

Golden 136

Chapter 136 A stroke of good luck (Part Two)

"Hey, you trying to compete with me? I've got so much money I don't know what to do with it. I'll take it, three thousand it is..."

Enraged by Xu Wei's words, Liu Chuan disregarded whether Lei Lei would punish him by making him kneel on a board or have his ears pulled. Without a word, he counted out three thousand yuan from his pocket and threw it to Yang Hao. Zhuang Rui watched with amusement, thinking to himself, "The saying 'fools have their luck' perfectly describes Liu Chuan."

Seeing that Liu Chuan was acting recklessly, Lei Lei didn't want to embarrass him in public, so she remained silent, secretly thinking about how to torment him. Outsiders had no idea.

"Boss Yang, what's the price for these two pieces? Don't rip me off, I just want the thrill of cutting the stones. I won't take them if they're too expensive," Zhuang Rui said to Yang Hao, pointing to the two rough stones he had picked out.

"Boss Zhuang, these two rough stones are full-fledged gambling stones. They were pulled from old mines in Myanmar. Although the appearance on the outside isn't great, no one can say for sure what's inside. How about this, the two stones together will cost 30,000 yuan. What do you think?"

Yang Hao knew that neither the semi-gambled nor fully-gambled rough stones he brought were of very good quality. He only came to this trade fair because his family asked him to broaden his horizons. To be honest, there was only one good rough stone among them, which was the semi-gambled rough stone that Xu Wei had already bought.

After listening to Yang Hao's quote, the old man carefully examined the raw jade that Zhuang Rui had selected and shook his head noncommittally.

"What can you buy with 30,000 yuan these days? Boss Zhuang sold a manuscript for 3.8 million yuan. This little bit of money is nothing to Boss Zhuang." Xu Wei said strangely again. He had given up on Qin Xuanbing and was no longer afraid of what Qin Xuanbing thought of him.

"Eight thousand, Mr. Yang. If you agree, I'll cut it open in a bit; if not, I'll put it back..."

Zhuang Rui looked at Yang Hao with a determined expression. After seeing Old Master Gu shake his head, he wasn't afraid that Yang Hao wouldn't sell.

"Eight thousand is really too little, my shipping costs alone are more than that..."

"Alright, Brother Yang, that's not fair of you. Renting a car from Guangdong and back would only cost ten or twenty thousand yuan. Are you going to charge for every single stone?"

Liu Chuan interrupted Yang Hao before he could finish speaking. He was always traveling around and knew these market conditions very well.

"Okay, eight thousand it is. Today is the first day, let's sell it cheaply."

Yang Hao nodded and agreed. He had already achieved his main goal for coming here: to sell the three million yuan piece of semi-gambling jade. He would have an explanation to give when he got home. As for the other items, they were just accessories, and he could decide whether the price was higher or lower.

"Mr. Yang, please count it and see if the amount is correct."

Zhuang Rui took out a wad of cash from his pocket, counted out two thousand, and handed the rest to Yang Hao. He was going back to Zhonghai this time to repay the money his boss had advanced for rent, as well as some other expenses, so he had brought thirty thousand yuan in cash with him, which came in handy now.

Yang Hao put the money into the money counter, counted it quickly, and after confirming that the amount was correct, he put the money away and said to Zhuang Rui and the others, "That's right, it's exactly eight thousand yuan. Gentlemen, are you planning to cut these rough stones now, or take them back and cut them yourselves? I've also brought some stone-cutting tools, which will be convenient."

"I'm not sure about this one. I wonder if the two pieces that Mr. Zhuang and Mr. Liu bought will be solved now?"

Xu Wei replied that although he was convinced that the semi-rough stone he bought could yield jadeite, he didn't know much about cutting stones and was afraid that he would ruin the jadeite inside. He knew that there was a lot to learn about cutting stones, and the price of the jadeite after cutting it out could vary drastically.

"Tch, why not cut it? We just want to enjoy the thrill. Look at you, so stingy and petty, it's not satisfying."

Liu Chuan's words made Xu Wei roll his eyes in anger. How could they compare? A 3,000 yuan note versus a 3 million yuan note. If Xu Wei had bought the 3,000 yuan note, would he have dared to cut it?

"You cut the wood first, I'll take a look."

After Yang Hao plugged in the stone cutter, Liu Chuan started to have second thoughts. He had been too confident earlier, and if there was nothing inside the stone, Liu Chuan felt he would lose face.

Seeing that someone was going to cut a stone, jade merchants who had come to buy rough stones all gathered around. They wanted to see what the commotion was about. Besides, if the cut turned out to be a good find and the jade inside was of good quality, they would also buy it. You see, because Myanmar and other places have restricted the export of jadeite rough stones, jadeite raw materials are very scarce right now.

"Uncle-Master, why don't you cut it?"

Zhuang Rui looked at Gu Lao and said something polite, but in reality, he didn't take it seriously at all. He had already seen clearly what was inside the stone.

"No need, just cut it in the middle."

Old Gu waved his hand and said, "What a joke, is such a broken stone worth opening?"

Without saying another word, Zhuang Rui placed the fist-sized rough stone under the stone cutting machine. It was a domestically made stone cutting machine, which was very easy to operate. Without hesitation, Zhuang Rui directly cut the stone with the saw teeth.

After a series of unpleasant "ripping...crack..." sounds, the fist-sized piece of raw material had been split in half.

Everyone rushed forward, letting out a sigh at the same time. Without a doubt, there was nothing inside.

However, Gu Lao nodded as he watched Zhuang Rui's actions, secretly praising him as a promising young man. He said that cutting stones is like gambling on stones; one must be decisive when the time is right and not be hesitant. Zhuang Rui's actions just now were in line with this principle.

"So, Mr. Zhuang, do you still want to continue cutting?"

Yang Hao parted the crowded people and asked Zhuang Rui inside, "Cut stones can be quite superstitious sometimes. If the first stone doesn't turn green, the chances of turning green later are very small. Although these are just rumors, people follow the crowd, and the more they spread, the more people believe them."

"cut....."

Zhuang Rui's performance was somewhat like that of a gambler who had lost a bet, which made Xu Wei, who was watching from the side, feel extremely pleased, and he was almost ready to sing a song about turning things around.

"Xiao Zhuang, wipe the stone first."

Zhuang Rui's performance fooled even the old man. This gambler's mentality is not suitable for the jade gambling business. If you gamble with this mentality, you will lose everything sooner or later. The old man couldn't help but remind Zhuang Rui to calm down.

"OK."

Zhuang Rui agreed and fixed the football-sized piece of raw material that Yang Hao had brought over onto the machine. With the "sizzling" sound of the grinding wheel turning, he began to grind around one side of the raw material.

The jadeite inside this rough stone is all in the center. The surface of the stone is covered with white, misty crystals, and there are no python patterns at all. Old Master Gu is standing next to the machine, carefully looking at the stone surface that will be revealed after polishing.

"Stop for a moment..."

As Zhuang Rui moved, broken stone chips flew everywhere, and dust covered the ground. Suddenly, Gu Lao shouted "Stop!" Zhuang Rui quickly released the grinder, and all that could be heard was the grinding wheel spinning in the air.

Old Gu took the basin of water that Yang Hao brought him, washed the polished stone surface, then squatted down and looked at it carefully for a while. He shook his head and said to Zhuang Rui, "Cut it. The chances of finding green are not very high. However, if there is jadeite, it should be near the core of the stone. Cut it slightly off-center."

After hearing what the old man said, Zhuang Rui secretly admired him. Sure enough, the old man was wiser. He could see the jade in the rough stone with his eyes, but the old man could determine that if there was green, it must be in the core of the stone just by observing the appearance.

"Tch, hurry up and cut it, stop dawdling." The person who said this was just a passerby who was there to watch the show.

"Young man, hurry up and cut it. If it turns green, I'll buy it." The person who said this was probably the jade merchant who bought the raw material.

Since jade gambling is not common in mainland China, other exhibition halls flocked to see the spectacle after hearing the news. The raw jade materials here were all laid out on the ground. In order to ensure

that these rough stones were not stolen, the exhibition also dispatched a large number of security guards to maintain order. For a time, the originally quiet exhibition hall D became noisy.

"Uncle-Master, do you think it's alright if I cut it from here?"

Zhuang Rui drew a line on the rough stone with chalk. The line was slightly off-center from the center of the stone, which was exactly what Gu Lao had just explained.

"Yeah, whatever. No one in this line of work gets away with paying tuition. Tens of thousands or eight thousand is nothing."

Old Master Gu wasn't very optimistic about this rough stone, and he spoke up to Zhuang Rui, fearing that Zhuang Rui would feel disappointed after cutting it.

Zhuang Rui nodded upon hearing this and started the machine. He had even drilled into raw stones before, so he had no psychological concerns about cutting stones. He firmly gripped the machine with both hands and forcefully cut down along the white line he had drawn.

Wearing his specially designed non-prescription glasses, Zhuang Rui wasn't afraid of stone chips getting into his eyes. However, the flying stone chips still stung his face. After the saw teeth of the stone cutter split the entire rough stone in two, Zhuang Rui took off his glasses and looked at the rough stone.

"It's gone up! The betting has gone up!!!"

It's unclear who shouted it, but the crowd who had been holding their breath watching Zhuang Rui cut the stone suddenly became excited. Most of these people had never seen a stone being cut before, and those standing at the back were desperately pushing forward, eager to see the true story of the jade emerging from the stone.

The security guards surrounding the stone-cutting machine got busy, forming a circle to keep those people out. Inside, Old Master Gu was washing the half of the stone that had turned green with water, his eyes full of surprise.

"The water content is decent, reaching the level of egg white jade. Although the green is relatively light, the color is very pure. It's quite good, very good. It's perfect for making a bracelet. It's considered a mid-to-high-grade jadeite."

As the old man examined the rough stone, he made his own comments. He was not only surprised that the stone had yielded jadeite, but he was also astonished that Zhuang Rui had drawn the line so precisely, cutting right through the edge where the green jadeite was visible without damaging it in the slightest.