

Genius 104

Chapter 104: A Slice of Heaven, A Slice of Hell (Part 1)_1

"Who's first?"

A rough stone gamble had failed, and the guys became somewhat hesitant, with Shen Yang asking out of the blue.

"Forget it, let's go first!"

Xiao Nan looked at the two pieces of rough stone with poor appearance that Qin Fang had, thought about it, and felt it was better for them to start. Their morale was now a bit low after the failure of that bet, and it needed a boost; otherwise, when the guys went back, they'd probably be dispirited for days.

"Hmm, this piece of stone is good, there's a high chance of striking green."

That was from the guy who'd made a spot-on comment earlier, clearly another one knowledgeable about the trade.

"It looks like the one I saw earlier, what a misjudgment..."

That was from the person who'd wanted to buy that piece of stone but got distracted by the excitement of gambling and didn't expect that in the blink of an eye, Shen Yang would purchase it; he was regretting it now all by himself.

Many in the crowd of onlookers knew their stuff; they were quite optimistic about the piece of rough stone that Shen Yang and Xiao Nan had, discussing it animatedly. Some jade businessmen had even taken up advantageous positions—watching was one thing, but they could also make timely offers if the bet turned out well.

"How shall we cut this stone? The same way as before with one slice?"

This piece of stone was larger than the one Xi Xiaojun had earlier, and its quality appeared much better, so Master Jieshi went through the routine of asking.

Shen Yang was taken aback and looked at Xiao Nan—as he had the final say.

"The Third, shall we do the cutting ourselves?"

Xiao Nan hesitated, then felt tempted.

Although he hadn't gambled on stones many times, it was certainly no small number, but every time, someone else did the cutting for him—he had never actually tried it himself. Now, with a piece of rough stone that seemed very likely to produce jade, he was getting itchy hands.

"Done! Let's cut it ourselves!"

Shen Yang was also somewhat excited; after all, witnessing the birth of jade was an exhilarating experience.

Master Jieshi naturally didn't say much else; he simply explained how to use the various machines and helped fix the piece of rough stone onto the machine.

"These two young 'uns are even trying their hands at it!"

"Ignorance is bliss for the novice... We're all old now!"

"I say, young man, you better let the master craftsman do it. Don't end up ruining a good piece of jade!"

Seeing Shen Yang and Xiao Nan starting to cut the stone themselves, the onlookers were quite amused. There's a big difference between professionals and amateurs, and with the two youngsters like Shen Yang, if they acted rashly, they might indeed damage the jade inside.

Perhaps they could turn a top-quality jade into a flawed piece or ruin the beauty.

Shen Yang, the big fella, put on plain glasses to shield from dust and debris, armed with a grinding wheel, looking somewhat like a chain saw madman; Xiao Nan also took his position, consulted with Master Jieshi next to him, and started to form a plan for cutting the stone.

"Cut across here..."

Xiao Nan directed, while Shen Yang executed; the two cooperated with each other.

Whirr whirr whirr~~~

The electric grinding wheel turned rapidly, cutting through the exterior layer of the rough stone, inching towards the inside. Master Jieshi would not really stand idle; he followed along, occasionally providing some small pieces of advice.

With a harsh screeching "whirr whirr...crack" noise, the stone split in half, revealing its core.

A crowd couldn't help but push forward to see more clearly, including Qin Fang and the rest who were no exception. Then the onlookers couldn't help but let out a sigh—it was obvious that there was nothing inside.

"Collapsed!"

Those behind who couldn't see asked eagerly, and those in front who had seen couldn't help but reply.

"Didn't expect such a good piece of stone to collapse..."

"If it were so easy to get something out of it, then what's the point of gambling?!"

All sorts of comments reached Qin Fang's ears, but he didn't find it strange; he had known beforehand that this piece of rough stone was bound to collapse. However, seeing Shen Yang and Xiao Nan's disappointed expressions, he couldn't help but feel a twinge of guilt.

"Young man, you still want to cut more?"

Looking at the piece of rough stone that had been cut into two halves, empty with no sign of jade, Master Jieshi still diligently asked.

"Forget it, it's split like this now..."

Shen Yang glanced at Xiao Nan, who could only offer a helpless bitter smile in response.

"Don't get discouraged! Jade gambling is always like this..."

Qin Fang felt it wasn't right to just stand there, so he stepped forward along with a few others to offer consolation.

"It's fine! The Third, it's my fault this time, I'll cover the loss... Honestly, Fourth Brother, we really should have listened to your advice! Now it's your turn, hurry up and bring your stone up, we refuse to believe we won't see any jade today!"

Xiao Nan seemed pretty philosophical about it all; this wasn't the first time he had failed at jade gambling, and he quickly moved past it, then remembered that Qin Fang still had two pieces of rough stone, though those two did not look promising at all. But they had just cut a piece that looked like it could turn out green.

"Alright, alright, alright... Today, we must find some green!"

Not just Xiao Nan, but Shen Yang's face also bore a smile, and Qin Fang was unreserved in his proclamation.

Qin Fang casually pointed at one of the two pieces of rough stone, both of which had the potential to produce jade, though it was uncertain what quality of jade they might reveal. Since the purchase price wasn't high, as long as any green was found, he probably wouldn't lose money – it was a bet on the rise.

"This piece looks really terrible!"

"Indeed very terrible, this young man seems to have no idea at all, probably picked them up randomly!"

"So what if he doesn't know? Have you so quickly forgotten? That previous piece also looked bad, yet it turned out to be worth over four million in glass-type, maybe this one will too!"

"Yeah, the one before that looked good, but still ended up being worthless!"

With a crowd of onlookers, there were bound to be all kinds of opinions floating around, naturally bringing up the piece of glass-type that Qin Fang and his friends had come across earlier, which sold on the spot for over four million, a true overnight fortune.

The brothers helped to place the piece of rough stone on the cutting machine, securing it in place, and Qin Fang casually asked, "Do we cut it ourselves this time, or shall we let Master Jieshi do it?"

"We'll do it ourselves..."

The brothers unanimously decided, and Qin Fang naturally wouldn't refuse. After all, they already had some experience from the previous time and were somewhat more skillful now.

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The same piercing sound of cutting through the stone's skin came through, and with a snap, the outer crust fell off, revealing the heart of the stone.

"It's going up! It's going up!"

"It really is going up..."

While the discussions around them were still not settled, there were already exclamations from those nearby.

"It's green..."

Master Jieshi rinsed the cut surface with mineral water and spotted that glimmer of Yingying green. "Judging by this patch of green, this piece isn't too small, with mediocre quality and a bean-green base... Considering the price of this rough stone, we can say it's a big win!"

Although this piece hadn't been fully cut open, just from the bit of green that had emerged, it was already considered a big win. As for whether it would suddenly crumble if they continued cutting, that was still hard to predict.

"Young man, are you selling this piece? I offer Twenty Thousand Yuan!"

With the stone's value going up, the jade merchants started to make their moves, immediately inquiring about it, wisely addressing Qin Fang directly rather than approaching Xiao Nan, who seemed to be the leader.

"Cutting more might ruin it! Sell it, highest bidder wins!"

Qin Fang looked at Xiao Nan, who simply shrugged, clearly leaving the decision to Qin Fang. After thinking about it, considering what Master Jieshi had said about the mediocre quality and the offer on the table... Qin Fang readily indicated his intent to sell, having noticed the other jade merchants also appeared eager.

Not to mention anything else, this piece of rough stone had cost him only One Thousand Yuan, so even selling it outright for Twenty Thousand Yuan meant making 20 times the investment. It was indeed a big win for Qin Fang, giving him a substantial income.

"I'll give Twenty-Five Thousand!"

"Twenty-Eight Thousand!"

"Thirty Thousand..."

Perhaps because the quality of the stone really was average, the bids from the jade merchants weren't very high. Even when the price was raised to Thirty Thousand, people began to hesitate, seemingly weighing whether it was worth going any higher.

"Alright, it's yours!"

Qin Fang was decisive. Seeing the others' hesitation, he knew the price was about right and didn't want to give them more time to think. He immediately sold the piece to the merchant who had offered Thirty Thousand.

Meanwhile, he was already eager to find out what kind of jade the other piece of rough stone might yield!