..." Lily walked away with a smile.

"Hmph. What are you talking about? Look at how arrogant she is. She is exactly the same as her father. She's only arrogant because of her fiancé, Rory. If it weren't for his help, she wouldn't have landed a good project." After Lily left, Estella spat. Yahir's face darkened. He said to Estella, "Paige has just come back not long ago. Don't spout too much nonsense." Infuriated, Estella continued, "Get out of here! Do you not let me speak anymore? I should have stayed in Usmit City and not be bullied by you here! You have been a coward for your whole life. Now, even our daughter is bullied by others in the family!" Estella added after a pause, "Hmph. Even Lily relies on her fiancé Rory for business purposes. At least she has someone to rely on. Who do we have? You're unreliable, Yahir. Should we rely on that poor soldier instead? A woman must marry a good man. I think it's best for Paige to get married to her college classmate Brooks the day after tomorrow. No matter what, he's an executive in Gempoint Group." Hearing this, Paige trembled fiercely. With tears in her eyes, she clenched her fists. "Mom! Don't say such things anymore. I don't need any help! If I can do it, I will do it; if I can't, I won't regret it!" As Paige said this, her tears flowed down... In fact, Paige was reluctant to return to the family's company, but she did not want to disappoint her father either... With a change in expression, Estella stopped talking... Meanwhile, Paige's heart was filled with determination. She muttered to herself, "I don't need to depend on anyone's help..."

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Back to an hour ago, after Joseph made a call to Alpha 1 downstairs in the hotel, he went to find Chloe. Although he had looked around the ground floor, he didn't see her. As he didn't know where Serena brought her, he started to search the other places nearby. After searching for a while, he spotted Serena and Chloe at the entrance of a small supermarket behind the hotel. Serena bought ice cream for Chloe. Chloe ate it gleefully, and it seemed like Serena was very fond of her. Upon seeing this, Joseph walked to them. "Serena..." Joseph smiled and called Serena. Serena nodded to Joseph and said, "Hey, Mr. Brother-in-law, don't take my parents' words too seriously. They said those for Paige's good. After knowing that Paige raised Chloe outside of town for the past few years, they got worried. But regardless of Paige or my parents, they have always been stubborn..." With a

nod, Joseph responded, "Well, I didn't take it to heart. It's indeed my responsibility. If I didn't come back late, Paige and Chloe wouldn't have suffered so much. Now that I'm back, I won't leave anymore, and I will take responsibility for

everything. So, don't worry and please help me talk to your parents. If they're willing to give me a little more time, I will prove it to them... I won't let Paige suffer again..." Hearing that, Serena took a deep breath and nodded. "Sure, I believe in you." Stunned, Joseph looked at Serena doubtfully and asked, "You believe in me?" Serena nodded. "Of course. I can tell that you like Paige and Chloe, and you are serious about them. So, I think money, career or whatever aren't important. What matters the most is a man's sincerity. My sister is not so material either. If you are

good to her, she will be happy enough..." When Joseph heard this, he was surprised. After responding with a nod, he fell silent as he engraved her words in his heart. "Dad, have some ice cream. Aunt Serena bought this for me. Try some. It's yummy..." Chloe handed the ice cream to Joseph. With that, Joseph carried Chloe and took a bite while smiling, "Mm, it's sweet, but daddy's stomach is a little upset. You can have it..." Upon hearing that, Chloe nodded and started to eat carefully. She rarely had ice cream, so she ate very slowly.. Just when Joseph wanted to talk to Chloe, a woman who dressed very fashionably approached Serena. She glanced at Serena and insulted, "Hey, Serena. It seems like

you are still in the mood to have fun here. You're graduating next month. Have you received your internship offer letter from Mysticorps Group?" At once, Serena's face turned dark. "What does that have to do with you, Aubrielle? Mind your own business," she retorted unhappily. With an arrogant tone, the girl named Aubrielle Craig ridiculed, "Well, well, Serena... Let's see how long you can keep up with your arrogance. Do you think you can get a position after offending Victor? Dream on. Aww, someone can't take up a job. I am so glad. Anyway, they have issued my offer letter. I guess you will have to wait for another month to hunt for a job. Pfft..." "Aubrielle!" Serena's expression instantly changed before she snapped at Aubrielle. Even so, Aubrielle ignored her and walked away. "What's wrong? Do you want to join Mysticorps Group?" Joseph asked Serena. "What the hell! Do you think I don't know how you hooked up with Victor? Shame on you! I don't even want to work in such a company..." Serena rebuked while clenching her fists. Then, she looked at Joseph before taking a deep breath and calming herself down. "I'm fine. That woman is my college classmate, Aubrielle Craig. She's always been at odds with me. Always causing trouble for me when we were interns at Mysticorps Group last year. She also hooked up with the supervisor who is in charge of the interns. Alas, I guess there won't be a chance for me to work at Mysticorps Group. This woman just never gets tired of showing off... Mr. Brother

in-law, do you think this is how all the companies in society work? Is it necessary to build up those interpersonal relationships?" Seeing that Serena looked dispirited, Joseph chuckled, "Well, I've also heard of Mysticorps Group—the second-largest company in Oplen, and it's comparable with Gempoint Group—it has a good reputation. As for people like Victor and Aubrielle, they are usually only a few of them in big companies like these..." Even after hearing that, Serena nodded with some disappointment. "Well, I get it, but it's pointless. I have no power and influence, so there's no way I can beat them. Seeing how Aubrielle

came to brag just now, I know I won't pass for sure. I prefer Mysticorps Group over Gempoint Group, but too bad, I won't have a chance anymore..." With a smile, Joseph comforted, "Don't be discouraged. Nothing is impossible. Who knows? You might receive an offer letter soon.." Upon listening to what he said, Serena smiled indifferently, "Well, it doesn't matter anymore. Why don't you play with Chloe first? I will go and catch up with their discussion. Lily has been targeting my sister since they were young. I should go up and have a look..." Joseph nodded. "Okay, sure."

After Serena left, Joseph took out his mobile phone and sent a message to Alpha 1, "My sister-in-law, Serena Mooney, was an intern in Mysticorps Group. Her supervisor, with the surname Hill, shows favoritism toward a female college student named Aubrielle Craig. Please ask Ernie to handle this.." Once he sent the message, Chloe asked curiously, "Dad, what are you doing?" With a smile, Joseph answered, "I am sending a message to Uncle Alpha 1. Do you like Uncle Alpha 1?" Cheerfully, Chloe nodded. "Yes, I like Uncle Alpha 1. Uncle Alpha 1 likes me too. Can you ask him to play with me someday?" Joseph nodded smilingly, "Of course. I'll ask him to play with you tomorrow..." Hearing that, Chloe responded with a happy nod. Then, Joseph took her to a park at a distance to play. Meanwhile, Alpha 1—who was having a meeting with Ernie and Dennis in the headquarters of Gempoint Group—received Joseph's message. After glancing at it, he handed his mobile phone to Ernie. The moment Ernie read it, his expression changed dramatically! "What? My subordinates bullied the sister-in-law of the leader of Dragon Temple? Good gracious!" Instantly, Ernie broke out in a cold sweat. As he couldn't bother much about the meeting anymore, he rushed to one of his executives and shouted, "Is there an employee named Victor Hill who is in charge of interns?" When the executive saw Ernie, his expression also changed, and he quickly nodded. "Well, yes, Mr. Green. What happened? Is there something wrong with him?" With a pale face, Ernie roared, "Ask him to get the hell out of here! Now! The same goes for his subordinate, Aubrielle! Also, there is a woman named Serena Mooney. Call her and tell her that she is accepted, and she will have special privileges!!! Quick, quick! I will give you ten minutes. If you can't do it by then, you'd better scram!" After hearing this, the executive was scared silly and hurriedly rushed out of the office. While running, he dialed Victor's number and swore, "F*ck you, Victor Hill! You are fired! Get out of here! By the way, ask Aubrielle Craig to scram too! Otherwise, you'd better watch out!" Then, he hung up the phone and logged into the company's system. Once he found Serena's phone number, he called her. "Hello? Is this Serena Mooney?" At that moment, he was panting intensely. Although he was anxious, he tried to speak in his most respectful tone, "Hi, I am the administrative director of Mysticorps Group, Luis Simpson. Recently, our company's corporate affairs were reorganized, and I have expelled Victor Hill, who was in charge of the interns, due to showing favoritism. Then, I realized that he disqualified you and hired an incompetent student like Aubrielle. So, I call you personally to offer my sincere

apology, and I hope you won't take it to heart. Our company welcomes excellent students like you to join us. Also, you can come to work at any time, even if your graduate certificate is not issued. In addition, as your performance in the internship was excellent, your monthly salary will be doubled. If there is no problem, I will immediately send you the contract of employment..." On the other side; Serena—who had returned to Paige's hotel room—was puzzled. In a daze, she hung up the phone and looked at the offer letter received personally from Mysticorps Group's administrative director. At that moment, the Mooneys had left, leaving Estella, who was scowling at Serena. "Serena, what are you

doing? Don't look at your phone all the time! It's Paige's business that matters the most now! I believe you have talked to Joseph downstairs. So tell me, what do you think of him?" Hearing this, Serena raised her head, and her gaze looked strange because Joseph told her that she might receive an offer letter soon. Now, that happened. Besides, the administrative director who just called her sounded very anxious and scared. Did all of this had something to do with Joseph, who suddenly appeared? The next moment, she was stunned by the sudden thought in her mind. That wouldn't be possible, right? She was not sure. However, the more she thought, the more she felt that it had something to do with him, despite having no evidence. "Serena! Your mom is talking to you! What do you think of him?" Seeing that Serena did not respond, Yahir asked. "Pooh! What else can a poor soldier do? Even if he is a good man, is he rich enough to support Paige and the child?" Estella said scornfully as it never crossed her mind that Serena would say anything good. However, the next moment, Serena's words made everyone look up in surprise. "Dad, Mom, I can tell that he is a nice man, and I think he can give Paige happiness. I have no evidence for now, but I have a feeling about this..." When Serena finished, she looked at Paige—who was looking at her doubtfully and added, "Paige, I think he is a pretty decent man. You will be happy with him..." Upon hearing her words, Yahir and Estella were shocked. They didn't expect that she would have such a high opinion of Joseph. At that moment, Serena was feeling more and more doubtful. "Is there such a coincidence? Is Joseph really the one who helped me?" Especially when she recalled Joseph's confident gaze while he was talking to her downstairs, she became more dubious...

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Another hour later, Paige called Joseph and told him to bring Chloe upstairs. When Joseph and Chloe got upstairs, Estella and Yahir had left, leaving only Paige and her sister, Serena. O "Joseph..." Serena gazed at Joseph meaningfully while suppressing the doubts in her mind. After all, Paige's affairs mattered the most now. Before that, she had heard from Estella about the conditions to return to the family given by Leonard. She thought it was very challenging, and she did not know if Paige could accomplish it. Then, she took Chloe from Joseph's arms. On the other hand, Paige seemed concerned. Deep down, she thought that the military had recently expelled Joseph, and he was jobless now. Even if he started to search for a job, it would be impossible to find one in just one or two days. Perhaps, it would even end up taking a month. During this period, their family of three would have to rely on her for expenses and house rent. In addition, as Estella did not wish to see Joseph, she did not allow Paige to move back home. Seeing that Paige was gloomy, Joseph asked carefully, "Paige, what's wrong? Do you mind sharing?"

To that, Paige shook her head and took a deep breath. After smiling at him and Chloe, she said, "I need to go out and take care of some matters, and I might be returning late. Joseph, take Chloe with you and find a cheaper house nearby. We should rent one and settle there for now. We can't be staying in the hotel all the

time..." Once she finished, she told Serena, "If you are free these days, can you help me to take care of Chloe? Her father needs to go out and find a job too. Thank you..." Instantaneously, Serena waved her hands. "Sure. Please leave this to me. We are sisters, after all. I am free these days. So, you can go ahead with your work, while Joseph can also find a job. I will take care of Chloe..." Hearing Serena's assuring words, Paige nodded before she kissed Chloe and said, "Chloe, I have some matters to take care of outside. Can you play with Dad and Aunt Serena today?" Sensibly, Chloe nodded, kissed Paige's face, and promised, "Okay. Don't worry, Mommy. I will be a good girl and stay with them..." Upon hearing this, Paige glanced at Joseph. Without uttering a word, she got up and walked out of the door, looking a little tired. After she left, Joseph frowned. He felt that she must have hidden something from him. Thus, he looked at Serena doubtfully and asked, "Is Paige okay?"

With a complicated expression, Serena sighed and shook her head. "My father wants her to return to our family's company. After all, both of you are now back, and it will be more convenient for her to work there. But my grandfather gave her three conditions. He didn't ask her to complete all of them, though. Just one is enough. It's just... it's just that those three conditions are too challenging." Joseph continued to ask calmly, "What exactly are those? Can you tell me?" Being asked, Serena went on to say, "Firstly, she will have to collect two million dollars debt from the Porter family in Guplyae. Secondly, she is required to expand three new sales channels. And lastly, she has to take down one of the problems that our family finds difficult to solve. None of them are possible to achieve. I think they are just making things difficult for her..." Just then, Chloe, who was in Serena's arms, also quickly interrupted, "Dad, Mom is in trouble. You have to help her. I hate to see her suffer..." When Serena heard Chloe's words, her eyes lit up, and she stared at Joseph intensely. However, Joseph nodded with a smile and apologized, "I'm sorry, Chloe. I just came back, and I don't know anyone here, so I'm afraid I can't help. But you have to believe in your mom. You know she can do it, right?" For a moment, Chloe tilted her small head and pondered before she finally gave a cute nod. "Of course. I believe in Mom. She is powerful, and I know she can do it. When the time comes, Grandpa and Great Grandpa will finally accept us..." Upon hearing that, Joseph nodded. Then, he checked out the room with Serena and took Chloe to find a house outside. As Serena grew up in Oplen, she was well familiar with the city. At three o'clock in the afternoon, through the introduction of her classmate, she found a house with two rooms for Joseph and Paige. Since it was not located in the heart of the city, the rent was quite affordable. Besides, she and the owner knew each other well, so the rent was only 1,500 dollars a month. Without hesitation, Joseph paid the rent. Later, under the lead of Serena, the three bought a lot of daily necessities. As for the rooms, Serena took one while Joseph, Paige, and Chloe shared the other. At six o'clock in the evening, Joseph had finished cooking, but Paige hadn't returned home. After he called her, he had dinner with Serena and Chloe. Later, when it was eight o'clock in the evening, Paige finally came back. However, there was a faint palm print on her right cheek, which was slightly swollen. Moreover, her eyes were red and swollen. It seemed like she had cried once again. Seeing this, Joseph narrowed his eyes, and subconsciously, a killing intent rose in his heart. Nevertheless, no matter how he asked, Paige kept insisting that she was fine and was just a little tired before going back to her room to sleep. After cleaning up the kitchen, he was about to call Alpha 1 and ask him to investigate when Serena came out of Paige's room.

"Serena, what happened to your sister? Did she tell you anything?" Joseph asked Serena. With hatred, Serena gritted her teeth and fumed, "This afternoon, she went to the Porter family's company in Guplyae to ask for the two million dollars. But instead of the Porters, she only met their manager. Then, when I realized her face was a little swollen, I asked her repeatedly, and she finally told me that a manager named Isa Murray slapped her and drove her out..." Once she finished, she glanced at Joseph and sighed, "Well, don't think too much. The Porters have owed us for almost eight years, and they will never pay us back. I think I should persuade Paige to give up..." With that, she went back into the room and continued to persuade Paige. After the room door was closed, Joseph slowly turned his head to look at Paige's room. Once again, the killing intent in his body rose. Originally, he planned to let Alpha 1 solve the Mooney family's issues swiftly. Nonetheless, it did not occur to him that Paige would be so anxious that she went there today. "You're so dead, Porters!" he cursed inwardly. At that time, he had the urge to go to Guplyae right away, but Paige and the others were still awake. If he chose to leave now, he wouldn't be able to explain himself. Thus, he sent a message to Alpha 1 instead. Hour by hour, the time slowly passed, and soon, it was midnight. Paige and Chloe were sleeping soundly. Just then, Joseph-who was lying on a bed on the other side

-opened his eyes. The next moment, he got up cautiously, opened the door slowly, went downstairs, and walked into the darkness in the distance. While he was walking down the stairs, his rage could no longer be concealed. Since Isa dared to bully his wife, there was no way he would spare Isa's life. But what he didn't know was that just as he got downstairs and walked to the distance, Serena's bedroom's window curtain was slightly pulled open, and her eyes emerged behind the small gap...

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In the headquarters of the Porter family's company in Guplyae, the boss and the head of the Porter family-Reuben Porter-was kneeling in his office with his head down, looking Ashen. Not only did he not dare to utter a word, but he was also afraid to look up at the person in front of him. That was because he had encountered an unforgettable scene that made him unshrink two hours ago. Two hours ago, he was playing games with his long-legged, gorgeous secretary in his office. Suddenly, he received a phone call from the leader of the underground forces in Oplen-Ernie Green. As his fear spike, he quickly answered the call only to hear Ernie warn, "Reuben, you're so dead. If you want to live, stay in the company or try to run if you dare..." At once, Reuben was a bundle of nerves, and he directly drove the beautiful secretary out. Shaking like a leaf, he called Ernie, but Ernie didn't answer. No matter how powerful Reuben was, he was just a boss of a small company, which was no match for Ernie. Hence, he didn't dare to flee because if he did, he would get himself killed. Trying to escape from Ernie's territory? Not a chance... As expected, when Reuben recollected himself and looked downstairs, several hooligans had arrived. At once, his heart sank. However, the most despairing part was that he had no idea what he had done at

all! He seemed dumbfounded, and even though he racked his brain, he still didn't know who he had offended. Soon, more than ten minutes later, Ernie came with more than a hundred people. When they arrived, they surrounded Reuben's company. Reuben was a cruel man who would oppress his employees. Therefore, despite the late hours, there were still a group of employees working overtime. And obviously, those people also wouldn't have a chance to leave tonight. The moment Ernie entered the company, he went directly to Reuben's office. At the sight of him, Reuben fearfully knelt. Actually, Reuben had only heard of Ernie through the underworld. He had never seen Ernie before. Even so, he was afraid of Ernie because, throughout these years, he had heard about the tragic fate of countless people who went against Ernie. Hence, he knelt without hesitation. "Mr. Green, I ... I have no idea what I've done. Please, tell me. No matter what, I will accept your punishment willingly. Please spare my life..." Terrified, Reuben begged for mercy. On the other hand, Ernie walked up to Reuben and looked at him coldly. Then, he insinuated, "You're so dead. If you offended me, you might still have a chance to

live. But the worst part is, you don't even know who you have offended!" Upon hearing that, Reuben realized that he didn't offend Ernie. As for Ernie's last few words, he automatically ignored them and muttered, "Thank god I didn't offend you. You scared me." Ernie stared at Reuben weirdly. After a long while, he spoke, "Are you an idiot? Didn't you hear my last words? Well, I'll repeat. You've offended someone that even I can't afford to offend. Get it?" Oh, sh*t! This time, Reuben finally understood, and his face instantly turned pale. He looked at Ernie and asked, "What? Some... someone even you can't afford to offend?" With a nod, Ernie stood up. "Bingo. But somehow, he was not referring to you. I guess your subordinate is the one who made a grave mistake. Otherwise, he would have killed you by now.." Ernie analyzed while frowning. Because this morning, he had also encountered the same situation. He got on that person's nerves because of his subordinate's mistakes... When Reuben heard this, his body trembled. After a while, he profusely kowtowed to Ernie and pleaded, "Please! Save me! I have no idea what my subordinates have done! Not a clue! Save me!" Frightened, he started to bawl. Finally, Ernie got annoyed and kicked him. "I don't really know what happened either. Let's wait for him to come. You'd better stay alert. Otherwise, you and your family will be done for, get it?" In horror, Reuben nodded. "Got it! Got it.." Then, he knelt respectfully on the ground, waiting for that man. However, there was a detail that further intensified his fear. From the corner of his eyes, he spotted that Ernie didn't dare to sit down since entering. Realizing this, Reuben couldn't help but guess how terrifying that big shot could be. Half an hour later, Alpha 1, who dressed in black, came in. Right away, Ernie pulled a chair for Alpha 1 before Alpha 1 sat down and asked Reuben coldly, "So, you're Reuben Porter?" In an instant, an imposing aura emanated from Alpha 1 and pressured Reuben. With that, Reuben sweated profusely and lowered his head. "Yes, you... You're right, sir..." he answered respectfully. Alpha 1 nodded and asked, "When someone from the Mooneys came here to collect the two million you owed them, what did you do? Be honest, or this will be the last day you live!" When Reuben heard Alpha 1's question, he was puzzled. Immediately, he kowtowed and said, "Sir, I didn't see anyone from the Mooneys today. I didn't! Why don't I pay you back now? I'll pay you back tenfold. Tenfold!"

After Alpha 1 waved his hand to stop Reuben from continuing, he leaned forward, and the cold aura on his body intensified. "I'm not interested in what happened back then, but the Mooneys did send someone today. Are you feigning ignorance?" Fearfully, Reuben shook his head. "I swear that I really don't

know. I swear! Wait... can I ask my secretary?" For a while, Alpha 1 considered before he nodded. Then, Reuben called in his beautiful secretary while kneeling. When the secretary saw Reuben kneeling, she was also scared out of her wits. However, before she could respond, Reuben asked, "Did anyone from the Mooneys come to ask for money today? Think carefully! Hurry, hurry! Tell me now!" Reuben almost cried upon finishing his words... Anxiously, the secretary replied, "Some... someone from the Mooneys did come, and it was a woman, but Isa Murray from the sales department chased her out. I also heard that he slapped her... This... This is all I know..." "F*cking Isa! Where is he now? Is he still in the company?" At this moment, Reuben was purple with rage. Thanks to this subordinate, he almost lost his life. "He... He left. I... I don't know where he is..." The secretary was so frightened that she collapsed to the ground. Before Reuben could say anything, Alpha 1 waved his hand to stop him and ordered Ernie, "Go catch him. I'll give you half an hour. If I don't see him by then, you shall bear the consequences!" Right away, Ernie rushed outside and shouted at his men, "Tell everyone to catch Isa Murray! That guy from the sales department! Bring him here! Now!" Ernie was quite efficient. In just ten minutes or so, they caught a middle-aged man with ear studs on one of his ears. Needless to say, that man was Isa. At this time, Isa was already quaking in his boots. When he was in a barbecue restaurant near the company, hundreds of people suddenly encircled him and took him away. On the road, he heard that Ernie Green was the one who wanted to catch him! "Mr. Green, I... I am Isa Murray... but what... what have I done?" As soon as Isa entered the office, he begged for mercy. "Break his legs..." Alpha 1 instructed faintly. The next moment, Ernie's men directly broke Isa's leg, followed by Isa's miserable howl. Just as Alpha 1 was about to continue speaking, Joseph called him. After a short phone conversation, Alpha 1 got up from his seat and stood aside like Ernie. Seeing Alpha 1 stand up, Ernie asked, "Mr. King, is... is that lord coming?" Alpha 1 nodded and replied, "Yup, he will be here soon..." Instantaneously, Ernie—the second big shot of Oplen—knelt on the ground. Even though he dared to stand in the presence of Alpha 1, he had no guts to do so in front of the legendary lord of the Dragon Temple.

As Ernie knelt, Isa and Reuben were shocked to the extreme. Only people like them who lived in Oplen truly understood how terrifying Ernie was. But now, Ernie was kneeling! Kneeling!!! Just then, Joseph came in, dressed in black and full of rage. Even Ernie's men at the door collapsed directly to the ground due to his overpowering dignity. With killing intent, Joseph sat on the chair and stared at the two men on the ground. Ernie frowned and looked at Alpha 1, while Alpha 1 pointed to Isa and said, "Mr. Dawson, this is Isa, the man who slapped Miss Mooney. I am preparing to snap his arms..." To that, Joseph nodded and glowered at Isa. "So, you're the one who slapped my wife? Hmm?" Panicked, Isa kept kowtowing and begging for mercy, "My lord, I... I have no idea she is your wife! I really don't know! Wait! It's Reuben! He is the one who ordered me to do this. Whenever the Mooneys asked for money, he would ask me to throw them out. Sir, please spare my life! Please..." Hearing Isa's words, Reuben was scared silly. What a joke! How would he dare to provoke a person that could make Ernie kneel to his name? As Reuben didn't dare to let Isa go on, he hurriedly snapped, "F*ck you! Don't frame me! I have no idea at all!" After that, he quickly begged for Joseph's mercy, "Please find out the truth, my lord. I really don't know anything. I swear..." "Bam!" Before Reuben could finish his words, a loud noise came from his side. Joseph blasted Isa with his palm through the air, causing Isa's body to explode. Blood splashed on Reuben's face, and he peed out of fear.

Then, Joseph leaned forward and asked him, "So... you are Reuben Porter?"

