

Genius 102

Chapter 102: Gambling on Stones_1

"Wait a second..."

Qin Fang had just stepped out of that courtyard when he heard the urgent voice of Lei Zi coming from behind him.

"Go back quickly, take your sister to the hospital for preparation, you can't delay any longer..." Qin Fang just smiled faintly and waved his hand at Lei Zi, indicating there was no need for concern.

However, Lei Zi clearly didn't fully grasp what Qin Fang meant, and instead, he rushed in front of Qin Fang, "I won't mince words, I'll only say this, no matter what you're thinking, from today onwards, my life, Lei Zi, is yours..."

"No need for that, I'm not..."

Qin Fang shook his head, just about to refuse, but Lei Zi grabbed hold of him, "I know you are a good person! I, Lei Zi, may not have many skills, but when I give my word, I mean it! Now I'm going to take my sister to the hospital, and once she has recovered, you can tell me to do anything!"

After saying this, he didn't give Qin Fang another chance to refuse and immediately went back to the courtyard.

All Qin Fang could do was shake his head helplessly, but didn't take it to heart too seriously. If he really had intended to seek repayment, he would never have saved Lei Zi, let alone have offered money for the treatment of Lei Zi's sister.

"Is the deed done?"

When Qin Fang came back, it was just in time for lunch. Xiao Nan had also gotten up by then and, seeing that Qin Fang had returned, the slight solemnity on his face had already vanished. As Qin Fang handed back the bank card, Xiao Nan asked with a smile.

"Yeah, more or less!"

Qin Fang nodded, the money had been given to Lei Zi, and his task had come to an end.

"That's good... Oh, by the way, these next few days are the last of the holidays, should we brothers from the dorm go out for some fun? Ninghai has quite a few places to play around! You're the landlord, and you know Ninghai much better than we do..."

Military training had ended, and there were the last two or three days of rest before regular classes would start. Xiao Nan proposed cheerily.

"Let's discuss it after lunch back in the dorm..."

For such group activities, naturally, Qin Fang couldn't decide on his own, so he immediately suggested with a smile.

However, for these fresh university freshmen, having traveled thousands of miles to come to Ninghai and staying here for at least four years, getting familiar with the environment was a must. They were supposed to occasionally hit the city center for a chance with the girls.

Fortunately, no one had any objections, and Fang Dacheng, who was the only one with a little reluctance, was also dragged by Qin Fang into the city center.

Jiangnan Province is one of the most economically developed provinces in the nation, and Ninghai, as the capital of Jiangnan Province, is a big city East of Long Country. Even hundreds to thousands of years ago, it had already been one of the most prosperous cities and had been the capital for several dynasties. Both its culture and history are extremely rich.

The city center is naturally the busiest area, with a daily flow of millions of people; it is genuinely very lively. However, Qin Fang and the others only had a brief look around. With too many people and the weather too hot, they decided to stroll around Ninghai's famous walking street, Confucius Temple.

The flow of people at Confucius Temple is also high. It is the most famous pedestrian street in Ninghai City and also a historic old street with a long history. Here, there are many stalls, shops, and a variety of teahouses, situated beside the Qinhuai River, a well-known historical site of fireworks.

Qin Fang had visited here a few times before, not particularly familiar but also not unfamiliar, so he led his dormitory brothers around the various stalls and shops. He himself didn't pay much attention; instead, his brothers were quite interested—browsing from one stall to the next. Meanwhile, Qin Fang was casually deploying his Scouting Skill to increase Proficiency, hoping to level up soon.

"Wow, I've struck it rich..."

"Such luck!"

Just then, as Qin Fang and the others were browsing the small stalls, a commotion arose nearby, catching their attention.

"What's going on over there? Why is there such a crowd?"

"Should we go check it out?"

Loving a lively scene is innately a trait of our people, so Qin Fang and company, as seasoned onlookers, were naturally no exception; they immediately headed towards a shop surrounded by dozens of people.

Bizarre Stone Archway!

The name of the shop was just that, and with Shen Yang's bulk shoving left and right to clear the way, they finally squeezed their way to the very front, snagging a decent spot to witness what was unfolding.

"This is called stone gambling, a very expensive hobby that can also make one rich overnight... I've tried it once in Southern Yue, threw in hundreds of thousands, and got squat in return. Never again!"

Compared to Qin Fang and company's ignorance, Xiao Nan was somewhat informed and immediately pointed at the pile of stones on the ground, saying, "Don't be fooled by their plain appearance, hidden within could be treasures worth millions..."

"Really? That impressive?"

Qin Fang and the rest were quite taken aback.

"Of course, it's impressive! These stones are known as jadeite raw stones. You see the jade sold in jewelry shops? They're cut from these stones. Over the past few years, jadeite prices have skyrocketed. Even a decent quality piece this size can fetch tens to hundreds of thousands. If luck is on your side and you get a top-grade jadeite, selling it for millions or tens of millions isn't far-fetched..."

There was nothing particularly special about the appearance of the stones—at least they couldn't discern anything—but the possibility of priceless jadeite hidden inside had them all glancing sideways with interest.

"I bid three million!"

As they conversed, the origin of the crowd's excitement—a glass-type jadeite—had been up for bid for a while, with the price climbing from several hundred thousand to three million, giving Qin Fang and his friends a real scare.

Qin Fang sneaked a peek in that direction, and indeed, the jadeite was crystal clear. Had he not known it was jadeite, he might have mistaken it for ordinary glass.

And this glass-type piece was only about the size of an egg, yet its value had soared to three million, far more expensive than gold.

"Brothers, don't get your hopes up. This kind of thing is about luck; it can't be forced. Look at all these stones, fewer than one in ten could yield jadeite, and even if they do, most are poor quality. Most players end up losing everything. The guys who get rich overnight are few and far between..."

Seeing that Qin Fang and the others seemed tempted, Xiao Nan quickly advised them. He had been through it before and didn't want his brothers to suffer a loss.

"Forget it, if you guys aren't giving up, by all means, give it a try. But let me make it clear, if you lose, don't blame me!" The bidding on the other side continued to climb, tempting them all the more. Out of helplessness, Xiao Nan couldn't be too rigid in his advice.

Thus, Qin Fang and the others pushed through the crowd toward the neatly arranged jadeite raw stones.

The raw stones were tidily set up in different areas, categorized as either full gamble or half gamble.

Half gamble meant the raw stone was already cut open, revealing the jadeite inside. These were quite pricey. Qin Fang estimated none were below five figures, and some of the higher quality pieces were even tagged at several hundreds of thousands, leaving Qin Fang astounded.

The full gamble stones were somewhat cheaper, priced according to the raw stone's quality. Those that seemed likely to contain jadeite were also quite costly, ranging from tens to hundreds of thousands.

Of course, the full gamble stones were riskier, and there were also some of poor appearance, which couldn't even be compared in price — you could get a large piece for just a few thousand.

But most of these raw stones were unlikely to produce jadeite, and buying them even at a bargain would most likely be akin to throwing money away.

"Jadeite raw stones that won't yield jadeite!"

"Jadeite raw stones with jade inside!"

How others chose didn't concern Qin Fang, nor did he heed the others around him who spoke so confidently, as if the stones they were looking at were sure to increase in value.

To Qin Fang, there were only two types of raw stones—those that could yield jadeite and those that couldn't.

Of course, this distinction was thanks to Qin Fang's Scouting Skill. It's just a pity that his Scouting Skill level was too low; no matter how many times Qin Fang utilized his Scouting Skill, drawing such a conclusion was already the limit.

In other words, even if Qin Fang was certain that a jadeite raw stone had jadeite inside, he still couldn't guarantee the quality of the jadeite, which meant there was still a substantial gamble involved.

Of course, compared to others who could end up throwing their money into the water, Qin Fang at least had a chance at breaking even, and if luck were on his side leading to a major oversight, he could truly strike it rich overnight.