

# The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

## Chapter 36

[/ The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia](#)  
Chapter 36

“Guards! Take him away!” Dennis ordered his men behind him after seeing Brooks act disrespectfully. Suddenly, Brooks knelt and kowtowed to Joseph. “I’m sorry, Mr. Dawson! I have no idea that Paige is your wife. If I had known, I wouldn’t have done it even if I had the guts to. Please forgive me! Please! When he was shouting, two bodyguards held him and were about to drag him out. With that, his fear intensified because he knew that his superior, Dennis, had a million ways to make him vanish without a trace, let alone the unfathomable Joseph. On the other hand, Joseph mercilessly stared at Brooks, who was still struggling and begging. For a split second, he had a strong urge to kill Brooks. However, even if Brooks disappeared, Estella would still find Paige another man. Thinking of this, Joseph waved his hand and asked Dennis to bring Brooks back. Overjoyed, Brooks quickly knelt in front of Joseph and kowtowed profusely, “Please forgive me, Mr. Dawson! Please...” After taking a deep breath, Joseph told Brooks, “Actually, I wanted to get rid of

you...”

When Brooks heard that, his body shook, and he no longer dared to speak as he continued kowtowing. At that time, deep terror had overtaken him. Then, Joseph continued, “But never mind. Even if you’re gone, my mother-in-law will still find Paige another man. How annoying. Just go ahead and meet her tomorrow. You can decide what to say, but if you dare to reveal my identity, hehe...” Hearing that, Brooks quickly shook his head. “I won’t, Mr. Dawson. Of course, I won’t. Please be rest assured. I know what to do. I know...” Dennis snorted and looked at Brooks. “Humph! You’d better not try anything stupid. Don’t forget that you are not an orphan...” As he spoke, he exuded a murderous intent. After all, most people who could achieve such high status like him were mostly cold-hearted. Once again, Brooks trembled before he promised, “I won’t, I won’t...” With that, Joseph waved Brooks off. Although Joseph was irritated, he knew that many things couldn’t be rush because money and power weren’t solutions for everything. At this moment, Paige’s words from the night before yesterday were reverberating in his mind, “Joseph, we’ve never loved each other...” Paige was right. He had never loved her, but he owed her too much...

Meanwhile, Alpha 1 and Serena were sitting opposite each other in the backyard of the club. On the table, there were all kinds of delicious desserts. However, both of them were not in the mood to eat. After a long silence, Alpha 1 sighed deeply and looked at Serena with complicated eyes. “Miss Mooney, you shouldn’t have come today. Now that you’ve known something, Mr. Dawson might be very passive in the future...” Even though Serena knew that she was in the wrong, she was still terribly shocked. “I’m sorry, Mr. King. I know I was wrong...” “Sigh... forget it. Things have turned out this way, but please keep a secret from your sister. It’s not that Mr. Dawson doesn’t want to reveal his identity to you and Mrs. Dawson. It’s just that he has his difficulties.” Alpha 1 sighed again while the complexity in his eyes grew. Right away, Serena raised her fingers and swore,

"Please tell Joseph to rest assured. I swear I will never let the cat out of the bag, but can I ask a question first? I was recruited by Mysticorps Group yesterday. Was he behind this?" Alpha 1 nodded. "Yes. He sent me a WhatsApp message, and I went to look for Ernie." Oh, Ernie Green... Serena was bewildered again. Although Ernie was also a top figure in Oplen, Joseph managed to make him complete a task without approaching him personally. "How about Reuben, who looked for my sister this morning, and those 100 partners?" Serena asked again. "Ernie arranged that under Mr. Dawson's instruction..." Alpha 1 continued nodding. "Ernie Green, Dennis Drake... Wait!" Something suddenly flashed through Serena's mind, and she stood up with a jerk. "So... the grand wedding that was suddenly announced by Dennis and Ernie yesterday is... is..." Looking at Serena meaningfully, Alpha 1 nodded again. Perplexed, Serena could feel her jaw touch the ground. It took her a long time to pull herself together... "Mr. King, I swear that I will keep it as a secret, but may I know what position was Joseph holding in the military? Paige told me that he was fired by them," When she asked Alpha 1, her lips were dry, and her voice trembled. No matter how stupid she was, she knew that a person who could make the top leaders of Oplen obey must be someone with a high rank. When Alpha 1 heard that, his heart missed a beat, and many thoughts flashed through his mind. Then, he looked up at Serena and questioned her with a serious and complicated expression, "Have you heard of the god of war in the military?" "What... what? God of war?" Serena's mind, which had yet to calm down, was once

again overcome by surprise. Alpha 1 nodded and gave Serena a deep stare. "Haha, you've heard it right. Or else, what kind of person do you think can intimidate Dennis and Ernie then?" With a bang, Serena slumped in her seat in dismay. Although she hadn't graduated from college, she knew a thing or two about Frogua's military. That was because her first uncle's son-Maxton Mooney-was serving there as a mere lieutenant commander. Even so, the Mooneys, including Leonard, regarded Maxton as the best junior in the family's history. If that was the case, what about the god of war then? How much higher was this position compared to a lieutenant commander? If calculated by rank, Joseph would be a four-star general! Soon, she came back to her senses and asked Alpha 1, looking anxious, "Isn't the military being too strict? All Joseph did was beating Jaylah. Even if he broke Jaylah's leg, it could still be connected. They wouldn't have to fire Joseph because of this, right?" By this time, her eyes had become red. After Serena asked, Alpha 1 stared at her for a while before he looked down and uttered, "Do you think that b\*st\*rd who locked Chloe in the pigsty and forced Mrs. Dawson to submit to him would end up with just a simple beating?" Instantaneously, Serena's face changed, and she asked, "What... what do you mean by this..." In a low voice, Alpha 1 explained, "What I mean is what you're thinking right now. For the past few years, Mr. Dawson contributed to Frogua by wiping out one foreign force after another on the extraterritorial battlefield and was willing to sacrifice everything to protect Frogua. But his wife and daughter were being treated this way! So, if you were him, what would you do?" Once again, Serena was bewildered, and her eyes were dull as she stuttered, "What... What about the Kennedys in Apren City?" "They were wiped out... So, can you understand why he is fired from the military now? He was in charge of the outer district's military, and yet, he returned on his own and committed a great crime. Sigh..." Alpha 1 muttered. "Can... can he return to the military again?" Serena's eyes became wet. With his head lowered, Alpha 1 answered with a low voice, "I don't know. The headquarters was furious about what happened to Aglela and threatened to fire Mr. Dawson directly. But some higher-ups voiced their objection. Now, he is in a state of expulsion. As for what will happen next, the

headquarters is still making their decision. We will try to fight for a chance too, but it takes time, and I'm afraid we can't change anything for now..." After that, he paused before looking up at Serena and added in a very serious tone, "Please believe Mr. Dawson. That year, he... he was poisoned and was out of consciousness, so he didn't know that he hurt your sister and has a daughter! Otherwise, he would've returned long ago. As the greatest hero in the world, he will never regret what he did! Even if the military expels him, and even if he goes back in time a thousand times, he would still make the same choice!" As Alpha 1 spoke, he thought of the scene where Joseph held Chloe in the pigsty before Joseph vomited blood and fainted that night. With that, tears welled up in Alpha 1's eyes... "Boom... Suddenly, Serena stood up and looked in the direction of Joseph before bursting into tears. At this moment, she no longer had any resentment toward Joseph nor hated him for concealing his identity. How could she doubt a man who was willing to give u everything for his wife and daughter? "Paige... you should know how much Joseph has sacrificed for you and Chloe..." Serena murmured with tears in her eyes...

## The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

### Chapter 37

[/ The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia](#)  
Chapter 37

Facing Serena—who was crying and blaming herself—Alpha 1 lowered his head with guilt. Actually, his words were not entirely true. However, after some pondering, he thought that what he said wasn't a lie either. For the sake of Paige and Chloe, Joseph even disregarded Dragon Temple. Wasn't this more than giving up one's position as a god of war? Seeing how Serena's imagination overtook her, he remained silent... O Just then, Joseph came over after talking with Dennis. When he saw Serena's tear stained face, he was shocked while wondering the reason she was crying. At once, he asked, "Serena, what's wrong? Did Alpha 1 bully you? How dare he!" After finishing his words, he was about to interrogate Alpha 1. However, Serena stopped him. With tears in her eyes, she gazed at Joseph and sobbed, "I am sorry, Joseph. Please be rest assured that I will never tell Paige your identity. I am very sorry..." Upon hearing this, Joseph was stunned before a faint smile appeared on his face. "Don't cry. What did Alpha 1 say to you?" The moment Serena saw him smiling, her heartache intensified, and she shook her head while crying, "Nothing. I will see you later..." Following that, she left. After she got out of the club, she looked back as she kept recalling Alpha 1's words. "Not many people in Frogua know about the gods of war outside the region, but the gods of war have defended Frogua in the outer region using their flesh and blood!" Compared to the warriors in the country, those who fought in the outer region carried more burdens and faced more danger. Today, Serena came across one who was respected by the whole world, despite knowing his reputation! An unparalleled hero who gave up everything for her sister and her niece! Thinking about that, she was so moved and shocked that her feelings were way beyond description. Then, when she remembered that Alpha 1 acknowledged Joseph was the one who held the grand wedding for Paige on the 15th of next month, she was more impressed. Imagine how happy Paige would be on that day. Just as Joseph promised, he would change the whole city's perception of Paige and make those who ridiculed her regret it!

The next moment, Estella's words during yesterday's lunch came into Serena's mind. Estella said that Paige was marrying Brooks. Besides, she even mentioned that Brooks had secured a spot at the grand wedding. Recalling how expectant Estella was and how gloomy Paige was, Serena felt like laughing.

As Serena took a deep breath, another thought appeared. Why would Paige pick Brooks' spot over the opportunity to be the heroine of the wedding? In the past, Serena had seen those novel plots that described grand, sensational weddings. However, none of them was comparable with the one that Joseph prepared. Presumably, this was his surprise for Paige. Thinking of how blessed Paige was, Serena smiled while her eyes were welling up with tears of joy. After all the crying, she looked back with a smile and murmured, "You will be happy, Paige. Definitely. And Chloe, your father is truly a peerless hero. Your mother did lie to you, but your father is one real hero..."

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In Dennis's club, Joseph was sitting in front of Alpha 1 and asked with great confusion, "What did you say to her? Why is she so moved?" Being asked, Alpha 1 smiled awkwardly and told Joseph what he had just told Serena. After hearing it, Joseph went speechless before he chuckled, "How can you lie to her?" With a serious expression, Alpha 1 responded, "Not all of them are lies, though." Stunned, Joseph fell silent for a long time before he ordered Alpha 1, "Contact Terrance, the first military commander, and ask him to give me the title of the outer region's god of war. Also, Serena is too young, so she won't be able to keep a secret for long. Ask Terrance to find a timely opportunity to announce my title to Oplen's battle division... It's good to have such a title, but in the future, my relationship with the military and Charles might get deeper." Upon listening to the instructions, Alpha 1 nodded. Following that, they started to discuss other topics, such as asking Gempoint Group to prepare the wedding dresses for next month's wedding. Afterward, Joseph left with some delicious snacks for Chloe. On his way home, he remembered something. Hence, he went to a top-end-boutique and bought two clothes for Paige and Chloe. As Joseph went to the boutique, Serena got home first. When Paige saw Serena's red swollen eyes and those traces of tears on her face, she nervously asked, "What happened?" Looking at Paige deeply, Serena shook her head and smiled, "Nothing." "Really?" Paige questioned again, to which Serena shook her head again. Since Serena refused to say anything, Paige stopped asking and was about to go to the kitchen to cook. Nevertheless, Serena suddenly called her, "Paige..." "Yes? What's wrong? You're acting weird today." Paige slightly puckered her brows. Smilingly, Serena replied, "Well, nothing, I just wanna say... you and Joseph must be happy. I... I think he is a good man, and he truly cares about you and Chloe. So,

you... mustn't give up on him." Before Paige could speak, Serena turned around and went to play with Chloe. On the other hand, Paige stood there, watching the back of Serena as her frown deepened. At eight o'clock in the evening, Joseph came home. Once Chloe saw him, she happily threw herself on him and kept calling him. Then, Joseph affectionately caressed her lovely little head and gave her a shopping bag. "Chloe, I bought you a new black dress. Can you ask Aunt Serena to help you to try it on?" "Joseph... Serena looked at Joseph with a complicated expression. In response, Joseph gave her a slight nod. After that, Serena took Chloe to her room to try on the dress. Outside the room, Joseph said

to Paige, "I also bought you one, and I realize this is my first time buying clothes for you. I'm sorry and thank you... You must be tired throughout these years. Try it. It's not branded. Try and see if it fits you..." With a smile, he gazed at her. When he saw the old clothes she was wearing, he was heartbroken. Upon hearing his words, Paige puzzled for a while before she bit her lip and uttered, "Actually, I'm fine. You can just buy it for Chloe..." Despite what she said, Joseph responded, "Yours is also a black dress, together with a pair of black high heels. Since you're back here, I believe you will have gatherings with friends or whatsoever. You can't go without a new dress, am I right? Try it. Chloe will be ready soon." "Well, okay... Thank you..." Paige said to Joseph with complicated emotions. After all, they were together because of Chloe, and whenever Chloe was not around, things would be awkward between them. After taking the dress, Paige went to try it in her room. Joseph didn't follow. Instead, he waited in the living room. Moments later, Chloe bounced out from Serena's room happily in a pair of black sandals and a small black skirt. She was so adorable. Overjoyed, she kept hopping in front of Joseph. "Daddy! Am I beautiful?" she excitedly asked. With a nod, Joseph praised, "Hmm, yeah! My dear Chloe is so beautiful..." "Hee hee! Where is Mommy? Where is Mommy? Why hasn't she come out yet..." she continued to ask as Paige hadn't come out. "She is still changing. Let's give her some time." Joseph coaxed.

Then, Chloe ran to Paige's room door and knocked on the door impatiently. "Mommy, Mommy, look! Daddy picked a beautiful dress! How about yours? Have you worn it? Faster come out..." What Joseph did not know was that in the meantime, Paige—who had changed her clothes and shoes—was standing in front of the mirror in a daze. When she stared at her beautiful self, her eyes could not help but turn red. Not only the high-end dress and high heels complimented her slender figure and long soft hair well, but she also looked gorgeous and graceful. She almost could not believe that the woman in the mirror was herself... In fact, she also heard Chloe knock on the door. Subconsciously, she felt like changing her clothes. Nevertheless, before she could do anything, a cute black elf opened the door and pulled her out.

The moment Chloe dragged Paige into the living room, Joseph stood up in awe with his mouth wide open...

# The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

## Chapter 38

[/ The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia](#)  
**Chapter 38**

Paige was not only indescribably beautiful, but she also had what Joseph imagined about his other half. It was as if marrying her was his destiny. "Do... Do I look good?" Paige asked carefully. Hearing that, Joseph stood up and praised sincerely, "Yes, you are beautiful, breathtakingly beautiful.." Then, it occurred to him that Paige was always stunning. However, because of him, her life was in darkness. "Well... Thank you..." A blush crept up Paige's face. As she couldn't stand Joseph's burning gaze, she carried Chloe and went back to her room. After Paige left, Serena walked to Joseph and whispered, "Joseph, have you handled Brooks? Just now, my mom called me again and reminded me to bring Paige to

him tomorrow..." With a nod, Joseph smiled, "Yes, it's settled. Just bring her to Brooks tomorrow. Don't worry." Once Serena heard Joseph's words, she was relieved, and then she added, "By the way, I have one more thing to tell you..." Her brows furrowed. "What is it?" Joseph asked. Clenching her fists, Serena whispered, "This afternoon, Paige received a phone call. It's about a get-together with some of her college classmates tomorrow evening. She didn't want to go at first, but those people insisted as if they were waiting to make fun of her. In the end, she had no choice but to agree. I have seen some of her classmates before. They are snobbish, so I'm sure they will humiliate her. Why don't you accompany her?" Upon hearing that, Joseph narrowed his eyes and smiled, "Hah! How dare they look down on my wife? Leave this to me, and don't talk to Paige about this. She is still awkward with me, after all. I want to court her once again, so I would need your help too..." Looking at Joseph deeply, Serena laughed, "Indeed, only you are worthy of Paige. Not everyone can be my brother-in-law, you know? You can rest assured. From today onward, I will be your spy and report to you once she has any movements. By next month, I will make sure you win her heart!!!" Deep down, Serena sighed, "I know, right? Who else deserves her more than a peerless hero like him?" On that silent night, Paige and Joseph were both deep in thoughts. At that time, the two of them slept with their backs facing each other, and in between them, Chloe was sleeping very soundly.

The next morning, Joseph brought Chloe out to play as usual. When Paige saw that they had gone far, the smile on her face disappeared, replaced by a gloomy expression. Upon taking out her mobile phone, she saw a dozen missed calls from her mother. Dispirited, Paige said to Serena, "I don't want to go. Don't you see how much Chloe likes Joseph now? How can I find her a stepfather?" After letting out a deep sigh, Paige lowered her head. Nevertheless, Serena persuaded, "Well, I think you should go. Even if you don't go today, Mom will never stop inviting him. So, why don't you meet him today? Since both of you are also collegemates, you might be able to talk him out." "Wait. Why are you saying that out of the blue? You seem like you're implying something..." Paige turned her head and looked at Serena with great confusion. Ever since Serena came home yesterday afternoon, Paige felt that Serena was acting strange, same went to just now, but she could not figure out what was wrong. When Serena saw Paige staring at her, she chuckled and held Paige's arm, "Let's go! We should settle this quickly. I will help you, so don't worry!" While Paige got distracted, Serena dragged her away. Soon, the two of them took a taxi to the restaurant Estella mentioned. When they entered the private room, they found that Estella had arrived. Paige was not so fond of seeing Estella. However, when Estella saw Paige in a new dress and got dressed up slightly, her eyes lit up. Smilingly, Estella took Paige's hand and praised, "Paige, where did you buy this dress? It's so beautiful, especially when you wear it. These high-heels are not bad either. After you put it on, your legs look more slender. Not bad..." "Well, of course. Joseph picked those..." Serena muttered. When Estella heard Serena's words, her face darkened before she let go of Paige's hand and snorted, "What's so great about that? Is he trying to compensate her with a dress after running her life? Dream on! As for you, Serena, mind your words when Brooks comes. Are you following your sister's footsteps for going against me? I raised both of you for nothing!" o Upon hearing that, Serena twitched her lips and kept quiet while Paige spoke, "Mom, actually, I am here to tell you and Brooks that I won't..." Suddenly, the door opened, and Brooks entered in a black suit, looking pale and uncomfortable. When Estella saw him, she immediately stood up. Then, she took his hand and greeted him in a friendly way, "Brooks, come and have a seat. You have arrived just after Paige came in. Haha! I guess this is what we called destiny." On the other hand, Brooks

ignored Estella. Instead, he glanced at Paige. However once he laid his eyes on her, he couldn't take h

stunning today. Her face was exquisite, her temperament was cold, and her figure was slim... "Hey! Have you seen enough?" When Serena saw Brooks ogling at Paige, her anger sprang to life, and she glared at him. Upon hearing Serena's words, Brooks was shocked and was immediately reminded that Paige was no longer his collegemate. Instead, she was now the wife of that terrifying man. At the thought of the horrible incident yesterday, he quickly turned his eyes away. However, his face and back were already sweating with cold sweat... When Estella saw that Serena was talking nonsense again, she pointed to the door and reprimanded Serena, "Keep your mouth shut, Serena! Today is Paige's blind date, not yours, so get out!" Unhappily, Serena got up and uttered, "Fine... As you wish..." Following that, she walked toward the door. Nevertheless, when she passed by Brooks again, she stopped and gave him a meaningful look. "Mr. Brooks, let me remind you. Paige already has someone she likes. So, think twice before you speak..." she insinuated. Instantaneously, Brooks was rooted to the spot. When he looked up at Serena and contemplated her words, he realized that Serena had probably known about yesterday's incident.

Thinking about that, Brooks quickly lowered his head and responded fearfully, "Don't worry, Miss Mooney. I will..." Seeing that Serena was still talking to Brooks, Estella flew off the handle. Pointing at Serena, she screamed, "Get out of here!" After Serena sneered at Brooks, she left. At the same time, Paige looked at Serena with doubt. There seemed to be some hidden meaning in Serena's words just now. Once Serena left, Estella smiled again and explained to Brooks, "Serena is still young and insensible, so please don't take her words to heart. Today, I invite you and Paige here to have a good chat. Although Paige has a child, she is a nice woman. Also, I like you a lot. If you have no objection, you two shall register your marriage today. Anyway, you two are collegemates, so let's proceed quickly..", When Paige heard this, her face changed. Just as she was about to talk, Brooks who was sitting opposite her-quickly apologized, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Mooney. There were major changes in my work yesterday, so I have to go abroad for a business trip next week. Besides, this trip will take five to six years, and I don't want to waste Paige's time. She is nice, but I don't think I deserve her. I'm sorry. Very, very sorry..." To Estella, his words were like a bolt from the blue. However, before she could

speaking, Brooks stood up and looked at Paige nervously. Then, he slapped himself on the face twice and said, "I'm sorry, Paige. It's all my fault. I know you don't like me, but I keep pestering your mother to bring us together. I'm so sorry..."

Upon seeing Estella raise her hand, wanting to say something, he quickly bowed his head. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Mooney. I know you want Paige to be with me because I don't mind her having a child, but I am going on a business trip. I believe no one suits Paige more than her child's biological father. So, you should stop introducing another man to her..." After he finished, he immediately turned to leave without giving Estella a chance to speak. "Hey, Brooks? How can you..." Estella hurriedly got up to chase after him, only to find that he had gone far away. Furious, she stamped her feet and fumed, "Sh\*t!" Then, she returned to the room and raged, "Paige! Are you satisfied now? Why do you think I am doing this? Do you think it's easy to find a nice man who doesn't mind that you have a kid? Alas, I guess this is how your life would be! Go ahead and do whatever you want next

time..." With that, she took her bag and left angrily. Paige waited for Estella to leave and walked out of the room after a while. When she got out, she encountered Serena, who was waiting for her outside. "Is everything done?" Serena asked. Taking a deep look at Serena, Paige uttered, "Brooks is gone. Tell me the truth. Are you hiding something from me? And what did you mean by those words you said to Brooks?" Feeling guilty, Serena responded, "What are you talking about? Brooks gave up. Isn't that what matters? You can stop worrying too, right?" Suddenly, Paige questioned, "How did you know he gave up?" "He told me when he came out. Oh, come on! Let's go! Since we won't be eating here anymore, I'll treat you to something else. Let's go..." Serena said as she averted her gaze.

Although Paige felt that Serena's words made sense, for some reason, she still thought that something was off...

# The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

## Chapter 39

[/ The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia](#)

### Chapter 39

At noon, Joseph was having lunch with Chloe at home. It was then he received a message from Serena, saying that Brooks' matter was settled. After Joseph read the message, he smiled with satisfaction. Seeing that, Chloe raised her head and asked cutely, "Daddy, why are you smiling?" Joseph caressed her head and said, "Mom is starting work tomorrow, but she will be tired from all the bus ride. So, let's buy a car for her after lunch, okay? That way, she can drive to work in the future, and she won't be exhausted..." Excitedly, Chloe nodded in agreement. "Okay! Thank you, Daddy. Let's go to buy Mom a car then!" With a smile, Joseph nodded, and his eyes were deep. Although he was back for days, he spent most of his time with Chloe instead of Paige. So now, it was time for him to do something for the woman he loved most. "Paige, from now on, you only need to stand behind me. No matter how big the storm ahead is, I will protect you from it!" Joseph murmured to himself inwardly. After the meal, he changed into a brand-new Pierre Cardin black suit. As for Chloe, she wore her black dress with shoulder straps. When she saw Joseph in his suit, she kept praising his handsomeness. Sure enough, he was the leader of Dragon Temple. Even if he didn't deliberately dress up, he would still have his domineering aura, not to mention wearing a well-tailored suit. Later, when Joseph hit the streets with Chloe in his arms, passers-by kept looking back at them. To them, Joseph was a handsome father, whereas his daughter was adorable. At three o'clock in the afternoon, both of them arrived at the Mercedes-Benz 4S outlet. Needless to say, with Joseph's financial capability, he could buy a more expensive car for Paige. However, after some consideration, he decided not to be ostentatious. A Mercedes-Benz would do. Besides, that was the only brand he recognized in this small town. "Hello, sir. May I help you? We have plenty of ongoing promotions here. Do you have any preferred models? Let me introduce some to you..." As soon as he entered, a beautiful saleswoman wearing black silk stockings, high heels, a suit, and a short skirt greeted him warmly. Smilingly, Joseph nodded.

“Well, I am here to buy my wife a car. I heard that E class and S-class are pretty good. Can you introduce the specifics to me? Which one is more suitable for a woman to drive?” When the beautiful saleswoman heard that Joseph was buying a car for his wife,

she couldn't help but be envious. Right away, she smiled and nodded. “Sure, please come in. I'll introduce them to you. Also, we have ready stock. You can take a look at them...” To that, Joseph nodded in agreement and followed the saleswoman into the showroom. Enthusiastically, she introduced, “Sir, judging from your temperament, you must be a successful man. I think your wife should be the same too. Actually, E-class is good enough, but S-class is definitely better. After all, it's expensive. And of course, there is a reason behind that high price, such as...” “Pfft, temperament? Drop your act, Halle. He came by taxi. Do you naively think he can afford a Mercedes-Benz? He's just one of the pretentious customers that come here in a day. Get your act together, will you?” Suddenly, another beautiful saleswoman—who dressed fancily with her thighs exposed—interrupted. At once, Halle Evans—the saleswoman who stood beside Joseph—got awkward. However, before she could speak, another saleswoman said to the woman who despised Halle, “Why did you bother talking to her? She is willing to waste her time. Come on! Tell me! How are things between you and Lennie Taylor? Have you two slept together?” When Halle heard her colleagues' words, she became more awkward. In fact, she was new here. Even though some experienced employees told her to serve according to a person's status, she wanted to stick to her principle. As long as someone was willing to visit the showroom, she would serve them with her very best. Even if those people had no intention to purchase or being pretentious, she wouldn't mind. Therefore, to cover up her embarrassment, Halle took a piece of candy from the table beside her and gave it to Chloe. “Hi, sweetie. Here, have a delicious candy for you...” With that, Chloe looked up at Joseph and asked, “Daddy, can I eat it?” Joseph nodded. Then, she put the candy into her mouth and beamed, “Mm! Thank you, pretty lady!” After seeing how happy Chloe was, Halle apologetically glanced at Joseph. Following that, she turned around and took more candies for Chloe. Even if Joseph wouldn't place an order, she didn't mind giving Chloe a few more pieces. Nevertheless, as soon as she grabbed the candies, Joseph's voice sounded from her back. “Well, I think you're right. Since S-class is better, I should buy that. After all, we get what we pay for. Oh, one more thing. Since you said there is ready stock, I will pay by card and drive one back...”

The moment Halle heard that, her body shuddered. In disbelief, she looked back at Joseph. “Sir... Are you really going to take it?”

With a smile, Joseph took out his black credit card and handed it to Halle. “Here...” “Wait a minute, sir. You can still bargain with me, you know? I can give you a discount...” Halle suggested anxiously. Joseph chuckled, “It's okay. I'm fine. As for you, your commission will be lesser if you give me discounts, right? Haha! Swipe it, or else, I'll be mad...” Only then, Halle accepted his card and went to swipe it. When she was settling the payment, the two saleswomen who despised her just now were both struck dumb. Not only did Joseph buy a car, but he also didn't ask for a discount. In that case, Halle would earn tens of thousands of dollars as a reward. Instantly, that two women were overwhelmed with regret. After all, Oplen was a small place that was incomparable to a first-class city. Besides, their monthly salary was only five to six thousand dollars, which was already considered high. Thinking about that, the two saleswomen were anxious. Before Halle finished settling the payment, they rushed to Joseph and persuaded,

"S... Sir, why don't you buy it from us? We can give you a bigger discount. From that, you can save tens of thousands of dollars..." "No thanks. I came here by taxi, after all. Hehe..." Joseph sneered, After he finished, both saleswomen were embarrassed. At the same time, Halle who had complete the payment-came over with the car keys and contract. Then, Joseph directly signed the contract without reading through it. On the one hand, he wasn't afraid of being cheated. On the other hand, he believed in Halle's character. Upon seeing Joseph's signature, Halle asked in a daze, "Sir... Is this for real?" Joseph laughed, "Didn't I sign the contract and make the payment? Where is the car? I want to take my daughter for a ride..." "Oh.. the car is in the garage behind. Please wait for a moment. I'll drive it out now. Thank you very much... Sir..." After Halle came to her senses, she responded, and her eyes were red. One of the reasons was because her family background was humble. With Joseph's order, she could earn a large sum of money. Moreover, it had been a while since someone trusted her. Upon hearing her words, Joseph took the contract and the car key. When he was laughing and heading toward the exit, a couple came in. The man was dressed fashionably with a pair of orange sunglasses, while the woman wore a bare shoulder short dress, looking fancy. Both of them were Lily and her fiancé, Rory Shelton. Originally, Joseph wanted to ignore them, but Lily came over after she spotted Joseph. "Hey, isn't this my good cousin-in-law? I guess you're rich enough to buy a Mercedes-Benz," Lily insulted Joseph as soon as she met him. Yesterday, Paige got on her nerves. Hence, she wanted to appease her anger by asking Rory to buy her a

car. Unexpectedly, she ran into a perfect punching bag-Joseph. Joseph let out a cold snort before walking past her and was about to leave. However, Lily stopped him again. "Hey, where are you going? Oh, wait, you're wearing Pierre Cardin! When did you get the money to buy that?" Instantaneously, Joseph's eyes turned cold, but he quickly held back his anger. After all, he was still holding Chloe. Otherwise, he could've traumatized this stupid woman with his momentum alone. Just then, Rory also spoke, "Joseph Dawson, right? What is a poor man like you doing here? Is this where you should come? Huh?" Hearing that, Halle came forward and explained, "Sir, miss, I'm afraid there is a misunderstanding here. Mr. Dawson is truly here to..." Before Halle could finish explaining, Joseph interrupted her. Then, he stared at the d\*mb\*ss couple insultingly and sneered, "Yeah, you're right. My clothes? These are fake, and this car key? I am just renting it. Unlike you two, I am dirt poor. Now, will you excuse me? A poor man like me shall leave you two alone. Take your time..." After saying that, Joseph turned and left. When he got out of the store, his bright black Mercedes S pulled up in front of him. Once he got in the car with Chloe, he drove away. "Humph! So, he rented the car! What a phony..." Lily looked at Joseph mockingly before turning to Halle and asked, "What did you want to say just now? What's wrong with Joseph?" With a cold face, Halle answered, "Oh, nothing. I just want to say his clothes are fake, and he is only renting the Mercedes S for his wife! And it's with one million dollars at that! Hehe..." After that, she left. "What? How... How is this possible?" Lily's jaw dropped in disbelief. Beside her, Rory also widened his eyes in shock. Mercedes S? That cost a million dollars! Even he would have to think twice before buying it. After all, he had not taken over the company from his well-alive father. Besides, where could he get this much spending money? "Honey, I want Mercedes S too! Buy one for me, please?" Lily-who had just come back to her senses-quickly demanded. Since Joseph bought Paige a car, she had to have one too. If not, she would lose to Paige. As soon as Lily finished speaking, the two snobbish saleswomen rushed up to her and smiled, "Miss, you have a good eye. Only cars from S-class and above can match your temperament. Do you

want to buy one now? We have ready stock here..." Upon listening to their flattery words, Lily was complacent. Right away, she pleaded, "Honey, let's buy one, alright? Joseph made the full payment just now. We should do the same..." "Are you insane? That car costs more than a million dollars! Where can I get this much money now? Let's get out of here! Don't make a fool of yourself!" Rory swore and turned to leave. Although he was the son of a wealthy family, he was not foolish. Why would he buy her such an expensive car? They weren't even married. When Rory left, Lily was dumbfounded. It didn't occur to her that he wouldn't buy

it for her. "Miss, how about paying it in installments? It will be less stressful this way..." the saleswoman next to Lily suggested. "I... I don't have that much money..." Lily blurted with embarrassment. As she spoke, she lowered her head and walked out... "Hmph, look how pretentious you are, dressing up like a rich woman! Do you think you are great just because you have a wealthy fiancé? It's only a matter of time before he dumps you..." That saleswoman beside Lily mocked. Upon hearing that, Lily shuddered. Initially, she wanted to turn around and retort, but she was too ashamed to do so. "Yeah, I second that. How dare you look down on someone else? Don't you know that man bought a Mercedes S with full payment? He didn't even bat an eye. Know your place, you thick-skinned woman..." Another saleswoman scorned disdainfully, which caused Lily to tremble even more...

## The Rise of Dragon Temple By Wu Xia

### Chapter 40

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#### Chapter 40

At about six o'clock in the evening, Joseph cooked a meal for Chloe. After having dinner, he took her downstairs to play. Then, at seven o'clock in the evening, Serena came back. She was in a denim outfit, and her hair was tied up in a ponytail. Coincidentally, she spotted Joseph taking something from his new car. At that sight, her eyes glimmered, and she walked to the Mercedes-Benz. "Joseph, did you buy this car? Wow! It's Mercedes-Benz S-class! How beautiful..." To that, Joseph nodded and beamed, "Well, I bought it for Paige. What do you think? Does this suit her temperament?" With her eyes glued to the car, Serena went forward to feel it. Then, she turned her head and uttered bitterly, "I also want one. I think S-class suits me too..." Hearing her words, Joseph chuckled, "Sure, I will give you one after my wedding with Paige next month. Initially, I thought of buying you something better, like Porsche or Ferrari, but since you like Mercedes S, okay then..." When Serena listened to Joseph's banter, her face instantly went bitter, and she laughed bitterly, "No, please don't do this to me. I won't mind having a Porsche..." Once again, Joseph chuckled, "Alright, I'll buy whatever you want in the future. Paige has gone to the gathering, right? Please take care of Chloe. Also, Alpha l is nearby. So, you don't have to worry about safety, and have fun with Chloe..." Right away, Serena nodded. "Sure, you should get going and make her proud!" At the same time, Chloe also waved her little hands at Joseph and cheered, "Go for it, Daddy! Go for it!" Looking chic, Joseph opened the car door, got into the car, and replied, "Haha, that's a must for my wife! Whoever

dares to look down on her, they'll know!" After saying that, he stepped on the gas and drove toward the hotel Serena mentioned.

At 8 p.m., in a private room of Mirage Hotel, Paige was with a group of neatly dressed men and women. Every year, her college classmates in Oplen would have a gathering. However, for the past few years, Paige never participated in it. This time, when her classmates knew that she had returned, they insisted that she come over. Although her classmates' motives were apparent, Paige naively thought that tonight's gathering was merely a get-together with classmates. After all, she hadn't attended one. Moreover, shortly after her graduation, she got pregnant and gave birth to Chloe. Therefore, she had lost contact with her classmates. After she and the others were seated, a woman in a long white dress walked to her with a glass of red wine. Smilingly, that woman said, "Hey, Paige. Do you still remember me? I am Lei, Leila White..." Leila was decent-looking. Judging from her sharp nose, she seemed to have undergone plastic surgery. Besides, she had long hair and was wearing a shoulder-less dress. As she looked charming and sexy, plenty of men in the room couldn't help ogling at her. Being approached, Paige looked up and stared at Leila for a while. Once she remembered Leila, she smiled, "Oh, Lei. It's been a long time. How are you doing? I remember you've always wanted to be a hotel manager during our college days. By now, I believe you must've achieved it..." Hearing that, Leila deliberately sighed and whined, "Yep, I've achieved it, but I'm just the manager of a small hotel, and my salary is only a little more than 10,000 dollars. Actually, I've always wanted to work in Mirage Hotel since college, but I couldn't get in. So, I can only work in a small hotel. How unfortunate..." At this moment, another female classmate responded enviously, "Come on, Lei. If you think this is unfortunate, what does that make us? Don't you know that Oplen is incomparable to the top-tier big cities like Usmait and Vowhye? A monthly salary of 10,000 dollars is considered the highest here. So, you should be thankful. If you think yours isn't enough, we should kill ourselves then." "She's right. Quit showing off. You know we are not as good as you are..." Another female classmate responded sourly. Spreading out her hands, Leila replied, "Seriously? Have all of you forgotten about Brooks Nichols? He is now a senior executive of Gempoint Group, and his basic salary is around 30,000 dollars. Excluding commission. Now, this is what you call a winner of life. But I don't know why isn't he here today. Alas, I guess we're no longer worthy of his time..." When Paige heard Brooks' name, her heart skipped a beat. Right away, she lowered her head and drank some water because she had just met him this afternoon. But since he had the time to meet her, why didn't he come tonight? Sure enough, if Serena were here, she would've snorted, "If Brooks dared to come, that would be weird." Due to Estella's suspicion, Joseph let Brooks off the hook. Otherwise, Joseph could've either killed him or banished him from Oplen forever. And most probably, Brooks had fled by now... "Alright, my dear Lei. Brooks is doing well, but you're not bad either. Don't you know that both of you are the best among our classmates in Oplen? By the way, how are things between you and him? Rumors have been circulating all these years..." another female classmate spoke. Now that Brooks was absent, Leila became the center of the gathering. Needless to say, she deserved it. Not only was she beautiful, but she also had great socializing skills.

After hearing what that classmate said, Leila glanced at Paige and sighed, "So what? I like him, but he doesn't like me at all. Paige, I heard he was fond of you since back then. Didn't he look for you? He hardly comes back this time." Paige's body stiffened. For a moment, she was at a loss for words. In fact, she didn't have to reply because immediately, another female student spoke in an insulting tone,

"Oh my god, Paige? As if she won't feel embarrassed. Do you really not know or are you pretending to?" "Huh? What do you mean, Polly?" Leila turned her eyes, pretending not to know. Then, Polly Marshall—a woman with blonde hair-ridiculed, "What did I mean? Pfft! Do you seriously think she's all that great?" After a pause, she continued mocking, "Some woman got pregnant right after graduating, and once her child was born, she left. Now, I heard that she is back with a four-year-old child. So, do you think Brooks will still like her? Hehe..." "Wait! Really? Oh, as expected from one of the two campus beauties. Where did she even get the guts to do such shameless stuff..." another girl giped. Twitching her lips, Polly uttered, "Duh! Stop pretending to be confused! You guys knew it! And why didn't she have the guts to do so? Don't you see she's here? Haha! She's bold as brass..." Instantaneously, all the women in the room gave Paige a peculiar look. With her head lowered, Paige could feel a burning pain on her face, losing the confidence to look up. Although she wanted to leave, Lei was behind her, blocking her intentionally. For a split second, she felt miserable... Just then, a man couldn't stand it anymore. So, he reprimanded Polly, "Can't you shut it? We are classmates, and we're here for a class reunion." As soon as he finished, Polly gave him a contemptuous look and retorted, "Shut up, Bronson! Are you pretending to be a hero? Oh, I remember. You wrote her a love letter back then. But too bad, she threw it without bothering to read it. Well, she was a campus beauty, after all. And even if she wasn't right now, she is still out of your league, you loser. Look at you. After all these years, you have only become a property agent. I doubt you can even afford to feed your family!" Upon hearing that, Bronson Burnett stood up and yelled, "How dare you! Don't go too far! No matter how little I earn, I earn it with my hard work. Unlike you, prostituting in the nightclub for money!" "Bam!" Polly slammed the table and stood up. Pointing to Bronson, she shrieked, "What did you say?!" "Pooh! Who are you to judge people with money and act all mighty? You're nothing but a wh\*re..." Bronson sneered. Hearing that, Polly quivered with anger and was about to shoot her lips. However,

Leila shouted, "Enough! What are you two doing in our class gathering? Also, I heard Paige had a boyfriend, and she is now married." After she finished, she shot Paige a strange look and asked, "You're married, am I right? Where is your husband? Is he back here with you?" Not only was her tone filled with sarcasm, but there was also a hint of disdain in her eyes. "Yes, where is your husband, Paige? Since you were one of the two campus beauties, you must've picked a powerful man. Besides, you don't even spare a

glance at Brooks, so I assume your husband must be at least an executive or a boss," Judging from how the fancily dressed Polly added insult to the injury, she was obviously in cahoots with Leila. When Leila looked at Paige—who lowered her head quietly in embarrassment

she was extremely pleased. Due to having feelings toward Brooks, she had always hated Paige, and now, she finally found an opportunity to humiliate Paige... "No, my husband..." Under the gaze of her classmates at the dinner table, Paige wanted to explain something. However, before she could finish, Leila interrupted, "It's okay. Actually, I've heard something about you. Your husband is jobless, isn't he? Well, I can introduce him to a job. Our hotel is recruiting waiters anyway. Why don't you ask him to have a try? I will offer him 3,000 dollars a month. What do you think?" "Pfft! Waiter? Okay, that's better than nothing, but 3,000 dollars for that wastrel? You gotta be kidding me! Paige, shouldn't you thank Lei?" Polly scorned. Paige trembled. Now, she finally saw their true colors.

From the beginning, they were only here to make fun of her. While biting her lip, she gritted her teeth and took a deep breath. At that moment, she no longer had the desire to stay here. Therefore, she stood up, preparing to leave. However, as soon as she turned around, she saw Joseph walking in with several men and women with extraordinary momentum. Seeing that, she was puzzled. On the other hand, Polly—who sat opposite Paige—exclaimed, “Oh my god! That’s Lara Bennett, the chairman of Mirage Hotel and the most capable woman entrepreneur in Oplen! Wait, Lei’s hotel chairman-Brian Mccarty—is here too! But who is the bigshot standing between them?” Once Polly finished her words, everyone’s eyes fell on Lara and the other bosses, as well as the handsome man in the middle, who was escorted politely by them. Suddenly, the man in the middle looked in Polly’s direction with surprise. Then, his eyes fell on Paige, and he gasped, “Honey, why are you here?” Following Joseph’s words, a hush descended over the crowd. As for those women who had just ridiculed Paige, their mouths were wide opened, and they looked at Paige in disbelief...