

It was Lan Ling who'd given Lu Chen the call.

She had known that she was doomed the instant she'd learned that Lan Jing's mission to kidnap Lin Yijun had failed.

She knew that Lan Zuo wouldn't hesitate to kill both her and her family if she didn't manage to finish the task that he'd assigned her before daybreak.

There was nothing she could do but invite Lu Chen and attempt to negotiate with him.

To ensure that Lu Chen would come, she'd even told him that she was the one who'd arranged for Lin Yijun to be kidnapped.

Worried that Lu Chen might misunderstand the motives behind her invitation, she had deliberately asked to meet him at the Sakura Nightclub.

The Sakura Nightclub was Lu Chen's home base; it was why Lu Chen had dared to come with only Xu Jing as reinforcement.

"I think that you should try to explain yourself now," Lu Chen remarked, taken

aback to see Lan Ling sitting alone inside the private room within the Sakura Nightclub.

He couldn't fathom what Lan Ling wanted.

She hadn't just arranged for his wife to be kidnapped and admitted it to his face; she'd also invited him to a meeting and turned up without a single man by her side!

He had to admire Lan Ling; she was the most arrogant woman he'd ever seen.

She was far more arrogant than he was, and he was the uncrowned king of audacity in Chongqing.

"Would you believe that I don't hold anything against you?" Lan Ling posed the question.

"Do you mean to say that you're innocent just because you don't have a personal grudge against me, that everything that happened was because of your family?" Lu Chen mocked.

He then pulled out a cigarette and lit it. *This woman isn't just arrogant; she's utterly shameless!*

“No, that’s not what I meant.” Lan Ling shook her head, smiling bitterly inside at Lu Chen’s words.

She knew that she was no longer trustworthy in Lu Chen’s eyes.

Even so, she understood why; she’d let Lu Chen down so many times. It would be a miracle if Lu Chen still trusted her.

“Oh? Then do you mean to say that I shouldn’t have put up any resistance and foiled your plans?” Lu Chen continued sarcastically.

Lan Ling felt a little upset, but she could only smile bitterly. “Have you ever heard of the Hidden Families? Considering your status, you’ve probably heard some whispers about them.”

Lan Ling studied Lu Chen, wondering if he was from a Hidden Family.

The Lan Family had investigated Lu Chen, but hadn’t turned up with anything concrete.

The only person who knew of Lu Chen's true identity was Xiao Bieqing; to the rest of Beijing, Lu Chen was just a dead man.

Even if anyone managed to trace Lu Chen's past to Beijing's Lu Family, all they would find was that Lu Chen had 'died' young.

And so, it was simply impossible for the average person to find out about Lu Chen's true background.

"The Hidden Families?" Lu Chen eyebrow arched. He certainly knew of them, but he hadn't visited them personally in the past. *Could Lan Ling's family be one of the Hidden Families?*

Lu Chen stared at Lan Ling in contemplation. Ordinary people wouldn't learn martial arts at all, and even if they did, they would turn out with skills similar to Chen Churan's—sufficient to deal with petty thieves but not enough to defend against true martial artists.

However, Lu Chen was aware of Lan Ling's skill in martial arts; she was on a completely different level compared to Chen Churan.

He was certain that Lan Ling had learned authentic martial arts.

The authentic martial arts that only the Hidden Families still nurtured.

“That’s right. My grandfather is from a branch of the Hidden Lan Family; he left and settled down in the central plains because he felt undervalued back in the Hidden Lan Family, and eventually built up the foundations of our Lan Family’s small business empire. Some time ago, we were contacted by the Hidden Lan Family and they ordered us to acquire Yi Qi Technology; that’s how everything started,” Lan Ling explained.

“Why would they want Yi Qi Technology? A Hidden Family can’t possibly have its eye on that little bit of money?” Lu Chen sneered, thinking that Lan Ling was lying.

Hidden Families had long, distinguished lineages that could be traced back by hundreds if not a thousand years ago, so how could they still lack money?

There were two kinds of wealth in this world: one was old money; the other was newly minted—the nouveau riche.

Those like him, who still had to create wealth for themselves, were called the nouveau riche, whereas the Hidden Families had long come up with systems to make money for them, hence money rolled into their pockets without them even needing to think about it.

All because they had an established money-making system, with professionals to manage their assets.

The Hidden Families were the epitome of old money.

All of Lu Chen's efforts were to create what they had, where countless money would roll into his account every day without him needing to lift a finger, so that the next generation, or even the next ten generations to come would be well provided for.

There was only one Hidden Family which had truly entered the public eye, and that was the Rothschilds.

Why did the world call the Rothschilds the richest family in the world?

Because the world had discovered their

wealth when they had been exposed to the public.

In truth, the Rothschilds had already declined, and it was because of their family's decline that part of their wealth had been exposed, much to the world's amazement.

The truly, immensely rich families were still hidden.

And so, Lu Chen had known that Lan Ling was just bullsh*tting the minute she'd said that the Hidden Lan Family wanted to get their hands on Yi Qi Technology.

He had invested only 50 billion in Yiqi Technology, which was peanuts to any Hidden Family.

They could easily create a science and technology park of their own.

Besides, his science and technology park hadn't come up with anything noteworthy yet; it couldn't be worth the Hidden Lan Family's effort.

"That's why I asked you out today," Lan Ling concluded, then stared at Lu Chen in

expectant silence.

Lu Chen's eyes narrowed. He knew what Lan Ling meant; she wanted to negotiate with him.

However, did she really think that she still had the right to negotiate with him?

He had no intentions of letting Lan Ling leave safely now that she was here.

"Alright, tell me everything you know about the Hidden Lan Family, and perhaps I'll let you walk out alive," Lu Chen uttered, not mincing his words.

Lan Ling had first kidnapped his daughter, then attempted to kidnap his wife today. He wouldn't be who he was if he let her off after all that.

"You want to kill me?" Lan Ling's heart sank; she felt sad and bitter at the same time.

She hadn't considered hurting Lu Chen even though Lan Zuo had threatened her with her father's life, yet Lu Chen actually wanted to kill her.

Her heart felt ravaged and impossibly wretched at his threat.

He was the greatest man she'd ever met, and she'd fallen head over heels for him even though she knew very well that he already had a family.

But she was fortune's fool indeed.

She'd tried to get closer to him so many times, but ended up letting him down each time instead.

She knew that it would never work out between them, but she had no control over her feelings.

Her eyes turned pink, but she bit her teeth and forced the tears back.

"Give me a reason not to kill you," Lu Chen sneered, staring at her stonily.

Family would always be more important than any riches in Lu Chen's heart. If Lan Ling couldn't provide him a good enough reason—as well as for the safety of his family—he would not go back on his word.

Chapter 308 Give Me a Reason Not to Kill You



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Lan Ling smiled with anguish. "I know that you will kill me, but what I just told you was nothing but the truth. The Hidden Lan Family has a magical pearl which they had initially assumed was a treasure, but failed to use it even after several years' worth of attempts. And so, they turned to science and technology, capturing more than a dozen scientists to help them study the pearl. The scientists finally came to the conclusion that the pearl had been created using technology that they'd never seen before, and claimed that they needed a complete science and technology park to even stand a chance at unraveling its code," she disclosed.

Lu Chen's cocked a brow and inquired, "Then why don't they just build their own science and technology park? Shouldn't it be a simple matter for the Hidden Lan Family?"

"Because some of the other, major hidden families have guessed that the Lan Family has a magical pearl. They can't very well build a science and technology park openly, or it would be as good as shouting that they do indeed have the pearl," Lan Ling explained. "Besides, all the other major science and technology parks

belong to the world's greatest countries, and the Lan Family has no inclination to work with them."

At this point, Lu Chen smiled and expressed self-deprecatingly, "So, the Hidden Lan Family wants to rob me of my science and technology park, thinking that I'm easy pickings?"

Lan Ling nodded and affirmed his words earnestly, "Yes, that's exactly what the Lan Family's intending to do."

"Then what about now? Did you come here just to tell me this?" Lu Chen sneered, giving Lan Ling a sardonic look.

So the Lan Family thinks that I'm just easy pickings! Well, I'd like to see what else they have up their sleeves!

"To tell you the truth, Lan Zuo ordered me to get it done within three days, and he threatened to kill me and my father otherwise. I planned to kidnap Lin Yijun to force you to give up the company, but I didn't expect Lan Jing to have failed to kidnap her, but I knew I was doomed the minute I found out. That's why I came to you today; to cooperate with you."

Lan Ling narrated, sharing all she knew.

Lu Chen paused for a moment before opening his mouth once again. "What's in it for me?"

"Don't you want that magical pearl? Whether it's hyper-advanced technology or an ancient magic weapon, it'll do you a world of good!" Lan Ling exclaimed.

"It would interest me very much if what you said is true, but how do I know whether I can trust you?" Lu Chen nodded. The bead was indeed a treasure if Lan Ling's words rang true.

If it was an ancient magic weapon, it would be a huge boost to his strength as a martial artist.

And if it turned out to be the product of hyper-advanced technology, it would kick off Yi Qi Technology, making it unstoppable.

"I have the perfect plan, but you'll need to go against the Hidden Families. If you dare to execute the plan, I'll help you get that magic pearl." Lan Ling looked at Lu Chen defiantly.

"And what do you want in exchange?" Lu Chen locked gazes with Lan Ling.

"Don't mind me, just tell me whether you dare to or not. If you don't, just assume that you never met me today," Lan Ling urged.

Lu Chen was silent for a moment before stretching his hand out toward Lan Ling. "I'm guessing that you've already written the plan down; show it to me."

He decided to trust Lan Ling one last time, mostly because he was intrigued by the magic pearl that she had mentioned.

Lan Ling gave Lu Chen a look before breaking out into a smile and retrieving a piece of paper from her bag, which she then passed to Lu Chen.

Lu Chen read through Lan Ling's plan, and his head whipped up at her when he saw the conditions she had stipulated at the very end.

He honestly wondered whether Lan Ling was mad to have come up with such a condition.

"Why would you want to do that?" Lu Chen stared at Lan Ling, perplexed.

"Don't mind me. Just get ready to receive the Lan Family's wrath." Lan Ling smiled thinly, then got up and left the room.

Lu Chen watched Lan Ling leave, and picked up the note to take one last look at it before pulling out his lighter and burning it to ash.

"The Hidden Lan Family... Lan Zuo..." Lu Chen murmured, his eyes glinting dangerously before he too got up and left the room.

Lan Jing came forward immediately when Lan Ling returned to the Lan Family Mansion and asked, "Miss, how was it? Did you manage to see Lu Chen?"

As circumstances went, the only thing they could do was to tell Lu Chen everything, or risk failing to complete Lan Zuo's orders.

"I did, and he agreed," Lan Ling revealed.

"What?! He agreed? How is that possible?!" Lan Jing stared at Lan Ling, unable to believe his ears.

Yi Qi Technology is Lu Chen's crowning glory. Why would he actually agree to give it up?!

Lan Jing shook his head, sure that his young mistress was pulling his leg.

"That's right; he agreed, but only if he's allowed to talk to Young Master Lan," Lan Ling explained.

Lan Jing nodded, and thought that it was no wonder, his doubts assuaged.

"Then how do we tell Young Master Lan?! He wants us to bring Yi Qi Technology straight to him," Lan Jing fretted.

"That's all we can do. We can't give him anything if he won't see Lu Chen; there's nothing we can give him even if he kills us. We aren't a match for Lu Chen, and we can't very well go at him with guns blazing, can we?" Lan Ling laughed bitterly and plopped down onto the sofa before continuing, "I want you to go personally to Young Master Lan and explain the situation. Ask him to come to our place tonight; Lu Chen will be here to meet him."

Lan Jing was a little troubled by her

request, but he too felt that it was the only way, and so he nodded. "Okay, I'll head over and invite Young Master Lan now."

"Wait a minute." Lan Ling stopped Lan Jing when she saw that he was leaving and whispered in his ear, "Young Master Lan will be furious that we didn't complete his orders. You better bring a few more men for him to take it out on."

Lan Jing's eyes gleamed, thinking that his young lady made sense, and nodded before marching out of the room excitedly.

Earlier, he hadn't wanted to go to Lan Zuo for fear that the latter would take it out on him.

An angry glint flickered in Lan Ling's eyes as she watched Lan Jing leave excitedly.

Lan Zuo turned up at Lan Ling's mansion half an hour later, seething at the teeth.

He gave Lan Ling a solid slap in the face once he stepped through the door.

"You're utter trash! How are you incapable of settling even a small matter like this?! What does the Lan Family need the likes of

you for?!" Lan Zuo raged at Lan Ling.

"I apologize for our incapacibilities and for letting you down, Young Master Lan." A trickle of blood flowed out of the corner of Lan Ling's lips, but she showed no intention of wiping it.

She bowed her head as if afraid to look at Lan Zuo in the eye, and so no one saw the vicious gleam that lit up her eyes.

"Where's that guy Lu Chen? Why isn't he here yet?" Lan Zuo looked around the room and grew even angrier when he didn't see Lu Chen around.

"He'll be here right away," Lan Ling whispered.

"Hmph!Huh?!"

Lan Zuo snorted coldly before suddenly realizing that something wasn't right; he whipped around and glared at Lan Ling, his eyes blazing with fury and killing intent.

Chapter 309 Lan Ling's Plan



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