

The next day, Lu Chen asked Xu Jing what car he liked and bought him a Mercedes G350 when he replied that he enjoyed going cross-country. Although Lu Chen hadn't said it, the car was as good as Xu Jing's, to use as he liked.

Xu Jing didn't ask about it either but was full of exhilaration since it was the very first time he'd had the chance to drive a luxury car, leading to two traffic violations on the first day he sent Qiqi to school.

Qiqi loved the G Wagon as well and actually told her parents that she didn't like sitting in Lu Chen's Steinway when she came home that night.

Xu Jing's job was a boring one since he had to hang around the kindergarten during classes after dropping Qiqi off, so Lu Chen gave him 500,000 and let him do as he liked with it as long as he didn't stray far from the kindergarten.

Over the next few days, Lu Chen didn't dare to let his guard down despite not finding a single hint of any schemes to harm Qiqi or Lin Yijun.

Within those few days, he had called in a

favor and asked someone to hire some mercenaries from the Middle East for him. A total of twenty-four of them turned up for the interview, of which only four passed the tests which he conducted himself.

Lu Chen gave each of the four mercenaries a monthly pay of 40,000 for them to protect Lin Yijun.

The monthly pay of 40,000 was for a contract which stipulated that they were to die shielding Lin Yijun from harm if necessary; that they had to sacrifice their lives if it meant that Lin Yijun stayed safe.

The job of a bodyguard wasn't easy. You could say that a bodyguard's money was the blood money for which he'd signed his life over.

Regardless, compared to being hired by the army, their lives were less at stake and the benefits they enjoyed were higher.

Under ordinary circumstances, no capable person would become a mercenary on the battlefield if they didn't lack the necessary contacts or weren't pressed by circumstances.

Besides the rare, belligerent individual who enjoyed life on the battlefield.

At the end of the day, most of them preferred to return to the city as normal bodyguards when hired by rich people after they had made a name for themselves.

Despite the dangers that a bodyguard faced, it was paradise compared to that of a warzone.

As for the remaining twenty mercenaries, Lu Chen offered them a position similar to a top-flight security guard's, with a monthly pay between 10,000-15,000 at Yi Qi Technology.

The mercenaries were all skilled fighters, but even then, a salary between 10,000-15,000 was considered high for them, far higher than the pay they received in the military.

And so they all signed the contract with Yi Qi Technology without a single objection to Lu Chen's conditions.

Lu Chen planned to hire another batch of 100 or more mercenaries when Yi Qi



Technology commenced operations.

As a science and technology park, it would contain many advanced technological products and applications which required a large security team to protect.

However, this would all come later, with no need to rush as there was at least half a year before the science and technology park would commence operations.

The main thing on his mind at the moment was digging out that Mr. Mu; if he didn't, he would never know where his father's first wife, Xiao Bieqing, was.

Nor would he know what Xiao Bieqing was up to.

But since Xiao Bieqing had forced even his father to dissolve the Lu Family and leave Beijing, she probably wouldn't make things easy when she found him.

Lu Chen wasn't really worried about himself; he was more worried about Xiao Bieqing targeting Lin Yijun or even Qiqi.

She could even come after Yi Qi Technology.

I just hope she still doesn't know that Yi Qi Technology belongs to me, Lu Chen brooded.

Lu Chen would be moving house in 5 days. When he went home, however, Lin Yijun informed him that her godmother had invited their entire family to go to her son's housewarming party that would occur right after her son had moved into his new house tomorrow.

Lin Yijun had been frail in her childhood, so Wang Xue, being from the village and believing in the village customs, had found Lin Yijun a godmother. The two families had always been close, but they had drifted apart when Lin Yijun had chosen Lu Chen over her godmother's son who had also taken a fancy to her.

"I hear that Tang Dalong has been working at a multinational corporation ever since he returned from his studies abroad and that his pay and benefits are incredible, so much so that it only took him a few years to buy a new house," Yijun said casually.

Tang Dalong was her godbrother and an admirer of hers back then. At one point, her mother, Wang Xue, had even told her to

break up with Lu Chen and marry Tang Dalong instead.

Lu Chen nodded, evidently remembering Tang Dalong as they had all been students at Chongqing university though Tang Dalong had been 3 years ahead of them. Tang Dalong had been in his junior year while Lu Chen and Lin Yijun were just freshmen, and had left for Europe to further his studies when they were sophomores.

Tang Dalong had received exemplary grades back then and studied abroad, so it was only natural that he'd achieved so much.

The next day, Lu Chen and his family went to the Tang Family's housewarming party. The new house, a double-storey house with a ground floor more than 1000 square meters wide, was in a high-end residential area in the Yuzhong District and cost 16,000 per square meter.

Many of the Tang Family's relatives were already there by the time Lu Chen and his family arrived, but the head of the Tang Family, Tang Qingshan, left his relatives and came forward to welcome them when



he saw them arrive.

“Oh my, Lin. You’re late! I’ve already brought them on a tour of the place, so why don’t you take a look around on your own? The house is small, and there isn’t anything particularly remarkable about it.” Tang Qingshan laughed heartily, his words filled with pretentiousness.

His house was as good as a mansion; he was clearly showing off.

Lin Dahai and Wang Xue both looked embarrassed. They knew that Tang Qingshan was humblebragging to them, so they just smiled and praised, “Tang, you’re really living the dream now. You must be very happy!”

Truth be told, Lu Chen treated Lin Dahai wonderfully, providing him with a million each month and full benefits, allowing him to work only when he felt like it, and even allowing him the use of a company car! If there was anyone who had the right to show off, it was Lin Dahai.

However, Lin Dahai had always kept a low profile and wouldn’t brag about it to anyone, especially not to his friends.

Even so, Wang Xue was still dissatisfied because despite all his riches, Lu Chen still let them live in the same old house with only two rooms and a hall. Once, back when she and her daughter had been touring her brother Wang Kai's new house, she hadn't been able to stop herself from asking Lin Yijun when her family would be moving into a new place.

Lin Yijun and Lu Chen had settled on moving in four days but hadn't informed Wang Xue and Lin Dahai yet.

Lin Yijia and Wang Qiong had been busy giving their all to their new jobs over the last few days, so neither of them brought it up to Wang Xue nor even remembered about it.

That was why Wang Xue still didn't know that Lu Chen was moving to Dragon Lakeview Mansion Area.

"Ah, I'm just enjoying life thanks to my son, Dalong. He just spent a bomb on a new car for me," Tang Qingshan bragged as he threw a glance toward Lu Chen and Lin Yijun who were standing beside him.

"Lin, you must regret having refused to



marry Yijun to Dalong. Instead, she married such a good-for-nothing. Is he still just a security guard?" Now an old man, Tang Qingshan somehow had the cheek to laugh at his own jibe at the younger generation's expense.



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The other old men there all knew about Tang Dalong's previous fancy for Lin Yijun and that Lin Yijun had almost married him back then. Now that they saw that Lu Chen looked nothing out of the ordinary, they joined in with Tang Qingshan's taunting.

"Lin doesn't have any choice either; he doesn't have a say in his own house. Do you think he would let his daughter live such a hard life otherwise?"

"Have you ever bought the Lin Family's daughter branded clothes and bags or brought her on a trip since you married her? Are you still a security guard?"

The old farts, ridiculously bored, started jeering at a young man and enjoying themselves at his expense.

Lin Dahai looked mortified. He wanted to speak up for Lu Chen, but his nature was such that he didn't know how to speak out against his old friends' behavior.

Wang Xue's face was also flushed in anger, but she too didn't speak up for Lu Chen since she still nursed a grudge against him.

After all, she still had to hustle every day since Lu Chen had arranged a cushy position for Lin Dahai but not for her.

When she thought of the cushy job that Lu Chen had given Lin Dahai, she lost all interest in her own job in addition to any motivation to leave the house.

Lin Yijun couldn't just stand by anymore. These old farts are completely shameless!

Lu Chen held her back and smiled thinly at Tang Qingshan and the posse of old men with him as he addressed them. "Uncle Tang, I've never done any of the things you mentioned, but I did buy Yijun a new house. We'll be moving house in four days' time."

Everyone paused at Lu Chen's announcement, especially Wang Xue whose joy practically shone from her face.

She knew that Lu Chen was wealthy so she had faith that the house he bought wouldn't be shabby. It would most likely be a mansion worth 5 or 6 million.

A mansion worth 5 or 6 million would be worth showing off.



It would be bragging rights even if Lu Chen didn't invite her and Lin Dahai to move in.

It would still be her son-in-law's mansion after all.

Tang Qingshan and the other old men hesitated and scrutinized Lu Chen more closely, unable to believe that Lu Chen could afford a house. Wasn't he just a security guard? Where did he get the money to buy a house?

He's probably just blowing hot air, the old men all thought. They had heard that Lu Chen was a security guard just a few months ago. It was wishful thinking for him to have had a turn of fortune within such a short period of time.

"There are four more days till your moving day? Don't forget to invite us to take a tour of your new house then!" Tang Qingshan obviously thought that Lu Chen was joking and planned to make fun of him when the time came.

"Of course I won't forget you, Uncle Tang! I won't forget to invite any of you; I'll even send cars to fetch all of you," Lu Chen declared with a smile.

“Oh, my, Yijun, the two of you really bought a new house? Where is it and how many tens of thousands was the downpayment?”

Tang Dalong just happened to overhear Lu Chen talking about his new house as he walked down from the second floor. His eyes lit up and the question burst out of his lips.

Tang Dalong mentioning a downpayment in the tens of thousands was obviously a derisive jibe at Lu Chen. Were there still any houses with downpayments in the tens of thousands in Chongqing?

“Dalong, Lu Chen bought the house, so I don’t know how much the downpayment cost either.” Lin Yijun still felt guilty about turning down Tang Dalong’s obvious infatuation with her all those years ago and couldn’t bring herself to crush his spirits.

Tang Qingshan and all the others laughed when they heard her.

They were now sure that Lu Chen had either bought a sub-sale house or a new house by an affordable housing scheme in

a more rural area that probably only cost 4000-5000 per square meter.

There was no comparison between houses like that and Tang Dalong's new double-storey home.

"Oh, I almost forgot! Lu Chen, why don't you ask Dalong to arrange a job for you? Dalong is now a manager at Yi Qi Technology and he earns almost 200,000 a month. Any job he arranges for you would be better than a security guard's." Tang Qingshan gloated again.

Tang Dalong raised his chin as pride and self-confidence radiated from his face upon hearing his father's praise. He had the right to be proud because of his capability and how he had risen to the upper crust of Chongqing's working class when he had landed the manager's position in Yi Qi Technology.

Lu Chen contemplated Tang Dalong. Yi Qi Technology's hiring process was mainly in the hands of Xu Shuting especially when it came to the recruitment of management staff. Even if the human resource department had okayed a candidate, the candidate would still have to pass a



second round of interviews and tests that she conducted.

Xu Shuting was a professional manager with exceedingly high and rigid expectations; the talents that she picked seldom failed to perform.

Tang Dalong had to be capable if he had managed to land a manager's position in Yi Qi Technology.

Tang Dalong caught Lu Chen watching him and thought that it was out of jealousy. He smiled and offered, "My dad was telling the truth. I can help you if you want to change your job, but I may only be able to help you to get a basic position and not a post in management. Whatever it is, at least it'll be better than being a security guard."

Although Tang Dalong had been head over heels for Lin Yijun a few years ago, he had given up when she married Lu Chen. He had since built a happy life with a wife and child of his own.

On his part, he had already put that part of his past away.

Despite that, his parents still held their grievances and griped about it whenever the matter was brought up. It was why his father, Tang Qingshan, had mocked and jeered at Lu Chen today.

“Okay. Thank you, Dalong. I’ll be sure to look for you when I want to find a new job.” Lu Chen smiled and gave a non-committal reply.

It would be interesting to know how Tang Dalong would feel when he learned that Lu Chen was his boss and remembered that he had once offered to help him find a job.

“Lu Chen, what kind of house did you buy and where did you buy it? Please tell me it’s nicer than this house or Tang Qingshan will laugh our entire family out of the room.” Wang Xue pulled Lu Chen aside to ask before dinner was served.

Lin Dahai had followed his wife, for he too wanted to know about the house Lu Chen had bought. Moreover, Tang Qingshan and his old friends’ comments had struck a nerve in him; he had always been mild-mannered, but he’d been miffed when those old rascals had dared to ridicule Lu Chen.

Lu Chen smiled, but Wang Xue cut in before he could reply. "If it isn't as nice as Dalong's double-storey unit, then let's just rent a mansion. It shouldn't cost much to rent one for a month and at least it's better than losing face."

Lin Dahai nodded in agreement and chimed in. "That's probably the only way out. Honestly, those old men are ridiculously immature for their age, making fun of you like that when you're just a young man. I would have torn into them if they hadn't been my friends for decades."

Lu Chen smiled, touched by Wang Xue's considerate suggestion. It didn't matter whether Wang Xue had suggested it to save her pride or because she had disliked hearing Tang Qingshan and his friends jeer at Lu Chen.

"Mum, Dad, don't worry. The house I bought is a huge mansion, and Yijun and I would like the two of you to move in with us soon," Lu Chen told them earnestly.



## Chapter 225 Former Rivals in Love



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