

# The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

## Chapter 31

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"My... my lord, please spare my life... I will never do it again. I will also apologize to Miss Mooney and repay the debt. No matter tenfold or hundredfold, I will pay..." Reuben was still trying to plead for the last time. Giving Reuben a deep stare, Joseph uttered, "You should be glad that I don't want to expose my identity in front of my wife! So, break your arm, keep your promise, and apologize to my wife tomorrow. But you are not allowed to disclose anything about tonight. As for the debts, pay according to the bank's interest, understand?" Upon hearing this, Reuben was overjoyed and kowtowed profusely. "Yes, I got it! Thank you for sparing my life! Thank you..." After kowtowing for a while, he picked up a steel pipe from the ground and smashed his left arm. At once, his left arm got fractured, but he did not cry out. It was not because he didn't want to, but he dared not. As for the secretary beside him, she had fainted from fright when Isa was blasted to death. Even if she woke up later on, she most probably wouldn't dare to tell anyone about tonight's incident. Not only her, even Ernie-the top figure who had landed a foothold in Oplen-was shaking like a leaf. Kneeling on the ground, he didn't dare to look up at Joseph. With a nod, Joseph stood up and looked at Ernie, who was kneeling beside Alpha 1. "Who is he?" Joseph asked Alpha 1 while pointing at Ernie. Before Alpha 1 could speak, Ernie replied respectfully, "Sir, I am Ernie Green..." "Oh. So, you are Ernie. You did a good job this morning. Get up. You are one of us, after all. Do your best and help Alpha 1. If you do well, I will give you a chance to join us..." Joseph nodded upon hearing Ernie's words. Instantaneously, Ernie was over the moon, and his eyes glimmered. Then, he quickly got up and bowed his head. "Thank you, sir. If you have any orders here in the future, I will be at your service!" Hearing this, Joseph paused for a while before he spoke, "Well, actually, there is something I need you to do. At first, I thought of asking Alpha 1 to inform you and Dennis. But since you are here, the task is yours. Here's the thing. The Mooneys gave my wife three tests. We have completed the first one tonight. And the second one is they want my wife to create three new sales channels for them. Settle this. The sooner, the better. But one thing, don't reveal my identity!" Right away, Ernie nodded respectfully and assured, "Noted, sir. Please be rest assured. I'll make it happen overnight!" "Great..." Joseph nodded.

After that, Joseph looked at Alpha 1 and thanked, "Alpha 1, thank you for your hard work..." Alpha 1 chuckled, "Don't be. My life is yours, and I'm willing to follow you all my life. Even if I have to die, I'll never regret it." Hearing what Alpha 1 said, Joseph heavily patted his shoulder. "Cool! Please wrap things up here. I can't be out for too long. Oh, by the way, Chloe said that she wants you to play with her. If you're free tomorrow, come to my house. I'll send you the address later..." Once Alpha 1 responded with a nod, Joseph left because he couldn't be out for too long and expose his true identity easily. If the world knew that the leader of Dragon Temple was here, there wouldn't be any peace in the entire city... It felt like a long time, but in fact, it only took an hour for Joseph to come and leave. After he reached home, Paige and Chloe were still sleeping, so he didn't think much and went to sleep. However, he had no idea the moment he

entered the house, Serena—who was sleeping in another room—opened her eyes again. She glanced at the time on her mobile phone and got lost in thought.

The next morning, when everyone finished their meal, Paige wanted to find Reuben again. She was filled with determination. No matter what, she wouldn't let her family look down on her again. If she couldn't even let her family accept her, let alone Joseph. So regardless of anything, she must get the money back from the Porter family! This time, Serena insisted on going with Paige, to which Paige did not object. With that, Joseph took Chloe and followed them down to see them off. When they reached downstairs, Alpha 1 just came. "Hi, Mrs. Dawson..." After saying hello to Paige, Alpha 1 carried Chloe and bubbled, "Hi, Chloe. Uncle Alpha 1 is here to see you. Look, I've brought you a toy. Do you like it?" He handed a pink bubble machine to Chloe. Once he pressed the button on it, colorful bubbles appeared, which was very beautiful in the sun. At a glance, Chloe liked it, but she did not dare to accept it. Instead, she looked at Paige. Seeing that Chloe liked it so much, Paige smiled and nodded. "Aren't you gonna thank Uncle Alpha 1?" Only then, Chloe hugged the bubble machine and beamed sweetly at Alpha 1, "Thank you, Uncle Alpha 1..." Joseph also assured Paige and Serena, "Both of you may go ahead. Alpha 1 and I will take Chloe to the park to play for a while. Don't worry. I will take good care of her..." Waving her little fist at Paige, Chloe cheered, "Go for it, Mommy! Go for it!" Seeing this, Paige smiled and nodded to Joseph before leaving with Serena. However, when Serena was leaving, she secretly glanced at Joseph and Alpha 1 especially Alpha 1—and kept Alpha 1's appearance in her mind. That was because when she privately asked Chloe who Joseph contacted after she went upstairs to find Paige yesterday, Chloe told her it was Alpha 1. More than ten minutes later, on the bus, Paige asked, "Serena, are you okay? Why did you keep peeking at Alpha 1?" For a moment, Serena was shocked before she responded with a smile, "Nothing. I'm just curious. By the way, it's not nine o'clock yet. Are we going to the Porter family's company now?" When Paige heard this question, her face darkened. She bit her lip, took a deep breath, and replied, "Yes, let's go there now. Before I could see Reuben yesterday, his subordinate kicked me out. So today, I'll block him at the entrance of his company! We shall see who wins..." As she spoke, her cell phone suddenly rang. At first, she didn't want to answer the call because it was from an unknown number. However, her phone kept ringing, so she picked it up. After listening to what the person from the other side said, she hung up the phone with a strange expression. Seeing that, Serena asked, "What's wrong? Who called you? You look strange..." Puckering her brows, Paige uttered, "Let's get off the next stop. Reuben said he would come to me. I have no idea why he suddenly called me, but anyway, let's meet him first..."

Hearing that, Serena was shocked, and a thought arose in her mind. Nevertheless, she quickly suppressed it and remained silent. When the bus arrived at the bus stop, she got off the bus with Paige. Then, the two of them found a broad place to wait for Reuben's arrival.

Ten minutes later, Reuben came in a black Mercedes. He got out of the car, took a folder, and ran to Paige with sweat all over his face. Paige didn't know what was his motive, coming in person. Even so, she greeted him in a good manner, "Mr. Porter, you don't have to come here in person. I was going to see you. Why did you bother troubling yourself?" Hearing Paige's words, Reuben instantly broke out in cold sweat. He was thankful that he came here in person, or else he would be disabled again. Paige must be clueless about the kind of person Joseph was... At this moment, he almost cried. However, he quickly smiled and answered with

great respect, “No trouble at all, Miss Mooney. I was in the wrong for holding back the debt throughout these years. I was on a business trip yesterday, and I heard that my subordinate hit you, which made me feel bad. I have transferred 2 million to your company’s account with extra 340,000 dollars as interest. Not only that, but I would also like to take the chance to apologize in person. I am sorry about what happened yesterday. Very, very sorry...” Stunned, Paige asked, “Are... are you saying that you have just transferred the money?” Immediately, Reuben showed her the screenshot of the bank transfer slip on his phone and explained, “Here. This is the bank transfer slip. All you need to do is to inform your company’s financial department. Oh, by the way, to express my sincere apology, I have brought a new agreement. From today onward, our family would like to have long-term cooperation with your family and purchase all of your products. To prevent previous events from happening again, I will transfer this year’s payments once you sign the contract. What do you think?” As soon as he finished, he took out an agreement and showed it to Paige. Following that, he opened the online bank transfer application on his phone. Once Paige signed the contract, he would transfer the money. Puzzled, Paige went through the contract. It was brief, and nothing seemed unreliable. After reading it, she asked doubtfully, “Mr. Porter... Are you really going to continue cooperating with us and pay the payment in advance?” Without a word, Reuben immediately transferred one million dollars to Aceshine Group’s account. Then, he said, “Look, I’ve transferred all the money. In the past, I was in the wrong, but I promise that our cooperation will not go wrong in the future! So, please sign it quickly...” In a daze, Paige signed the contract. Although the contract was in her hands, and Reuben paid in advance, she still felt surreal. After all, she was being chased yesterday, while today, Reuben came in person, and not only did he repaid the debt, but their cooperation was also continued. When Reuben saw Paige’s signature, he secretly let out a sigh of relief. On the other hand, Serena—who had been staring at him—spotted his subtle expression. “Mr. Porter, do you know my brother-in-law, Joseph Dawson?” Without warning, Serena threw a random question to Reuben. At once, Reuben became alert. Cold sweat rolled down his face, and he blanched. Even so, he frowned and looked at Serena, asking in great confusion, “Joseph Dawson? Your brother-in-law? Who’s that? Does he know me?” Staring at him deeply, Serena felt that he was not lying. With that, she also frowned. “Oh, nothing. By the way, what happened to your arm and head? Why are you bandaged?” Upon hearing Serena’s question, Paige also found that Reuben seemed to be injured.

When Reuben saw the two women looking at him, he quickly sighed and lied with a bitter face, “Don’t mention it. I’m so unlucky. The day before yesterday, I hit the electric pole while driving. By the way, if there’s nothing else, I shall take my leave. I still have some business to take care of...” Seeing Reuben was about to leave, Serena quickly asked, “What about Isa Murray? He slapped my sister yesterday.” “Enough, Serena!” Paige quickly glared at Serena before she said, “Mr. Porter, please don’t take her words seriously. She’s still immature.” Nevertheless, Paige’s words made Reuben tremble with fear. Right away, he waved his hand and responded, “It’s okay. I’ll fire that rat as soon as I get back. Well, I should go. Have a nice day...” The moment he finished speaking, he fled before Paige could speak again. Just now, he almost exposed himself. Compared to Paige, Serena was harder to deal with. After getting in his car and drove away, he breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, he reacted in time... After Reuben left, Paige frowned and reprimanded Serena, “Why are you so impulsive? Do you think he is a good person? If he is, he won’t hold up our company’s money for so many years. You are still very immature. Be careful when you talk in the future...” Staring at Paige

strangely, Serena asked, "Don't you feel odd? You just said that he is not a good person. Why did he suddenly repay his debt and sign another contract with you?" When Paige heard this, she was also rooted to the spot. Furrowing her brows, she uttered, "Well, I think you're right. Something is wrong. I just focused on signing the contract without thinking much. Wait a minute. Based on what you've asked, are you suspecting that Joseph went to find him?" Serena nodded and then shook her head. "I'm not sure because after you fell asleep last night, Joseph went out for an hour. But Reuben's reaction didn't seem fake, so I'm not sure..." Following that, Paige's frown deepened. She looked up in the direction of their rented house and muttered inwardly, "Joseph, did you help me?"

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Meanwhile, in a park next to Joseph's rented house, Joseph and Alpha 1 were playing with Chloe. At that time, Chloe was on cloud nine. Now that her father had returned, she didn't want to leave him even for a second. In fact, she loved to play with him. It was as if she wanted to make up for the father's love she missed from a few years ago. "Daddy! Look at these beautiful bubbles! There are many of them..." She ran happily in front of Joseph and Alpha 1 against the wind, and the bubble machine in her hands kept spraying colorful bubbles. Seeing that Chloe was smiling so happily, Joseph was also delighted. After all, she was his daughter, and he owed her too much. Despite her young age, she had subconsciously taken up an important spot in the heart of Dragon Temple's leader. In other words, whoever dared to provoke Chloe in the future, he or she would be seen as challenging the entire Dragon Temple! "Daddy! Look! The bubbles are flying away! They are flying high! Can you catch them for me?" Chloe looked back to Joseph and chirped as she ran ahead, playing with the bubbles. "Sure, my dear. Continue to run ahead. Uncle Alpha 1 and I will chase the bubbles from the back, okay?" Joseph said to Chloe with a smile. After giving a cute nod, Chloe ran forward with her bubble machine. Looking at the pile of bubbles floating higher and higher behind Chloe, Joseph suggested to Alpha 1, "Why don't we compete? You've been waiting for this. Since Chloe likes this, let's see who catches more bubbles." When Alpha 1 heard that, the corner of his lips curved up, and he nodded. "Sounds great. Who knows? Your speed might lose to mine..." "Well, let's begin then!" Joseph announced. The next moment, both of them started moving. Their bodies were fast beyond imagination, like two gusts of wind, chasing after the bubbles in the air. From time to time, they would even somersault in the air. In short, they were popping the bubbles at full tilt. On the other hand, Chloe was thrilled to see their dashing movements. As for the rest of the parents in the park, they were also astonished. Then, a child who was about Chloe's age exclaimed, "Mommy, mommy! Look! They are so handsome..." Hearing that, Chloe proudly stood beside him and said, "That's my daddy and Uncle Alpha 1..." A minute later, Joseph and Alpha 1 landed on the ground. Smilingly, Joseph looked at Alpha 1, while Alpha 1 spread out his hands with misery and uttered, "Forget it. I still can't defeat you. When did you get so fast?" Without saying anything, Joseph grinned and looked at Chloé. Deep down, he muttered, "Are you kidding me? If I lose to you in front of my daughter, I'll lose

face." Later, Chloe played with the little boy she just met. After making sure that everything was safe, Joseph smoked cigarettes with Alpha 1. "How's the wedding preparation? Is everything going on smoothly?" Joseph asked Alpha 1 as he took a drag on his cigarette. At the same time, he gazed at Chloe that was playing happily in front of him. With a nod, Alpha 1 replied, "Don't worry. Everything is going well. Ernie and Dennis have increased the number of participants to 1314 pairs, which symbolizes lifetime happiness. Also, we have booked the largest church in Oplen. Right now, we are planning to cover the whole city with rose petals on your wedding day. I am sure it will be a magnificent wedding, but I'm afraid there will be an increase in the cost..." Hearing that, Joseph shook his head with a smile. Seconds later, the smile on his face faded, replaced by a sad and sentimental look. "Money is not an issue. I have loads of that, but Paige's youth was gone for good. We never registered our marriage, and yet she brought Chloe up for more than four years. What I owe her is not just a wedding. I owe her my whole life. So, I don't care about anything else. Apart from keeping my identity a secret, you can decide on everything..." Right away, Alpha 1 promised, "Please be rest assured! Miss Mooney is the wife of Dragon Temple's leader. So no matter what, we won't let her suffer. By that time, all of our men will come and congratulate you on your wedding day..." Joseph nodded, put out the cigarette, and suddenly asked, "By the way, how is Hazel in Apren City Hospital? She is a nice girl, and Chloe likes her very much..." Immediately, Alpha 1 replied, "Don't worry. I've paid all her medical expenses, but the Kennedys hurt her too badly. I'm afraid she'll have to recuperate in the hospital for another month or two." Hearing this, Joseph slightly frowned. "Well, after my wedding with Paige, I will pay her a visit with Chloe. Actually, Hazel has also graduated from college this year. Send her to Usmit after this. Aglela is too small.." To that, Alpha 1 nodded. He knew Joseph's personality well. Joseph would definitely repay a favor, and of course, he would never forget to take revenge too! At the same time, Alpha 1 couldn't help but sigh at Hazel's fate. Perhaps, it never crossed her mind about how bright her future would be...

On the other side, after bidding goodbye to Reuben, Paige was about to go to Aceshine Group. Just then, her father, Yahir, called her and asked her to meet. Without having much thought, Paige went there with Serena. At ten o'clock in the morning, Paige and Serena arrived at the place Yahir told them. It was a high-end restaurant in the city center. In the hall, Yahir was having tea with Tommy on a big table. The Earl Grey tea in front of them was of the highest quality, which cost a lot. When Paige went over, Yahir was humbly flattering Tommy. At the sight of her father being so humble, helping her to ask for help from her second uncle-who always bullied and looked down on her family since she was young-she felt uncomfortable. Even so, she suppressed her feelings and went to greet Yahir. With a smile, Yahir nodded. "Come and serve Uncle Tommy some tea. Today, he has done us a great favor by inviting Mr. Bennett of Valkyrie Company. Soon, Mr. Bennett will be here. Also, Uncle Tommy said that this project would be counted as your performance. Aren't you supposed to thank him now?" As Paige listened to Yahir's humble words, she also saw his grey hair, the fatigue between his brows, and his deep dark eye circles. At once, her sadness intensified, and tears welled up in her eyes. However, before she could speak, Tommy waved his hand and hinted, "It's okay. Let Paige do it. I am not helping for free anyway. I can help you to find some business partner, but remember to transfer your shares to me in private..." Hearing this, Paige finally got a grasp of the whole situation. With red eyes, she looked at Yahir. "Dad, did you trade this with your shares?" Smilingly, Yahir waved his hand. "It doesn't matter. Our company won't be listed on the market, so the shares are useless.

Don't worry. Come, pour Uncle Tommy some tea..." While biting her lips, Paige took a deep breath and took out Reuben's contract from her bag. Just when she was about to tell Yahir that she had completed a part of the conditions, a man in a black suit and gold-rimmed glasses came over. After the man approached them, Tommy quickly stood up, walked to him, and smiled respectfully, "Mr. Bennett, you came an hour earlier. I'll call the hotel and ask them to serve the dishes right now..." Yes, the man who suddenly appeared was Otis Bennet from Valkyrie Company. Judging from Tommy's humble attitude, Otis was obviously more powerful than him. However, the next second, Otis urgently asked Tommy, "Talks aside. Where is Miss Paige Mooney?" Upon hearing that sudden question, Tommy was stunned. Somehow, he felt that something was off. Just then, Yahir quickly interrupted and answered, "Mr. Bennett, I am Yahir Mooney, Paige's father, and this person next to you is my daughter, Paige..." After saying that, Yahir quickly winked at Paige and ordered, "Paige! Mr. Bennett is a busy man, and he could hardly find time to see you. Hurry up and serve him some tea now..." Although Paige was a little reluctant, she still took the teapot and teacup and was about to pour Otis a cup of tea. However, the next moment, something shocking happened. Otis—who seemed domineering—threw his briefcase to the ground and quickly grabbed the teapot and teacup. With a pale face, he said in a trembling voice, "No, no, no, Miss Mooney! You don't have to! I still have some business to take care of, and I have also transferred the cooperation fund to your company. All you need to do is to sign... Sign the contract. Yes, the contract. You should sign it now..." After that, he quickly bent down and picked his briefcase. Then, he anxiously took out the contract with sweat dripping from his head. On the contract, there were his signature and his company stamp. Swiftly, he handed it to Paige and stuttered, "Miss Mooney, please... Please go through the contract. If you have no problem with it, you may sign here. This is just a process. Your second uncle has talked to me about this..."

Otis was glad that he got this news in advance. Otherwise, others would take his chance away. He would never forget what Ernie instructed after gathering him and a hundred other men last midnight. When Paige heard Otis mentioned Tommy, she took a deep breath and put the pen down. Then, she bowed her head and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mr. Bennett. I won't be signing this contract because my father traded his shares for this. Instead of making him worry, I would prefer to find a business partner with my ability. Sorry..." After that, Paige bowed deeply to Yahir. "I'm sorry, Dad. I can't let you worry about me anymore. I will work hard by myself." Upon finishing her words, she turned and left. "Paige! What are you doing? Are you acting all mighty after the effort I put in to ask Mr. Bennet out? Who do you think you are? You..." While Tommy was reproaching, Otis suddenly cursed him. "Shut the f\*ck up, Tommy! Who the f\*ck do you think you are then? Who told you that I'm signing with her for your sake? Scold her again if you dare." Otis was furious. The next moment, Otis ran to Paige and gave her the contract with sweat all over his face. "Miss Mooney, please be rest assured. I'm definitely not here for Tommy. Your father doesn't have to trade anything either. I promise. Please sign it..." "Oh.." At this time, Tommy, Yahir, and Serena were shocked by Otis's actions. It was as if Otis rushed here to give Paige this contract and was afraid that she would not sign it. Just when Paige was dumbfounded, dozens of people raced in from the entrance. They were all sweating and rushing toward Paige with contracts and pens...

"Miss Mooney, I am from Ipanema Group. Please sign with us..." "Miss Mooney, Mazecurity Group wants to be your company's strategic partner. Please give us a

chance..." "Miss Mooney, Miss Mooney! Seawares Company sincerely wants to work with you..." "Miss Mooney, Miss Mooney..."

Dozens of people constantly rushed toward Paige, and each of them was eager to let her sign. On the other hand, Yahir, Serena, and Tommy were puzzled by this situation.

"How... how is this possible?" Tommy looked at the scene with a pale face. He knew most of the people who came, and each of them was more influential than him...

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Meanwhile, in Aceshine Group that was a little further away from the city center, another shocking scene that baffled the Mooneys and all the employees happened. This morning, Lily went to work as she normally would. It was the low season, so the internal employees were not so busy. Moreover, the development of the company had long hit the bottleneck. It was not only difficult for them to expand their market, but they also didn't have much cash flow because they didn't manage to collect most of the payments. As a result, it was tough for them to expand their production. As usual, Lily walked to the office hall and brewed some coffee while chatting with the staff. Just then, a fashionably dressed female employee walked up to her and gossiped, "Miss Lily, I heard that your family wants Paige to be back. The words have spread around the company. When will you let her back? Will we get affected once she starts working?" After taking a sip of her coffee, Lily insulted, "Pfft! What makes you think she's coming back? Don't worry, she won't be able to. If she wants to, she will have to meet one of the three conditions. Haha! Even I, the sales director, can't complete these three conditions, let alone that woman." Hearing Lily's words, the female employee became interested and hurriedly asked, "What are the three conditions then? Tell me!" As her voice was quite loud, it immediately caught the attention of several other female employees. At once, eight female employees gathered around Lily-who also enjoyed being in the spotlight. With an arrogant smile, Lily explained, "Well, the first one is to collect two million dollars debt from the Porters, and the second one is to expand three new cooperation channels. Lastly, she will have to solve a problem for the company. As you can see, none of them is easy." Once Lily finished, all the female employees' faces turned sour because these three conditions were too challenging. Spreading out her hands, the female employee who asked the question at the beginning-sighed, "Oh, poor Paige. I guess she won't be able to come back, but I think she is dumb, though. Why didn't she think of getting on your good side? You would've helped her. You're her cousin, after all..." "She's right! I heard that when she was at the company, she always kept a distance from everyone. She's really..." Another female employee mocked contemptuously. They were all subordinates of Lily and were also very clear about Lily's status in the company throughout these years. Therefore, they kept flattering her. Hearing that, Lily chuckled with great enjoyment, "Alright, let's get back to work. Don't worry about Paige. She won't

be coming back for sure.” Just when all the female employees were about to disperse, the accountant from the finance department rushed to Lily. “Miss Lily, we have received the money from the Porters with an extra of 340 thousand dollars. Besides, they have decided to cooperate with us once again and have paid us one million dollars in advance. Is the chairman here? Do you want to inform him or me?” “What? The Porters have settled their debt?” Surprised, Lily stared at the accountant in disbelief, forgetting about her coffee. With a nod, the accountant replied, “Yes, you heard it right. I just called their finance department to confirm, and they said Mr. Porter not only dealt with Miss Paige, but he had also reestablished their partnership with us...” “This is impossible! I’ll go and check!” Instantly, Lily’s face darkened. She couldn’t believe this. After putting down her coffee, she rushed to the finance department to check the accounts. After all, she assumed that Paige couldn’t accomplish this task because she had gone to Reuben before, but he wouldn’t even meet her. So, if she couldn’t do it, there was no way Paige would. However, the moment she saw the money in the company’s bank account, she was completely dumbfounded. Just as she was about to speak, she saw the figures in the bank account began to increase. From time to time, hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars got transferred into the account... “Wh... What is going on?” In shock, Lily pointed at the figures and asked the accountant. Then, the accountant quickly took a look at it and was also confused. Just when the accountant was about to say something, those few female subordinates—who flattered Lily—broke in. Anxiously, they exclaimed, “Miss Lily, dozens of bosses have come. They all have contracts with them, and they said they are here to discuss collaboration. Some of them even said that they have transferred the advance payment...” “Really? You should quickly go and greet them then. Forget it. I’ll go. Quick, quick, quick...” Although Lily didn’t understand the situation, she didn’t put much thought into it. Instead, she was presuming that she was going to be rich today. After signing those contracts, her status in the company would be secured. Besides, the commission and bonus would be hefty. Having this thought, she was over the moon. While heading out, she hurriedly tidied up her clothes, and her smile became more and more brilliant. With that, she ran to the front desk and welcomed the bosses... “Welcome, everyone. Aceshire Group welcomes all of your collaboration. Please come in...” Lily kept smiling and greeted all the bosses. The bosses also rushed in with smiles. As most of them didn’t know Paige and Lily, those bosses in the front row quickly persuaded, “Let’s not talk about anything else.

We have some business to take care of too. Let’s sign the contract first, shall we?” As they spoke, they handed the contracts and pens to Lily. After glancing through the contract, Lily found that the conditions were way better than her expectation. Right away, she took the pen and signed her name on the contracts happily before she handed it back to the bosses. Soon, more bosses at the back pushed out the ones in the front row. Then, they asked Lily to sign. “Oh... Don’t worry, don’t worry. I have plenty of time. Take it slow...” Lily assured them while signing the contract. At the thought that she was going to be rich, she grinned from ear to ear. On the other hand, her subordinates were also excited. After all, if Lily signed those contracts, they would be carrying those projects out. By that time, they would earn huge bonuses. Therefore, their smiles became brighter, and they hurriedly served the bosses some tea. Nevertheless, the next moment, a voice suddenly came from behind. Immediately, the faces of those bosses—who were enthusiastic just now—darkened. “Wait! Why isn’t Miss Paige’s signature on this contract? Who is Lily Mooney? We are here for Miss Paige! Where is she?” As soon as he finished speaking, the other bosses—who had just signed with Lily and were waiting to cover the seal—also realized the same thing. Instantaneously, a



hush descended over the crowd. . Simultaneously, all the bosses frowned and scowled at Lily, asking, "Who are you? Aren't you Miss Paige?" In an instant, the smile on Lily's face froze. When she heard that they came for Paige, anger flooded her veins before she responded with dissatisfaction, "Sir, we haven't employed Paige, whereas I am the sales director of this company! Am I not qualified enough to sign with all of you?" Once she finished speaking, everyone was stunned for a moment before the bosses sneered disdainfully. They stared at her as if they were looking at a fool. Then, one of them tore the contract—which hadn't been sealed—and ridiculed, "Sales director huh? Who do you think you are?" Another boss tore the contract and chimed in, "Hah... he's right. How dare a mere sales director talk to us this way? Are you a jackass?" "Pfft... Are you trying to compare yourself with Miss Paige? You should know your place. Call her out at once, or we won't sign the contract!" Another boss yelled disdainfully. Instantly, Lily's face turned pale, and she clenched her fists tightly. The next moment, she realized that these bosses were on equal footing with her grandfather, Leonard. Even if Leonard saw them, he would be polite to them, not to mention her. Despite that, when she heard them praising Paige, her anger

intensified. However, this time, she dared not raise her head... This was humiliating because initially, she thought that these bosses came for her. As for her subordinates, they quickly distanced themselves from her. Even though their eyes were thoughtful, deep down, they were also bewildered. They couldn't believe that the bosses were here for Paige. Just then, a boss suddenly roared, "Where is Leonard? Ask him to come out! I came to sign the contract with Paige. How dare he send me a nobody? Is he disrespecting me?" "I agree. Come out, Leonard! If you don't give us an explanation today, you will regret this!" Another boss—who was also fooled by Lily—raged. After that, an old figure stumbled down from the president's office upstairs. It was Leonard, who was confused. As soon as he got down, he greeted the two biggest bosses with a smile, "Hey, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Dean, what a surprise! Sorry for what happened. Please calm down. I have no idea what's going on, but I'll make it up to all of you by treating you to a nice meal in Oplen Hotel..." Hearing Leonard's words, Zain Lloyd—who was slightly older—snorted coldly, "Mr. Mooney, I don't mean to blame you, but all of us are here to sign with Miss Paige. You won't refuse our cooperation, will you? We are not only sincere, but we have also transferred the payment in advance. All that's left is Miss Paige's signature, but who the heck is Lily Mooney? Is she qualified to sign the contract with us? She even talked down to us. How rude." Without warning, Jack Dean directly slammed the torn contract on Lily's face before he fumed, "Leonard, we have known each other for a long time, haven't we? Am I a joke to you? How can you ask a mere sales director to teach me a lesson? If you refuse to collaborate, just tell me!" "He's right... What an unlucky day. How dare you humiliate me with a mere sales director?" "I second that. What the heck." "If it weren't for Miss Paige, I wouldn't even come to this d\*mn company. What the hell..." When Leonard heard the bosses' words, he somewhat understood half of the situation. The next second, he turned around and shouted at Lily with a black face, "What the hell did you do? I'll deal with you later! Apologize to them! Now!" Lily was frightened by Leonard's tone. Right away, she lowered her head, and tears started to form in her eyes. Feeling aggrieved, she apologized, "I'm sorry, everyone. I shouldn't look down on all of you. Please forgive me..." Hearing that, the group of bosses snorted. Then, they ignored her and looked at Leonard, waiting for his response.

At that time, Leonard was also furious. He wasn't interested in how Paige attracted so many potential collaborators, but he knew that he would have huge

earnings today. And just now, Lily almost destroyed these contracts! At the thought of this, he became mad and roared at Lily, "Look at what you've done! You almost screwed it up! From now on, you're no longer the sales director! Get out of my sight!" Instantaneously, Lily went blanched, and her tears rolled down her cheeks. Even so, Leonard ignored her and went to the conference room with all the bosses. In the conference room, Leonard said, "I'm sorry, but Paige hasn't come yet. Why don't I sign it first? I promise I will put these contracts under her." Upon hearing that, Jack spoke, "Alright, but please keep your promise after you sign the contract. We are all here for Miss Paige. In the future, only she can handle our projects. Are you clear?" After patting his chest seriously, Leonard promised, "My fellows and friends, please rest assured. I will keep my promise. Also, I will officially appoint Paige as the channel director, and she will be fully in charge of our cooperation!" When the big shots heard Leonard's words, they were relieved. Since last night, they hadn't had a rest after Ernie called them over. They couldn't afford to offend Ernie. Moreover, through Ernie's words, they felt that there was a scarier person behind him. How terrifying would that person be that could make the top leader of the underworld in Oplen obey him? They couldn't imagine it... After they signed the contract with Leonard and left, Leonard frowned deeply. "Paige? Is someone secretly helping her? I need to get to the bottom of this. Something is weird..." he murmured.

## The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

### Chapter 34

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Chapter 34

In the restaurant in Oplen, those bosses, who came to find Paige, and Tommy, who felt ashamed, had all left. At that moment, Yahir was sitting in front of the table in a daze. Paige and Serena were also at a loss, and they felt surreal. Last night, Leonard had just given Paige three conditions that were almost impossible to accomplish. But now, only one day had passed, and yet, Paige had completed two of them. In fact, she completed the second condition ten times better than she was required to... D In disbelief, she walked out of the door and watched the bosses driving away in luxury cars. She wanted to see if it was a dream, so she pinched her arm hard. However, the pain in her arm told her that it was real. "Whether it's Reuben Porter, those bosses just now, or the other dozens of bosses who went to the company, everything is way too strange... Too unbelievable... I somehow feel that someone is helping you..." Serena approached from Paige's back and said with a frown. Responding with a nod, Paige agreed, "Well, I find this unbelievable too, but who would help me? After all, I was a joke here five years ago. People are dying to laugh at me again, so who?" After she finished, she and Serena fell silent because, at this moment, Joseph's figure simultaneously emerged in their minds. Nevertheless, they quickly denied their thoughts. Joseph was a poor soldier who was fired by the military. Moreover, he had just returned to Oplen. How would he have such a big influence? So, who on earth was it? Paige and Serena were both confused. Just when the two of them were deep in thought, Yahir came out. Looking at Paige with complicated feelings, he uttered, "Paige, you've worked hard these years. Your grandpa called me and said that you could return to the company at any time, and you're now a channel director. Let's go home and have a meal. Your mother is in high spirits now..."

To that, Paige nodded. Afterward, Yahir drove Paige and Serana home with an old Volkswagen. Not only was Yahir's house relatively small, but it was also old. When the three of them arrived home, Estella had just finished preparing the meal. Upon seeing Paige today, Estella displayed a huge smile on her face, which was completely different from yesterday's black face. Holding Paige's hand affectionately, Estella chirped, "Congratulations on your return to the company and your new position as a channel director. You're indeed the best... Come, you should eat more. I've made your favorite roasted chicken..." As Paige was not used to Estella's reaction, she explained unnaturally, "Mom,

actually, I don't deserve credit for this. I think someone is helping me out. Otherwise, there's no way I can fulfill two conditions in a day..." Once Paige finished, Estella was puzzled. After asking Paige a few more questions, Estella took out her phone, went to the balcony, and made a phone call. The next moment, she was chatting and laughing while expressing her gratitude. Seeing that, Paige, Yahir, and Serena got even more confused. A few minutes later, Estella returned to Paige's side and chuckled, "Nothing, it's Brooks. Before he returned here yesterday, I called him and told him about you. On his way back, he began to ask for help and contacted several bosses. By the way, I've arranged your meeting with him tomorrow at noon. You must go and thank him well..." Subconsciously, Paige asked, "Mom, are you saying that Brooks helped me?" After that, she and Serena both frowned deeply. However, Estella nodded with great certainty. "Of course. Didn't I tell you that he is an executive of Gempoint Group? To him, helping you to find a few business partners is just a piece of cake. Alright, stop thinking about it. Let's eat..." Although Estella was so sure, Paige and Serena somewhat didn't buy her words. Even if Brooks was a senior executive, there were more than 80 senior executives in Gempoint Group. Could a senior executive be so powerful that he could scare hundreds of bosses overnight? Seeing that Paige still didn't believe her, Estella said with a straight face, "Quit thinking about it. You should dress up well tomorrow. Today, he applied for a spot at a grand wedding. It was the wedding that shocked the whole city yesterday. A mysterious rich man is going to hold a wedding with his wife next month in Olpen. I also heard that he spends more than a billion to sponsor 1314 pairs of couples to get married. I'm old, but I can imagine how sensational his wedding would be, and Brooks secured a spot! A very precious spot!" The more Estella said, the more excited she was. Apparently, she was looking forward to the grand wedding next month. On the contrary, Paige's eyes were dim. Deep down, she also dreamed of having a romantic and sensational wedding together with 1314 pairs of newlywed couples. However, she knew that she wouldn't stand a chance... Thinking that she was about to have a good son-in-law, Estella ate happily. Meanwhile, Paige was preoccupied with worries. Therefore, she didn't stay long after the meal and left with an excuse. At 3 p.m., Paige and Serena went to find Joseph and the others. Looking at Joseph and Chloe—who were playing with each other happily—Paige felt a burst of warmth in her heart. Grand wedding? So what? She didn't care. As long as she had them by her side throughout her life, that was enough... "Paige, I think Joseph is a nice guy. I hope both of you will stay together forever..." Serena was also looking at Joseph and Chloe while uttering to Paige. "Yes, I will." Paige nodded before walking to Joseph and Chloe. After greeting Joseph, she carried Chloe. "Mommy, I'm a little thirsty." Chloe whined. "Alright, let's go and buy a bottle of mineral water, but remember, don't waste it." Paige smiled and kissed Chloe's cheek. Then, she took Chloe to a shop nearby. Looking at the retreating figure of Paige and Chloe, Joseph asked Serena, "How's Paige's project discussion today? Is everything going well?" Serena turned to look at Joseph and answered, "Yup, it went smoothly. Grandpa reemployed

Paige and appointed her as the channel director.” “Oh, that’s good...” Joseph nodded. When Serena listened to his words, she felt that something was off. As if it was not a big deal, he was acting way too naturally. In fact, she had long suspected that he was not simple. That was because in the past few days, as long as she told him any difficulties, those matters would be solved at the fastest speed. Moreover, he was confident. Way too confident! “Joseph, are you the one who helped Paige?” Serena became more suspicious.

The next moment, what Estella said crossed her mind, and she missed a heartbeat. Trying her best to control her emotions, she stared at the back of Paige and Chloe before she sighed with a complicated feeling. Sure enough, Joseph glanced at her and asked, “What’s wrong?” With that, Serena’s heartbeat kept increasing, and she dared not look at Joseph at all. Instead, she kept staring at Paige’s figure with her eyes turning red and blurted, “We went home for lunch at noon, and my mother... My mother thought that Brooks Nicholas, an executive in Gempoint Group, was the one who helped Paige and forced her to meet him tomorrow. Not only that, but she also wanted Paige to marry him. Compared with Brooks, I prefer Paige to be with you. I know I haven’t known you for long, but I can tell that Paige likes you. Anyway... She said she would never agree. Don’t tell her I told you this...” After that, Serena went after Paige. Actually, she was deliberately testing Joseph just now. But somehow, as soon as she took a few steps forward, she could feel that the temperature around her suddenly became freezingly cold... When Serena got far, Alpha 1 came to Joseph. Noticing that Joseph looked odd, Alpha 1 asked, “What’s wrong? What happened?” “Nothing...” Joseph replied. Then, Alpha 1 continued, “By the way, Dennis Drake, the president of Gempoint Group, wants to treat you to dinner in his private club tonight. He knows that Ernie met you last night, so he’s a little anxious, and he wants to leave a good ON impression on you. Oh... how ignorant. Are you someone he can meet whenever he wants to? What is so great about his meal?” “Should I turn him down directly? He should learn to give up...” After saying that, Alpha 1 took his phone and was about to send a message to Dennis. Nonetheless, Joseph stopped him. With his eyes narrowed, Joseph uttered, “If he wants to, why not? I have some business with him too. Just as expected, he and Ernie are the same kind of people. All of their subordinates have provoked me...” When Alpha 1 heard that, his eyes lit up. “What’s wrong?” After letting out a sneer, Joseph looked at Paige—who was walking back after buying the water. “Nothing. He has an executive named Brooks Nicholas who wants to marry Paige. Hah... Since Dennis wants to meet me, tell him that we will see him now, and let him call Brooks too! I’d like to see what kind of man dares to touch my woman!” Joseph’s eyes turned cold. However, they soon became warm again because Paige was coming over with Chloe and Serena. With a smile, Joseph said to Paige, “You accompany Chloe for a while. Alpha 1 is going back. So, I will see him off and have a chat with him. I may not come back for dinner...” Paige did not think much and nodded. “Okay, both of you should grab some food outside then. Don’t starve yourselves...”

To that, Joseph nodded before he left with Alpha 1. However, without him knowing, Serena informed Paige and followed them quietly... Ten minutes later, a black Rolls-Royce suddenly pulled up in front of Joseph and Alpha 1. Then, the driver respectfully invited Joseph into the car. After seeing this scene, Serena—who was following them with a taxi far behind—widened her eyes in surprise. She was more and more sure that her suspicion was right. Maintaining her composure, she let the driver follow them from a far distance... However,

more than ten minutes later, the Rolls-Royce stopped in front of a private club. The moment Joseph got down from the car, Serena's heart almost exploded.

That was because she saw the dignified president of Gempoint Group, which was also the richest man in Oplen-Dennis Drake! At this time, Dennis was waiting respectfully with a dozen of his men. When her poor brother-in-law got off the car, Dennis and the leaders of Oplen bowed to him. They even dared not lift their heads in front of him... As Joseph stood in the wind, Alpha 1 followed him respectfully. In front of Joseph, everyone's posture was very, very humble... "How, how, how, how is this possible?! Wh... Wh... Who on earth is he?" After witnessing this shocking scene, Serena—who was crouching behind the taxi far away—collapsed to the ground.

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## Chapter 35

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"Nice to meet you, Mr. Dawson. I am looking forward to your guidance, and I am honored to have you here. Please come in," Dennis greeted Joseph nervously with a huge smile. "Thank you." Joseph nodded and glanced at Dennis. If he hadn't wanted to meet Brooks, he wouldn't have come to meet Dennis with his status. "My pleasure, Mr. Dawson. Please come in..." Dennis bowed and kept smiling as he led the way. Just when Joseph was about to enter, he frowned. "Hmm?" Suddenly, he looked in the direction Serena was hiding. Meanwhile, Serena—who was spacing out behind the car—suddenly saw Joseph looking at her. Shocked, she accidentally let out a scream and turned to run. However, the next moment, hundreds of bodyguards around Dennis's private club moved. As Dennis was the richest man in Oplen, he hired all of his bodyguards from the internationally well-known Ruby Shield Organization. Two seconds after Serena moved, dozens of Ruby Shield's bodyguards in tight uniforms had completely surrounded her and pointed dozens of black guns at her head... "Argh... Please don't get me wrong, I, I, I..." Serena's mind went blank. As a woman

situation. Instantly, her face turned pale. "Serena? Why is she here?" After Joseph saw that they caught Serena, he was also shocked because he still did not want Paige to know his identity. As soon as Joseph finished speaking, Dennis's face changed dramatically. Mr. Dawson knew that lady! Right away, Dennis rushed over in person and shouted at the bodyguards, "Stop! What the hell are you doing? Stop, all of you!" With that, those bodyguards quickly put away their weapons. Even so, Serena was still unhinged, and her lips were trembling. Just now, she could feel a strong murderous aura from those bodyguards.

Then, Joseph and Alpha I also came over. "Serena, why are you here? Is... Paige here?" Joseph asked. This time, even if Serena knew that the terrifying person in front of her was Joseph, she did not dare to look at him. She quickly shook her head and apologized, "I'm... I'm sorry. Paige doesn't know anything... I am here alone..." Staring at Serena deeply, Joseph let out a heavy sigh and said, "Since you have seen something, I hope you can keep a secret from her. My affairs are a

little complicated, and they involve numerous things. I will explain everything to you later..."

Hearing this, Serena quickly waved her hand and replied, "Don't... Don't worry!

You can go ahead with your own business. I will never tell her. You can rest assured that I won't..." Deep down, she hadn't overcome the shock because, at this moment, Dennis Drake was standing behind Joseph respectfully. After that, Joseph winked at Alpha 1 and instructed, "I have something to discuss with Mr. Drake. Bring her in for some food..." With a smile, Alpha 1 nodded. "Sure!" Then, Dennis walked up to Serena, bowed to her, and apologized sincerely, "I'm sorry, Miss Mooney. I didn't recognize you. You must be frightened. Whatever you like, feel free to ask anyone inside to serve you... I'm sorry..." "It's alright... Mr. Drake." When the richest man in Oplen bowed and apologized to a commoner like her, Serena felt surreal. After a while, she followed Alpha 1 in, followed by Joseph and Dennis. After Joseph and Dennis entered the club's hall, Joseph directly sat on the seat of honor, while Dennis stood respectfully opposite him with a nervous expression. He knew that Joseph had seen through his thoughts. For a long time, Joseph looked at Dennis before he spoke, "Please be at ease, Mr. Drake. I only offered Ernie a chance to join us last night. If you are interested, I can give you the same chance. What do you think?" "A chance to join Dragon Temple?" When Dennis heard this, his heart instantly raced with excitement. All the forces in the outside world knew that some time ago, Dragon Temple had taken down the organization that was hostile toward Frogua-Ironclouds Organization. Now, Dragon Temple was the strongest force in Frogua! If he could join them, then he could expand his influence beyond Oplen in the future. Having this thought, Dennis immediately knelt on the ground. "Thank you, your honor. If you have any orders here in the future, I will obey without hesitation!" Joseph waved his hand. "Don't be. In this world, there are only a handful of people left who dare to go against Dragon Temple, but I have a suggestion for you. I won't be here for long, and I will go to Usmaït sometime later. So, you can start transferring your estates there..." "Noted! I will make the arrangements today and wait for your command..." Dennis answered respectfully. "Good..." Joseph nodded. Having settled down on the business, he asked Dennis, "Have you brought the subordinate Alpha 1 informed you? Brooks Nichols. If he is here, ask him to come over. I want to see him." Right away, Dennis responded, "Yes, of course. He is here. I'll ask him to come over now..." He dared not ask more questions. Instead, he just gave an order to one of

his men and continued to stand respectfully in front of Joseph. Five minutes later, a clean-and-energetic-looking man in gold-rimmed glasses and a gray suit walked in. He was Brooks Nichols. On his way here, Brooks saw the entrance was full of fully armed bodyguards.

Then, he spotted his superior, Dennis, who was standing respectfully in front of a man with an overpowering aura. At the sight of this, he was more shocked. When he entered, he already knew that the stranger sitting in the seat of honor wanted to see him. "So, you are Brooks." After Brooks came in, Joseph gazed at him playfully. "Brooks, shouldn't you greet Mr. Dawson?" Seeing that Brooks was still in a daze, Dennis quickly shouted at him. At once, Brooks bowed respectfully and greeted Joseph with fear, "Good to see you, Mr. Dawson. ... I am Brooks Nichols. What... What can I do for you?" With a faint smile, Joseph asked, "I heard that under the introduction of Estella Sheppard, you would go on a blind date with

Paige Mooney tomorrow. I also heard from Mr. Drake that you have applied for a spot at the grand wedding next month. Pfft... Are you planning to participate in the grand wedding with Paige?" Upon hearing Joseph's words, Brooks raised his head in surprise and looked at Joseph. "How did you know?" When Dennis saw Brooks ask Joseph a question in return, his blood ran cold. "How dare you! Shut up and answer his question!" Dennis chided. Joseph waved his hand. "It's alright..." After that, he leaned forward and hinted at Brooks with a more playful expression, "Haha, are you curious? Why don't you guess who am I, what is my relationship with Paige, and who is the one who holds the grand wedding? Haha, no worries. Go ahead and guess..." For a moment, Brooks was deep in thought before his expression changed dramatically. Pointing at Joseph, he exclaimed fearfully, "You, you, you... you are Joseph Dawson! The man Paige brought back home! You, you, you.." With a loud bang, he dropped to the ground. At that time, he could barely feel his legs, and he stared at Joseph in disbelief. For a while, he couldn't come to his senses while fresh terror kept rearing up within him...