

## Golden 137

### Chapter 137 A Lucky Break (Part 3)

"Young man, are you selling this rough jade? I'll offer 100,000 yuan..."

Upon seeing the jadeite, someone in the crowd shouted out a price. Zhuang Rui thought for a moment, then shook his head. This piece of jadeite was the size of a fist; selling it for 100,000 yuan was far too cheap.

"Young man, stop cutting it. If you cut it any further, it'll collapse, and it won't even be worth 50,000 anymore," the person who had shouted earlier said, somewhat unwilling to give up.

"Xiao Zhuang, move aside, let me wipe the area next to me first."

The old man rolled up his sleeves, ready to take matters into his own hands. He was somewhat surprised that such a poor-performing rough stone could actually yield a jadeite with an egg-white texture. He wanted to see if his earlier judgment that jade resides in the heart of the stone was correct.

Upon hearing this, Zhuang Rui quickly stepped aside. He didn't want to stand out, and based on Old Master Gu's experience, since the plant had already turned green, it probably wouldn't be ruined.

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The old man was very cautious. He first rubbed the stone on the back of the cut surface, and after rubbing it inward for about two or three centimeters, he stopped and washed it with clean water. Seeing that there was no sign of green inside, he then put the stone on the stone cutting machine, aimed at another cut surface about two-thirds of the way in, and cut it down.

The surrounding crowd craned their necks, scrutinizing the rough stone that had been split into two pieces by the stone-cutting machine. Some sharp-eyed individuals had already noticed and sighed, "It's ruined. It's worthless now, at most 30,000." Discussions then broke out among the crowd, some expressing pity for Zhuang Rui, while others gloated.

Grandpa Gu remained calm and collected. He picked up the half of the stone that had been cut open and examined it carefully. Then, he began to polish the cut that had not yielded any green on the stone polishing machine.

"Young man, there won't be any more green ones, how about you sell it to me for 30,000 yuan?"

"Old Huo, you're really ruthless. That cut alone is worth at least 40,000. Young man, think about it for 40,000."

The jade merchants who came to select rough stones all offered Zhuang Rui prices, but Zhuang Rui ignored them all, his eyes fixed on the half of the rough stone that Gu Lao was holding.

The old man's large, veiny hands were very steady. Amid the "chattering" sound of the machine rubbing against the stone, the old man's eyes were fixed on the stone surface. As the stone chips fell to the ground, a smile appeared on his old face.

"It's gone up! Damn, it's gone up! Old Master Gu is truly a god..."

With a smile on the old man's face, the crowd that had been bidding just moments before turned their attention back to the raw jade. Some of those who were closer noticed the green color peeking out from the polished surface.

Stopping what he was doing, Gu Lao took the towel Zhuang Rui handed him, wiped the sweat from his forehead, placed the rough stone, which was now only the size of two or three fists, on the table, picked up a high-powered flashlight and a magnifying glass to examine it for a while, and said to Zhuang Rui with a smile, "Although it's not glass-type jade, both sides are egg-white-like, the water content is good, there are few impurities, and the color is relatively even. It's good material for making bracelets. I estimate we can make two bracelets, and the rest can be used to make five or six small pendants. It'll probably be worth around 1.2 million. Xiao Rui, you can decide how to handle it."

Old Gu was also a bit tired, so he sat back down in his chair. The rough stone had been almost completely cut open, so it was now a ready-made piece. Moreover, Old Gu had already set a price. For a moment, all the jade merchants were calculating the gains and losses of buying it, and no one dared to bid first.

Xu Wei looked at Zhuang Rui with some envy, secretly cursing the kid for being so lucky. He managed to find a piece of Wang Shizhen's handwriting and randomly picked a rough stone that turned out to be jade. Although the half-rough stone in his own hand also had a high chance of turning into jade, it was still not as reassuring as seeing someone else cut it open.

"Young man, since Master Gu has spoken, let's offer 1.2 million RMB to sell this jade to me.

It was the same voice that had offered 100,000 yuan to buy it earlier, but the price had increased twelvefold. Zhuang Rui was tempted. After all, he didn't really have any use for the jade, and he was a bit short on cash lately, so he might as well exchange it for some money.

"Old Huo, your business is big enough. Let me have this little bit of raw material. I'll offer 1.3 million. Think it over, young man." A voice interrupted the previous man and raised the price by 100,000.

As Zhuang Rui hesitated, Qin Xuanbing walked up to him and said somewhat shyly, "Zhuang Rui, could you... could you sell this jade to us?"

Zhuang Rui was taken aback by Qin Xuanbing's request. Seeing that Zhuang Rui didn't speak, Qin Xuanbing quickly continued, "I'm not asking you to give it to me, I'm asking you to sell it to our company. I can offer 1.5 million to buy it. Is that okay?"

The jade merchants outside had already raised the price to 1.4 million, but after hearing Qin Xuanbing's words, no one spoke up. This piece of jade could only yield two bracelets at most, plus a few small pendants or cabochons, which would probably sell for around 2 million, provided there were good distribution channels. 1.5 million was already beyond their expected price.

"Xiao Xuanxuan, if you had just offered yourself to Mu Tou earlier, he would have been eager to give himself to you. Why are you begging to buy him now?" Liu Chuan started talking nonsense from the side, making Qin Xuanbing's pretty face blush, but she didn't say anything to refute him.

"You pervert, you even dare to flirt with my sister! I'm asking you, if that piece of yours could yield jade, would you give it to me?" Lei Lei pinched Liu Chuan's waist hard and asked. But as soon as the words left her mouth, she realized she had misspoke. Asking like that would be telling others that she had already offered herself to him.

"Of course, of course. What kind of relationship do we have? Let alone a broken rock, even my own 100-plus pounds, I can take it whenever I need it, whenever I call." Liu Chuan was secretly delighted and became even more smug.

"Zhuang Rui, don't listen to Liu Chuan. This jade is not something I want to buy personally. It's being purchased in the company's name. If you don't accept the money, I really don't want it."

Fearing that Zhuang Rui would be embarrassed, Qin Xuanbing quickly explained that in recent years, both the mainland and Hong Kong jewelry markets have faced a shortage of jade raw materials. In particular, Qin Xuanbing's family company has not been able to purchase good raw materials at the jade auctions in Myanmar in recent years. Although the piece of jade that Zhuang Rui offered was not large, it could still be used to make several nice pieces of jewelry, so Qin Xuanbing wanted to help the company purchase it.

"Alright, let's do it this way. Since you've brought it up, Xuanbing, let's do it your way."

Zhuang Rui nodded in agreement. The price of 1.5 million seemed quite high. On the other hand, he hadn't known the price of jade before, and it would have been inappropriate to give Qin Xuanbing a top-quality jade worth millions. Given their relationship, it would be a bit inappropriate to give her another piece of jade now.

"Okay, thank you, Zhuang Rui."

Upon hearing this, Qin Xuanbing immediately opened the combination lock box in Lei Lei's hand and put the jade piece belonging to Zhuang Rui into it. Zhuang Rui glanced at it casually and saw that the seven or eight finished pieces of jewelry that were originally inside had now disappeared. Presumably, Old Master Gu had helped them sell them.

After carefully storing the jade, Qin Xuanbing took out a checkbook from her handbag, wrote out a cash check for 1.5 million, and handed it to Zhuang Rui. Zhuang Rui glanced at it and knew that the cash check could be cashed and transferred at any time, so he didn't stand on ceremony and took it and put it on his person.

"You rascal, how's your part going? Why don't you go up and untie it yourself?"

Zhuang Rui glanced at the large piece on the table and asked Liu Chuan. He knew very well that the jade inside Liu Chuan's rough stone, in terms of both size and grade, was superior to the piece he had cut open, and was likely quite valuable.

"I...I think I'll pass. You're lucky, you should go and open it."

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's question, Liu Chuan, who had been full of confidence, began to feel uneasy. He didn't care about the three thousand yuan; no matter how loudly he had boasted earlier, it would be incredibly embarrassing if he couldn't offer anything.

"Fine, I'll do it. If I cut out a pile of dog shit, don't blame me."

Zhuang Rui didn't stand on ceremony. With some effort, he picked up the rough stone, which weighed fifty or sixty pounds, and placed it next to the stone-cutting machine.

"Uncle Gu, should we wipe this part clean first?"

Zhuang Rui squatted on the ground and looked at the old man, asking him a question.

After sitting for a while, Gu Lao recovered and went over to examine the rough stone carefully. He said, "This is strange. Your stone clearly had no chance of turning into green, but it turned out. This half-gamble rough stone is already ruined by rubbing. But I can't be sure now. Here's what we'll do: rub the cracked area for about four or five centimeters. If it still cracks, then cut it in the middle."

When Zhuang Rui saw the spot the old man was pointing to, it was precisely the crack where the green jade could be found about three or four centimeters below the surface. He couldn't help but admire the old man immensely. This was what an expert was all about. He could make the most accurate judgment about a stone that was practically worthless.

Zhuang Rui turned on the stone-grinding machine and used the grinding wheel to grind the cracked area of the rough stone. Liu Chuan, who seemed to have pulled out a pair of sunglasses from somewhere, put them on his face and came over, completely unconcerned about the flying stone chips hitting his face.

"Green, it's green! Haha, damn it, I, Liu Chuan, told you there was definitely jade inside this stone. Oh, I say, you wood, couldn't you have turned off the machine? You obviously don't know how to cut stones."

Liu Chuan had just seen a glimmer of green peeking through the cracks in the stone and excitedly took off his sunglasses. Zhuang Rui, who was still using a grinder, was hit by a piece of stone dust, which brought tears to his eyes. He couldn't help but complain, forgetting who had asked Zhuang Rui to grind the stone earlier.