

Golden 461

Chapter 461 Blind Bidding (Part 5)

After Zhuang Rui and Qin Haoran left the organizing committee's office, Fang Yi had already completed the bidding procedures for the other three rough stones. Since the office and the bidding window were just around the corner, they weren't noticed. After a phone call, the three of them boarded the minibus back to the hotel.

"Come on, Xiao Rui, let Uncle Qin toast you. I wish you great success in cutting the stone tomorrow!"

There were several jade gambling consultants on the minibus, so although Qin Haoran and his wife were very excited, they didn't say much. However, after returning to the hotel, the group had a simple meal in the restaurant, and Qin Haoran immediately pulled Zhuang Rui to his room and had a bottle of red wine brought over to start the celebration.

"Uncle Qin, I can't accept that. It's all thanks to your strategic planning that we were able to bid on those four pieces of material..."

Although Zhuang Rui wasn't the smooth-talking type, he still flattered Qin Haoran whenever possible. At least if his future mother-in-law ever made things difficult for him, his father-in-law wouldn't stand idly by, right?

"What does it have to do with him? It's your achievement, so it's yours. Xiao Rui, have a drink with Aunt Fang..."

Fang Yi was also extremely excited. Although she hadn't cut any rough stones yet, based on Zhuang Rui's past record in the jade gambling circle, she expected those rough stones to perform well.

"Aunt Fang, Uncle Qin, it's getting late. I have to have the stone cut tomorrow, so I'm going back to rest now..."

After Zhuang Rui saw his mother-in-law drink a glass of red wine and become dazed, he quickly said goodbye. As for what happened between the couple in the room, that was beyond his comprehension.

"Hey, where did you go? I just saw you at the restaurant, and you disappeared in the blink of an eye? You didn't answer my calls, I thought you'd been kidnapped..."

As Zhuang Rui arrived at his room door, he saw two fat men standing there, one happy and the other sad. The happy one was Song Jun, who, despite cursing Zhuang Rui, had a beaming smile. As for Fatty Ma, he looked miserable, like someone caught by Burmese police for soliciting a prostitute.

"I went to talk to my mother-in-law about something. Brother Ma, what happened to you? Did you lose your wallet last night?" Zhuang Rui said as he opened the door and let the two of them in.

"Hey, don't even mention it. I had a really bad day. I had my eye on a piece of jade, but because I was short 500,000 euros, someone snatched it away. Damn it, if Fatty finds out who it was, I'll make him pay..." Fatty Ma was still a bit indignant, and said with a nasty look on his face.

Not getting the raw material was a minor issue; the key problem was that it made him doubt his own judgment. Was there really someone in the world better at understanding people's intentions than him? If so, Fatty Ma would definitely want to find that person and exchange some insights.

"Brother Ma, which piece of raw jade did you bid on?"

Zhuang Rui asked somewhat guiltily, "Fatty Ma just said he was only short 500,000, so the material he bid for must not be cheap. Maybe the 4 million that's been hanging on the big screen is the one Fatty Ma bid for."

"5220, damn it, this is infuriating! I already put up 7 million, I should have added another 500,000 euros..."

Ma Pangzi's words made Zhuang Rui's expression instantly become quite interesting. He wanted to laugh, but he tried his best to hold it in, his eyes and eyebrows almost squeezing together.

"Hey, wait a minute, what's with that look on your face? Hey, you were the one who bought that piece of fabric, weren't you?"

Fatty Ma looked up and saw Zhuang Rui's face. With his quick wit, he immediately understood what was going on. He stood up and started rolling up his sleeves, as if he wanted to have a spar with Zhuang Rui.

"Brother Ma, even if you add another 500,000, the material still won't be yours. Wouldn't you be even angrier then..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled and dodged Ma Pangzi's bear hug, jokingly saying that when he was bidding, he suddenly remembered the situation on the first day when they both won the bid, so he deliberately bid an extra 1000 euros, just to guard against that.

"Hey, you're right, losing 500,000 isn't a loss. But if I'd lost 1,000 euros, I, Old Ma, would be jumping into the river..."

When Fatty Ma heard Zhuang Rui say this, he nodded in agreement. Knowing that Zhuang Rui had won the bid for the raw material, Fatty Ma's resentment had long since disappeared. After all, Zhuang Rui was a brother of him and Song Jun, and the good stuff hadn't gone to outsiders.

Song Jun, who had been silent all along, suddenly grabbed Zhuang Rui and said, "No way! You snatched the rough stones that Lao Ma and I chose. Kid, what do you say we do about it?"

"Alright, I've got my eye on a few pieces of material. You guys go bid on them tomorrow..." Zhuang Rui took out his notebook, but before he could open it, Song Jun snatched it away.

"What kind of nonsense are you remembering? Let me tell you, you need to name at least five pieces of material, or I'm not finished with you..."

Song Jun frowned as he glanced at the numbers Zhuang Rui had written in the notebook, then tossed the notebook back to Zhuang Rui. The numbers were completely random, and he couldn't make any sense of them.

"Alright, five bucks it is. But let's get this straight: if you win, it's your good luck; if you lose, it's not my fault. You two can't hold a grudge later..."

Zhuang Rui had already reserved more than a dozen pieces of jade for these two. This trip to Myanmar was arranged by Song Jun, and he couldn't let Song Jun and Fatty Ma make a wasted trip. Besides, Zhuang Rui had his eye on so many raw jade pieces that he couldn't possibly bid on them all by himself. Just as Fatty Ma thought, it's better to keep the good stuff within the family.

Zhuang Rui selected six or seven relatively good rough stones and explained to them one by one what kind of jadeite could be extracted from these rough stones and what a suitable price would be. Of course, he didn't guarantee anything; it was up to the two of them to believe him or not.

After pestering Zhuang Rui for over an hour, Fatty Ma and Song Jun finally left, satisfied. Today's auction had exhausted Zhuang Rui's brain cells. He knocked on Peng Fei's door, and seeing that no one was inside, Zhuang Rui took a shower and went to sleep.

"Peng Fei, where did you go yesterday? It's past nine o'clock and you're still not back at the hotel?"

The next day, Zhuang Rui got up very early as well, getting up at six o'clock, because his time for cutting stones was also from seven to nine in the morning. In half an hour, he would be taking a car to the stone gambling venue.

"Brother Zhuang, I prepared some things yesterday. You'll see when you need them..."

"Well, if you're free today, come with me to the venue. I'm going to cut some stones today, and I'll show you..."

Seeing that Peng Fei was unwilling to say much, Zhuang Rui didn't ask. Although he hadn't known Peng Fei for long, Peng Fei was someone Zhou Rui had vouched for, and Peng Fei's sister was still living in his house. Putting himself in Peng Fei's shoes, Zhuang Rui didn't believe that Peng Fei would have any ill intentions towards him.

Upon arriving at the hotel entrance, Zhuang Rui unexpectedly received a call from the same organizing committee official from yesterday, who said that a special car would be provided to take him to the venue. Naturally, Zhuang Rui would not refuse such treatment. After making a call to Song Jun, Qin Haoran, and others, Zhuang Rui and Peng Fei got into the organizing committee's so-called special car with air conditioning.

"Brother Zhuang, is this the stone you bought for over 70 million RMB?"

Arriving at the open space in front of the Myanmar Jade Exchange Center, Peng Fei stared in disbelief at the enormous rough jade stone. Just a few weeks ago, Peng Fei was carrying heavy bags at the Beijing West Railway Station freight yard, which was simply unimaginable.

"Hehe, if it can generate several times more benefits than 70 million RMB for me, do you think I should buy it?" Zhuang Rui answered Peng Fei's doubts in the simplest terms.

"That's quite straight..." Peng Fei scratched his head, which made Zhuang Rui laugh. Zhuang Rui felt that after spending more time with Peng Fei, his personality was still very cheerful, and the indifference he felt when he first met him had completely disappeared.

In fact, Peng Fei was originally a cheerful person in the army. However, after such a big change in his family, coupled with his sister's autism for a period of time, Peng Fei felt depressed. Now that all the problems have been resolved, he has naturally returned to his true nature.

"Alright, let me first see how to cut this rough stone..."

After seeing this enormous piece of red jadeite on the first day, Zhuang Rui had refrained from going over again. He had even forgotten where the jadeite was inside. Taking advantage of the fact that the hotel guests had not yet arrived, Zhuang Rui walked to the rough stone and began to examine it carefully.

This piece of jade is about two meters long and almost two meters wide, nearly square in shape. There is a window cut on one side, but no red or green jadeite was found. There are only some faint red crystalline particles. Even the most experienced jadeite gambler cannot see anything from it.

Directly opposite the polished surface is the infamous crack that chills the hearts of all those skilled in jade gambling. The crack is almost entirely piercing through the entire rough stone. If it weren't for the fact that the rough stone is nearly two meters thick, and that the crack wouldn't be so deep, probably no one would dare to offer a price for it.

The jade flesh was actually very close to the polished surface, only a dozen centimeters away. After carefully examining it, Zhuang Rui began to ponder whether to cut along the evil vein first or to make a direct cut from the polished window to get straight to the point.

"Xiao Rui, how's it going? Are you confident?"

Just as Zhuang Rui was deep in thought, the minibus carrying Qin Haoran and the others arrived at the stone-cutting site. Following behind the minibus was the convoy of five buses.

"It's alright, we shouldn't go bankrupt..."

Zhuang Rui nodded confidently, and the people who got off the bus all had different expressions on their faces when they saw Zhuang Rui and the others standing next to the wool.

Chapter 462 Blind Bidding (Part 6)

Gambling on rough jade is a winner-takes-all game. No matter how famous you are, if you gamble badly on a single rough stone, your reputation will plummet. Conversely, if you can win big in front of everyone, you'll become famous overnight.

Zhuang Rui is now a prominent figure in the domestic jade gambling circle. Many people know him. Seeing Zhuang Rui standing next to that rough stone, many people are conflicted. Why didn't they think of investing their money in this rough stone?

The first person to get off the second bus was Xu Zhendong. Although he had almost suffered a stroke from Zhuang Rui's anger a few months ago, the old man had good eyesight. As soon as he got off the bus, he spotted Zhuang Rui and stumbled. If his son hadn't supported him, he probably would have fallen to the ground.

"Dad, are you alright?" Although Xu Qi was a good-for-nothing, he was still quite filial.

"It's alright, that...that person...is Zhuang Rui!"

Looking at Zhuang Rui, who was wearing a white silk double-opening mandarin jacket, Xu Zhendong felt helpless. Zhuang Rui had grown up completely and was no longer the nobody he was at the Pingzhou Public Auction. In the future... no... perhaps even now, he would have to look up to him.

Although Xu Zhendong also had his eye on this piece of red jadeite rough, he was simply not as wealthy as others and could only stand there watching Zhuang Rui cut the stone. Gambling on stones is not just about eyesight and luck; money is the main factor that determines success or failure.

The number of people who came to watch Zhuang Rui cut the stone today was even greater than the day before yesterday, because the value of this rough stone was also far higher than the day before yesterday, at 7.5 million euros, which is nearly 80 million RMB. This is the highest price for a single lot offered so far at this Myanmar jade auction.

Of course, everyone knows that the real prize is yet to come. When the sealed bids are opened, that's when the real battle begins. It's believed that the top bid at this year's Myanmar jade auction will be at least over 100 million yuan.

After the military government in Myanmar intensified its crackdown on smuggled jadeite, it has become extremely common to see jadeite rough stones priced over 50 million yuan in both domestic Chinese jadeite trading and at Myanmar jadeite auctions. However, it's worth noting that last year's top-selling jadeite lot at the Myanmar auction only fetched 30-40 million yuan. This simple comparison clearly demonstrates the current surge in jadeite prices.

"Beting is now open! I, Big D, am the bookmaker, and the betting is back! Anyone want to place a bet? If you win, the odds are 0.5; if you lose, the odds are 1.5. Come find me, Big D, and I guarantee honesty and fair dealing..."

Just as everyone got off the car and gathered around the stone-cutting site, that guy named Dai Jun from yesterday started shouting again, carrying a tattered sack. This kid had some good luck the other day. He had a fight with the people from Jixiang Jewelry and spent 80,000 yuan to buy a piece of scrap material. Who knew that it would actually be cut into jadeite and bought by a rough stone merchant for 500,000 yuan. Having made a profit, Dai Jun was shouting again today.

However, after returning home, Big D reflected on his mistakes and felt that the 1 to 2 odds was too unfair. If it were 1 to 1, he could earn nearly a million without selling jade. So he changed the rules today.

"Big D, my brother is cutting stones, how dare you interfere?"

Fatty Ma stretched out his large, fan-like hand and pulled Dai Jun, who was placing a bet, to his side.

"Oh, Mr. Ma, how is this considered causing trouble? It's not a lot of money, just for fun. Would you like to place a bet?"

Big D, grinning, didn't take Fatty Ma's words to heart at all. Faced with such a shameless person, Fatty Ma had no temper at all. He snorted coldly and said, "I'll bet 100 million on a winning bet. Do you dare to take it?"

"Mr. Ma, don't tease me. Boss Zhuang's skill in judging raw stones is not just talk. If you bet on it and it goes wrong, I'll take the blame..." Big D laughed and shook off Fatty Ma's hand, then went back to being the bookmaker.

"Go, bet 50,000 yuan on a winning bet..."

Standing in the crowd, Xu Zhendong casually said to his son beside him, "That kid Da D got a taste of success yesterday, so today he's raised the maximum bet to 50,000."

"Dad, if we're going to buy, we should buy into his gambling failure, not buy into his rising fortune."

Xu Qi thought his father had lost his mind. Xu's Jewelry had suffered such a big setback in Zhuang Rui's hands, why would his father still want him to make a profit?

"Just go when we tell you to. Why wouldn't you make money?"

Xu Zhendong was too lazy to explain to his son that while he did have a grudge against Zhuang Rui, he had no grudge against money. To put it more bluntly, he wasn't after that little bit of money; he just wanted to share in Zhuang Rui's luck and hope that things would go smoothly for him in the upcoming jade gambling.

Zhuang Rui seemed oblivious to the noise around him; his mind was entirely focused on the enormous piece of raw jade.

Finding the red jadeite is easy; you don't even need to painstakingly cut the stone. Just dig in about ten or twenty centimeters from the polished surface, and you'll see the red jadeite.

However, Zhuang Rui felt that doing it that way would be too easy. Since he was going to do something spectacular today, he might as well do it in a thrilling way.

"Mr. Zhuang, is there anything you would like to say?"

The official from the Myanmar organizing committee who helped Zhuang Rui with the bidding process yesterday came in person today to organize the on-site stone cutting. After rambling on, he handed the microphone to Zhuang Rui's mouth.

"No....."

Zhuang Rui uttered two words, then turned and beckoned the forklift to place the raw material onto the stone cutting machine.

Because the raw stone is so large, two loaders are needed to work on it at the same time. After it is placed on the stone cutting machine, the loaders also need to support it from below to prevent the raw stone from becoming unstable and falling to the ground during the cutting process.

"Is he going to cut the stone?"

"Probably. That young man is really energetic. He didn't even polish the stone; he just started cutting right away..."

"Reckless, far too reckless! Such a large piece of rough jade should at least be rubbed on a few sides first to check the inside before deciding how to cut it. It seems this young man has been relying on luck all along..."

When everyone saw Zhuang Rui holding the long, grotesque hair upside down, they knew he was about to cut it open. This was the most common way to cut stone; one cut and the difference between heaven and hell would be clear.

Generally speaking, rough stones with cracks have a higher chance of yielding jadeite. However, if the cracks are deep, they will damage the structure of the jadeite inside the rough stone. The well-known "crash gambling" is gambling that the cracks will not penetrate the rough stone deeply enough to affect the jadeite inside.

However, the so-called "bad cracks" often run through the entire rough stone. If it were a slightly smaller rough stone, the people present probably wouldn't even be interested in looking at it, and it would definitely be a failure.

After taking the chalk, Zhuang Rui pretended to draw on the rough stone, then threw away the chalk, clapped his hands, and directly turned on the power of the stone cutter, cutting downwards towards the bad crack.

Since it was originally a crevice, and the crystals inside had already weathered, although the crevice wasn't straight, it was still easy to cut through. With the "crackling" sound of the huge alloy grinding wheel rubbing against the stone, fragments of stone dust filled the air around Zhuang Rui.

"Peng Fei, fetch a basin of water..."

After cutting a notch about 30 to 40 centimeters in size under the alloy grinding wheel, Zhuang Rui stopped, because moving the stone required two loading loader trucks to move simultaneously.

After enlarging the crack in the raw stone, Zhuang Rui washed it with water, and the inside was already visible. The result was self-evident: no green jade was found.

After the two forklifts re-secured the raw material, Zhuang Rui cut down along the seam three times before he could cut this half open. Because the raw material was quite thick, he had to turn it over and cut it three more times from the other side before he could unravel the whole piece of raw material.

The rubbing was done near the top of the flawed area behind the flaw. The rough material was cut in the middle without touching the rubbing. After Zhuang Rui drew the line with chalk, a "click-click" sound rang out, and he continued cutting.

"The bet might go wrong..."

"Yes, judging from that young man's expression just now, there was no jade on one half of the cut surface..."

"This is a deep-seated problem; it seems unlikely that she'll become a cuckold..."

A buzzing discussion arose from the crowd nearby. It wasn't that the crowd was opportunistic, but rather that facts spoke louder than words. After cutting open half of the stone, experienced jade gamblers could tell from the stone fragments brought out by the alloy gear whether there was any green inside. However, as of now, there was not a single sign of green.

"Xiao Rui, take a break before you cut..."

Qin Haoran, who had been standing to the side, now had a very serious expression. Unlike the people who were watching the excitement from the outside, he had noticed when Zhuang Rui was cleaning up the rubble that the flaws on this piece of material were not only almost the same length as the whole rough stone, but also almost the entire length of the stone. This was different from what Zhuang Rui had imagined.

"It's alright, Uncle Qin, I'll rest after I cut it open..."

Although he had been cutting for almost an hour, Zhuang Rui's forehead was covered in sweat, but his hands were still very steady. He continued to cut along the white line he had drawn, and for nearly a meter, the cut on the other side had already connected. There were only about 20 centimeters left before he could split the rough stone in two.

"Crackling..."

After the forklift moved for the third time, Zhuang Rui raised the stone cutter. The sound of the alloy grinding wheel spinning in the air was like a drumbeat, striking the hearts of everyone present. Zhuang Rui's method of cutting stones was like hitting the nail on the head; whether there was jade or not would be known immediately.

Two bulldozers, each carrying half a piece of raw material, slowly drove backward, and instantly, two smooth cut surfaces appeared before everyone's eyes.

The black python pattern, yellow crystals, red misty streaks, and white stone fragments were all visible on the cut surface, but the most important element—the jadeite—was nowhere to be found.

Chapter 463 Blind Bidding (Part 7)

"Sigh, another bet has failed..."

"This year's public auction is a bit strange..."

"Yes, these two rough stones cost over 100 million yuan, and they just bought two worthless rocks..."

What's happening before our eyes seems self-explanatory; anyone who understands jade gambling knows what this cut signifies. (Performance)

There are few resources on Earth, but there are plenty of stones all over the mountains. Gambling on stones is not about gambling on the stones themselves, but on the jade inside. Even if you cut it open and find green jade, you can't say whether it's a good or bad investment, because you have to take into account the price of the raw material.

But when this cut was made, there was nothing there. Even the most novice could see that the cut had failed.

The reason it's described as "one cut" ruining the entire rough stone, rather than the whole stone, is because in the jade gambling world, it's not uncommon for the first cut to yield no green jade, followed by a significant price increase. However, overall, the likelihood of a failed gamble is still higher.

A huge sigh rang out from the crowd, but most of them were worried. The two consecutive failed gambles on the stones had immediately reduced their confidence in the rough stones at this Myanmar jade auction by several tens of percentage points.

Although Zhuang Rui's poorly gambled rough jade failed, it's psychologically easier to accept than the one a few days ago that seemed like a sure thing. But the thought of the nearly 80 million RMB price tag still weighs heavily on everyone's mind. Now it's Zhuang Rui's turn to fail, and perhaps it will be their turn next.

"You little brat, I've lost 80 million to you. Let's see if you can turn things around this time..."

Naturally, there were also happy people in the crowd. Xu Zhendong had already forgotten that he had just placed a 50,000 yuan bet on Zhuang Rui's winning streak. However, compared to what he was seeing now, he would gladly throw out another 500,000 yuan. It was a classic case of harming others without benefiting himself. At this moment, Xu Zhendong was overjoyed, his bones practically brimming with laughter.

The official from the organizing committee who was in charge of the on-site stone cutting was standing there feeling awkward. Zhuang Rui's disastrous cut had made him feel a sense of unease and his heart sank to the bottom. He was now considering whether to report to his superiors and ask them to open the venue a little earlier today.

Big D, who had been loitering in the crowd, squeezed next to Fatty Ma and said with a sly grin, "Mr. Ma, the 100 million bet you mentioned earlier is still being accepted. Are you still willing to place a bet? I'll only charge you 80 million..."

"Get out of here! You should just call yourself Dai the Scoundrel, who gave you a gentleman's name anyway..."

Although Fatty Ma knew that Big D was joking, he was still furious. In Fatty Ma's opinion, Zhuang Rui was taking the blame for him. If Zhuang Rui hadn't intervened, he would be the one with a long face now.

"Xiao Rui, the chances of this piece of jade turning green are slim..."

Qin Haoran squatted on the ground and carefully examined the cut surfaces of the two halves of the rough stone. He couldn't help but shake his head. Judging from its current appearance, this piece, which was auctioned for 80 million, was not even as good as the piece from Jixiang Jewelry the day before yesterday. No matter what, that piece of rough stone yielded several million worth of jadeite.

"That's not necessarily true, Uncle Qin. Look, the cracks haven't produced any jadeite, so it can't even be called 'damaged.' But it is indeed an old mine rough stone from the Dakanmu Mine, where the probability of finding jadeite is generally over 70%. So, I'm still very optimistic about this rough stone..."

After experiencing gambling on and cutting stones many times, Zhuang Rui not only gained a lot of hands-on experience, but also spoke fluently about theoretical knowledge. Qin Haoran nodded repeatedly as he listened, and his previous depressed expression vanished.

"That young man was very composed; he didn't even flinch and was still drinking water..."

"Don't talk about keeping your composure, that's just feigning calmness. 80 million RMB, even if you put it in a sack, you couldn't carry it..."

"Quiet down, that young man is about to cut the stone again..."

The onlookers, seeing Zhuang Rui's expressionless face, felt a mixture of admiration and feigned disdain. However, because the rough stone was so large, and there might be more to see, they didn't disperse after the first cut, unlike last time.

Zhuang Rui walked to the stone-cutting machine, then suddenly changed his mind. He beckoned Peng Fei over and said, "Peng Fei, you cut it. Let you have a go. One cut can be worth tens of millions, hahaha..."

"Brother Zhuang, let me do it?"

Peng Fei pointed at himself with an incredulous expression.

"Alright, I'll do it. You tell me how to cut it?"

Peng Fei, a native of Beijing, was naturally straightforward. After seeing Zhuang Rui nod, he didn't stand on ceremony, rolled up his sleeves, and stood next to the stone-cutting machine. The machine was very easy to operate; Peng Fei had already figured it out after watching Zhuang Rui use it once.

"Use this gear to cut downwards, and cut this piece of material into three sections..."

Although the remaining two rough stones were only half, they were still too heavy for Zhuang Rui to move. Zhuang Rui called to the driver of the bulldozer and, with gestures and words, put the half of the stone that did not contain jade back onto the stone cutting machine.

Zhuang Rui's actions drew shakes of the eyes of the onlookers. They thought the young man was incredibly unreliable, hiring an amateur to cut the stone. What if there was jade inside? Wouldn't that damage the jade?

Cutting stone is actually hard work. Pressing down on the handle of the stone cutter to cut downwards is not easy. Although Peng Fei is physically strong, he was also sweating profusely after cutting the half of the rough stone into three sections.

As everyone expected, the stone was empty, but it did produce a lot of red mist, which is supposed to be a sign of jadeite. However, the cut surface of the stone, which was divided into three pieces, did not show what everyone wanted to see.

"Let's go, there's nothing else to see..."

"Yes, this piece of material is definitely worthless. Luckily, I didn't chase after it..."

"You don't have the money to chase after him, do you? Haha, let's go, maybe we can get in early again today..."

Upon seeing this, the onlookers finally began to disperse. This piece of rough jade was split in the middle. Logically speaking, the environments formed on both sides underground were similar. If one side did not produce jade, the other side would be basically the same.

"Alright, you're tired too, let me untie the rest..."

Zhuang Rui checked the time; the jade trading center would open in half an hour. He didn't want to keep up the act any longer. From the four consecutive failed cuts to the surge in price, he was sure he would give these people an unforgettable experience today.

"You left because you missed out on the good fortune..."

Zhuang Rui glanced at the people who had turned and left, then silently instructed the bulldozer driver to place the other half of the rough stone onto the stone cutter, and to place the end of the rough stone with the polished surface under the gears of the stone cutter.

However, in the eyes of those people, Zhuang Rui's actions were nothing more than a desperate, last-ditch struggle, while Big D was already settling accounts over there. It seemed that he would have to put a lot of money into it today, since the odds were 1 to 1 for losing.

"Click-clack..."

The sound of alloy gears rubbing against the stone rang out again, but now the number of people still paying attention to this piece of material had dwindled from over a thousand to just Qin Haoran and his wife, and Fatty Ma and Song Jun. Even Qin Haoran, upon seeing that there was nothing inside the half of the rough stone, had already prepared for the worst.

The group was now thinking about how to comfort Zhuang Rui. They told him not to be so upset about such a big blow to the young man, as they all knew Zhuang Rui's wealth; the nearly 80 million yuan was enough to cripple him.

Following the cut of the window, Zhuang Rui used his right hand to forcefully cut the alloy gear into it. The stone structure here seemed somewhat loose, and the vibration after the gear cut in caused palm-sized pieces of stone to fall to the ground. It was more like he was magnifying the act of cleaning a window than cutting stone.

"Xiao Rui, stop! Quick! Stop it now..."

Suddenly, Qin Haoran's urgent voice rang out, startling Zhuang Rui so much that he trembled all over. We haven't even reached the part where the jade flesh is coming out yet, why are you so excited, old man?

However, upon hearing Qin Haoran's words, Zhuang Rui reflexively raised the alloy gear high with his right hand, and the spinning alloy gear made a completely different sound than when cutting stone.

"It's gone up! The betting is going up! It's gone up hugely, Xiao Rui! It's gone up hugely!!!"

Qin Haoran tugged at his tie, no longer caring about his perfect image as a middle-aged man, and rushed towards the piece of wool. Zhuang Rui was so frightened that he quickly turned off the alloy gear, because Qin Haoran's head was only a few centimeters away from the rotating gear. If his hand had shaken even slightly, he would have cracked his father-in-law's head open.

"Hey, they actually came out..."

Zhuang Rui looked down and discovered that there was a palm-sized rock on the side that had been knocked down by the stone-cutting machine, and it was facing Qin Haoran. So Zhuang Rui, who had been looking down, hadn't noticed it as early as Qin Haoran.

"You won the bet?"

Those who had already walked dozens of meters away turned around in astonishment after hearing Qin Haoran's joyful cheers, looking at the few lonely people standing in the stone-cutting area.

After a moment of stunned silence, the fat, big-eared bosses seemed to realize something and sprinted towards Zhuang Rui and the others.

"Glassy red jadeite! Top-grade red jadeite! It's gone up in price, it's gone up a lot..."

In the early morning sunlight, around eight o'clock, the red jade, still half-hidden behind a pipa, shyly revealed its palm-sized face, radiating an alluring glow.

Because of the strong light, the icy jadeite appeared transparent, like glass, leading the first person to rush to the rough stone to classify it as glassy jadeite.

Chapter 464 Blind Bidding (Part 8)

"What happened?"

The official from the organizing committee had just finished reporting to his superiors in his office near the entrance and received instructions to open the door early. As soon as he stepped out, he saw that the crowd that had been thronging the entrance to the jade trading center was completely gone.

"I don't know, those Chinese people seem to have gone mad, they all ran over there..."

The gatekeeper pointed to the stone-cutting area. He had guessed that the rough stone had probably been gambled on and won big. If it weren't for his duty, he would have run off to watch the excitement long ago.

"Huh? Open at the scheduled time, not early..."

Upon hearing this, the organizing committee officials were overjoyed and hurried towards the stone-cutting area. Open the gates early? Even if they did, probably no one would get in.

"Boss Zhuang, you have a good eye and great courage..."

"Boss Zhuang, wipe it a little further down, let us see something new too..."

"Yes, that's glass-type red jadeite, it's called blood jadeite, it's no less than imperial green jadeite, I've really learned something new today..."

The saying "the victor is king, the loser is villain" was perfectly embodied in these people once again. When they looked at Zhuang Rui now, their eyes were full of admiration and envy, and even a hint of jealousy that no one else knew about.

"Okay, everyone, please make way, I'm taking this piece of material out..."

Zhuang Rui was now surrounded by a crowd, and the area around the red jadeite rough was packed with people. If hammers and similar objects weren't prohibited from being brought into the jadeite auction, someone might have taken advantage of the situation and smashed off a piece. You know, if it were truly glass-type red jadeite, even a piece the size of a fingernail could be worth hundreds of thousands.

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, the people surrounding the rough stone reluctantly made way for it. However, they also wanted to see just how much jade could be extracted from this red jadeite rough. If it was just a small opening, Zhuang Rui still wouldn't be able to earn back the 80 million RMB.

"Crackling..."

Zhuang Rui picked up the stone polishing machine, turned it on, and the grinding wheel spun rapidly. The jade in this piece of material weighed as much as sixty or seventy kilograms. Zhuang Rui originally wanted to cut it in half and then share it with his father-in-law, but now that the jade had already been extracted from the side, it would be inappropriate to do that.

Along the palm-sized window, Zhuang Rui began polishing the stone beside him, rinsing the polished surface with water from time to time. After more than half an hour, the polished surface had doubled in size, and to everyone's astonishment, the exposed area was entirely made of jade.

With such a large window, if you insert just two or three centimeters into this piece of red jade, it will weigh about ten kilograms. If you go any deeper, you can extract at least several tens of kilograms of material.

My God! This is a glass-type jadeite! The eyes of the onlookers had turned bloodshot, and they were filled with a kind of greedy gaze. If it weren't for the soldiers with live guns and nuclear weapons standing at a distance, someone might have pounced on it and knocked a piece off with a stone.

"It doesn't seem to meet the glass-like quality standard? Master Wang, could you please take a look..."

While Zhuang Rui was resting, everyone gathered around the raw material to examine it again. Because the opening had become larger, and a group of people were gathered there, blocking out the sunlight, it was much clearer to see. The transparency of the water was no longer as clear as glass.

An elderly man with gray hair put on glasses, took a magnifying glass, and examined the material carefully. After a long while, he shook his head with regret and said, "It doesn't reach the glass type. The lower half is high-ice type, while this half can only reach ice type. If this piece of jade hadn't been mined, it could have become glass type in a few hundred years..."

Master Wang's words made everyone roll their eyes. In a few hundred years, they would all be ancient people, and even if it were glass-type jade, it would have nothing to do with them.

Zhuang Rui had already anticipated this outcome, but he still managed to feign a look of disappointment as he took the water Peng Fei offered and drank it.

Although the stone-cutting process only took thirty minutes, it was extremely taxing on the mind. Even though Zhuang Rui could see the jade's flesh with his spiritual energy, he dared not relax for a moment. After all, even the slightest scratch on the jade would result in a loss of tens of thousands of yuan.

"Xiao Rui, you should rest for a bit. Let Xiao Zhao handle this..."

Fang Yi saw that Zhuang Rui was not only covered in sweat, but his white silk clothes were also soaked and clung to his body. She felt sorry for her son-in-law and signaled the jade gambling consultant hired by the company to go up and continue cutting the stone.

With such a large window already opened, all that's left is to continue wiping away the stones on both sides. Just be careful not to damage the jade inside. This kind of work is nothing to those of us who have been in the jade gambling circle for years. After hearing Fang Yi's words, Master Zhao took the grinding wheel from Zhuang Rui and continued polishing.

It was already time for the jadeite auction to open, but very few people went in to inspect the rough stones. However, the area for cutting stones was getting increasingly crowded. Those who arrived late, not knowing why, were asking around on the periphery of the crowd. No one wanted to leave now; they all wanted to see how much jadeite could be extracted from this rough stone.

"Brother Ma, is this rough jade a winning bet or a losing one?"

Big D had just finished paying out everyone's bets when he squeezed next to Fatty Ma and asked in a low voice.

"Nonsense, are you blind? The jade shown in this window is worth no less than 8 million euros. Do you think it's going up or down?" Fatty Ma rarely acted as a teacher and gave Big D a lecture without any politeness.

"Oh right, I just placed a 50,000 yuan bet on the 'rise' bet, and you haven't paid me back yet. The odds for the 'rise' bet are 0.5 to 1. Hurry up, it's 75,000 yuan in total, pay me back..." Fatty Ma suddenly remembered this and grabbed Big D.

"It went up? Oh dear, then I've lost money! Hey, Mr. Yu, you have to give me my money back! Mr. Liu, don't run away, give me back the 100,000 yuan..."

Upon hearing Fatty Ma's words, Big D's face immediately turned so bitter it looked like he could squeeze out bitter herbs. He had just paid out all the money from those who bet on the losing side according to the 1 to 1 odds, but unexpectedly Zhuang Rui's luck turned around and the price actually rose again in the end. Big D wished he could crash his head into this piece of red jade and add a little more red to it.

After hearing what Big D said, everyone burst into laughter. Some of those whose names were called by Big D felt embarrassed and returned their money. However, many more had already quietly slipped away to the periphery of the crowd. Big D wandered around for a long time, but half of the people still hadn't returned their money. Moreover, he still had to pay out the winnings. After calculating the accounts, Big D lost so much that he didn't even have his savings for his wife.

"Big D, you're just destined to lose every time you gamble..."

Fatty Ma's words elicited another burst of laughter, which lightened the somber atmosphere at the stone-cutting site considerably.

At this point, Master Zhao had already started working. Extracting jade from the rough stone was a meticulous task. With the help of four jade gambling consultants, Zhuang Rui, and even Qin Haoran, who

took off their suits and rolled up their sleeves to join in, it took them more than three hours to finally extract the entire piece of jade.

It was already 11 a.m., and most of the raw jade merchants had already entered the venue to select rough stones. After all, no matter how good this piece of red jade was, it wasn't theirs. Their jewelry stores were also waiting for customers and didn't have time to linger here. They could only continue searching for rough stones with envy. However, before leaving, they all went up and touched the rough stone, hoping it would bring them some good luck.

There are three pieces of raw, blood-red jadeite lying on the ground. Two of them are slightly smaller, but together they are about the same size as the other piece. Zhuang Rui had cut the jadeite into three sections because he was too impatient. Otherwise, it would probably have taken another day to extract the jadeite.

Zhuang Rui's actions have led many to secretly curse him as a spendthrift. After all, those three cuts would have wasted at least a million yuan worth of jade, yet he didn't even want the money back just to save time.

"Congratulations, Boss Zhuang! It's a total of 78.65 kilograms, a huge increase, a huge increase indeed..."

The staff member from the organizing committee stayed with them the whole time, and after all the rough stones were cut open, he had someone bring over an electronic scale, put the three rough stones on it and weighed them. In the end, the amount of jade meat was more than ten kilograms more than Zhuang Rui had estimated.

The official, who had somehow acquired a large red flower, insisted that Zhuang Rui wear it. He even made Zhuang Rui hold up the slightly smaller piece of raw jade for a photo. Zhuang Rui thought about it and agreed; it was just publicity, after all. However, Zhuang Rui made a condition: when these photos were put on the bulletin board, the name of Hong Kong Qin's Jewelry must be included.

"Boss Zhuang, you have three pieces of jade here. How about you sell one to me, Lao Han? We're almost starving..."

After Zhuang Rui had his picture taken with the organizing committee, the owner of the Korean-style jewelry store approached him.

"Hey, Lao Han, you stocked up on a lot of good jade at last year's Myanmar jade auction. Don't complain about being broke, Boss Zhuang. We've met before, so give me a piece of that jade. Name your price, no bargaining..."

There were still forty or fifty people gathered around the stone-cutting area. They were all people who had witnessed the auction of Zhuang Rui's piece of floating-flower jadeite at the Pingzhou Public Auction. Their purpose in staying was nothing more than for these three pieces of icy jadeite on the ground.

In the eyes of these people, Zhuang Rui's gambling on stones was naturally for the purpose of selling them. Although he had a good relationship with Qin Haoran, Qin's Jewelry couldn't possibly take all three rough stones at once, could it?

Chapter 465 Blind Bidding (Part 9)

"Boss Zhuang, I, Lao Han, am very sincere. I bought two pieces of jade from you last time, so please give me one this time..."

Han Haowei had a very good run of luck at the Myanmar jade auction last year, winning six rough jade stones through the sealed bid. Four of them turned out to be valuable after cutting, and the other two also revealed green jade, though the quality was only average. In recent years, his Han's Jewelry hasn't had much trouble with raw materials, but given the current rise in the jade market, nobody would complain about having too much raw material, right? Stockpiling more raw material might be a crucial advantage in seizing market share in the future.

"Mr. Han, you really don't act until you see the profit, but..."

Zhuang Rui was nearly forced to cut open the rough stone he used to trick Xu Zhendong at the Pingzhou public auction last time by this Boss Han. Moreover, Han Haowei fought Xu Zhendong to the very end that time and almost fell for the trap.

"Mr. Zhuang, you can't be biased! I also bought two pieces of the jadeite with floating flowers that you bid on last time..."

Before Zhuang Rui could finish speaking, he was interrupted by another jewelry store owner, who, fearing that Zhuang Rui would sell to Han Haowei, continued, "I don't want the big one either. Either of the two smaller ones is fine. Mr. Zhuang, I'll offer 10 million. What do you think?"

"Old Liu, you're being too stingy. 10 million? Let me show you, that's about right..."

Mr. Han casually remarked that even this small piece of rough jade weighed nearly 20 kilograms, enough to make fifty or sixty bracelets. Moreover, icy red jade bracelets have been selling extremely well lately. There's a shop in Beijing that sold a single icy red jade bracelet for 1.5 million yuan, and they've already sold out, making the jewelry shop owners extremely envious.

These smaller pieces of raw material, enough to make just fifty or sixty bracelets, are worth around eighty or ninety million. The remaining scraps, when crafted into jewelry, could fetch at least thirty million. Adding them together, the total would definitely exceed one hundred million. No wonder Han Haowei ridiculed Mr. Liu for offering ten million.

"Old Han, don't put me on the spot. I said 10 million euros, not RMB. You need to get that straight..."

Mr. Liu's words brought Han Haowei's laughter to an abrupt halt. 10 million euros is more than 100 million RMB, which is indeed a high price. The calculation just now was the price of the finished product, while the price Mr. Liu offered was only for the purchase of the jade material.

From raw jade to finished products displayed in jewelry stores, there are many procedures involved, including processing and sales. Considering everything, Mr. Liu's price, while not enough to lose money, doesn't generate much profit either.

Having figured it out, Fatty Han blushed and said, "Old Liu, let's use euros then. I'll offer 11 million euros. I'm taking this piece of material..."

Business people know that if you have something that others don't, you can attract many consumers and turn them into loyal customers. So Han Haowei didn't think much about it and directly added 1 million euros. He had this in mind, and even if he lost money to gain publicity, Fatty Han was willing to accept it.

Although the sale of top-quality jadeite jewelry requires a period of time, it cannot be denied that having these unique pieces in your jewelry store gives you a head start in attracting consumers' attention.

"Hey, Lao Han, you want to challenge me? I'll offer twelve million euros, Mr. Zhuang, what do you think?"

Mr. Liu is from Beijing and knows much more about the red jade jewelry sold from Qin Ruilin's shop than Han Haowei does. However, Zhuang Rui took over the shop too late, and he still thought it belonged to Qin's Jewelry in Hong Kong. Now that he has the opportunity to get a share of the pie from Qin's Jewelry, Mr. Liu has really gone all out.

After saying this, Mr. Liu raised his head a little higher, displaying the unmistakable "style" of a Beijing man.

"Gentlemen, can I say something? This piece of rough jade..." Zhuang Rui, who had been unable to get a word in edgewise, finally had a chance to speak.

"Wait a minute, Lao Liu, I'll pay..."

Before Zhuang Rui could finish speaking, Han Haowei interrupted him, but quickly realized that his action seemed a little inappropriate, and hurriedly said, "Mr. Zhuang, I'm sorry, please go first, please go first..."

"Gentlemen, I recently took over a shop and we're short of jadeite raw materials. I came to Myanmar this time to gamble on some materials for my own use. Besides, this piece of jadeite was jointly purchased by me and Qin's Jewelry, and we really can't divide it among ourselves. Please forgive me, we really can't sell it..."

Zhuang Rui was somewhat amused and exasperated. His friend hadn't even said he wanted to sell the red jade, yet the two of them were arguing so fiercely they were almost at each other's throats. In the past, when selling raw materials, there were no sales channels, so they would sell them and share some of the profits. But now it's different. With a sales outlet, Zhuang Rui naturally wanted to sell the goods directly to consumers, and the profit margin in that process would be quite considerable.

"Is that Qin Ruilin restaurant yours, Boss Zhuang?"

Mr. Liu stared at Zhuang Rui in disbelief, his expression shifting between different emotions. Only after Zhuang Rui nodded in acknowledgment did he shake his head and say, "Excuse me, excuse me. Ah, Mr. Zhuang is truly a promising young man..."

Han Haowei was dumbfounded. Since the other party had his own jewelry store, he certainly wouldn't sell the raw materials. Why was he arguing about it? He stamped his foot, greeted Zhuang Rui and the others, and squeezed out of the crowd to head straight for the venue. If he couldn't get the raw materials from Zhuang Rui, he should hurry up and pick out a few pieces at the venue.

The onlookers, who had been preoccupied with their own thoughts, dispersed after hearing Zhuang Rui's words. The news of Zhuang Rui's entry into the jewelry industry quickly spread, shocking many people. Despite his young age, this young man possessed extraordinary insight and luck, suggesting that the jewelry industry was about to be reshuffled.

This Myanmar jade auction is being taken even more seriously. In order to secure a place in the domestic jewelry industry in the future, these jewelry tycoons are sparing no expense in purchasing promising rough stones. The news of Zhuang Rui entering the jewelry industry has attracted more attention than the successful gamble on that rough stone, which has inadvertently boosted the transaction volume of this jade auction.

After everyone had left, Qin Haoran carefully examined the rough stones again, and then said to Zhuang Rui very seriously, "Xiao Rui, give us these two smaller rough stones, and keep the larger one for yourself. Together, they'll be worth 200 million RMB. What do you think?"

The two smaller pieces together weigh about 10 kilograms more than the larger one. Qin's Jewelry has more than one jewelry store, so Qin Haoran directly asked for two pieces.

"Two hundred million? Uncle Qin, let's not be so formal. You can just offer half of the bid..."

Although Qin Haoran's offer was lower than Han Haowei's and Boss Liu's, it was still much higher than Zhuang Rui's target price. When Zhuang Rui saw the material, he only offered around 200 million for the entire piece. Even after it was made into jewelry, Zhuang Rui estimated it would only be worth 400 million. Zhuang Rui did not expect that the material would double in value after it was cut.

This is also because Zhuang Rui doesn't understand the jewelry market. When he sold those icy red jadeite bracelets, each one was priced between 800,000 and 1 million yuan. But after they went out of stock, it became difficult to find one even for 1.5 million yuan. The price has increased by more than 30%.

Moreover, Zhuang Rui didn't intend to keep the jadeite to himself when he told Qin Haoran about it; he originally considered the rough stone to be a joint purchase between the two parties.

"Two hundred million, Xiao Rui, you don't need to say anything more. Qin's Jewelry isn't just owned by one company with the surname Qin. You picked out this raw material yourself, there's no need to save money for those people. I'll issue you a Swiss bank draft later..."

Qin Haoran waved his hand to interrupt Zhuang Rui. If he were to rely on his status as Zhuang Rui's future father-in-law and actually buy the jadeite for half the auction price, Qin's Jewelry would definitely be ridiculed.

Moreover, Qin Haoran also wanted Zhuang Rui to make this money. Just as he said earlier, this money doesn't just belong to the Qin family; there are several other shareholders as well. He was able to get these two pieces of red jadeite thanks to his future son-in-law, so it's only right that the other shareholders spend some money.

"Is this... appropriate?" Zhuang Rui hesitated upon hearing this.

"Why is it inappropriate? I'm here on behalf of the board of directors to purchase raw materials; I have the authority to use this money..."

Now, only Qin Haoran, Zhuang Rui, and the organizing committee staff member remain at the stone-cutting site. There are also several soldiers with guns on guard around the perimeter, which the official specifically called over in case of any problems.

As for Fang Yi and several other jade experts, they all went into the venue to continue selecting rough stones.

"Alright, that's enough. Uncle Qin even took advantage of you. Come on, let's go get the paperwork done..."

Qin Haoran asked someone from the organizing committee to find a few burlap sacks, tear them open, wrap the pieces of raw material in them, and then haul them to the organizing committee's office on a cart.

A little over an hour later, the organizing committee staff member helped Zhuang Rui obtain the customs clearance certificates for the jade pieces. Qin Haoran was very efficient; he immediately issued Zhuang Rui a Swiss bank draft for 20 million euros.

After acquiring these pieces of red jade, Qin Haoran immediately decided to leave Myanmar and personally escort them back to Hong Kong. He had no choice but to do so, as he estimated that no logistics company in Myanmar would be willing to take on this order because they couldn't afford to lose money. If anything went wrong, the company would go bankrupt.

In the end, Qin Haoran didn't even go back to the hotel. With the help of the organizing committee, he bought a plane ticket, contacted the Hong Kong authorities, and then the organizing committee provided a car and sent armed soldiers to take Qin Haoran on a flight back to Hong Kong.

Chapter 466 Blind Bidding (10)

Because these rough stones were too valuable and quite large to be carried around, Qin Haoran took the stone belonging to Zhuang Rui back with him. He planned to have it delivered to Zhuang Rui after the auction.

After leaving the organizing committee, Zhuang Rui felt very tired. He did not continue to inspect the raw materials in the afternoon, but went back to the hotel to rest. At the request of many buyers, the organizing committee decided to extend the public auction from one week to twelve days. In this way, Zhuang Rui would have plenty of time to select raw materials.

As for today's open auction, there were three rough stones that Zhuang Rui had his eye on. He gave the bid numbers to Peng Fei and, based on the specific conditions of each rough stone, gave Peng Fei three prices, allowing him to decide for himself based on the bidding situation. Peng Fei was not intimidated at all and readily agreed to the deal worth tens of millions of RMB.

After returning to the hotel, Zhuang Rui contacted the domestic authorities. The 4S dealership was doing very well under the management of a professional manager. There were many customers buying cars before the Lunar New Year, and the business had basically stabilized, with millions of yuan in net profit every month.

Zhao Guodong's auto repair shop has monopolized the auto repair business near the national highway. In terms of both technology and location, it has squeezed out the other shops quite a bit. It's not that no one has bad intentions, but with the reputation of "Zhen Guanxi" and the fact that Liu Chuan's father, who has been promoted to deputy director of the district, is an old subordinate, several auto repair shops are considering whether to follow Zhen Guanxi's example and sell their shops to Zhao Guodong.

However, Zhuang Rui's jade processing factory is now facing the problem of shutdown because Zhuang Rui's piece of icy jade has basically been carved into finished products. However, Luo Jiang knows that Zhuang Rui is currently in Myanmar, so he is not in a hurry. He has seen Zhuang Rui's inventory and has no doubt about this young boss's eye for gambling on stones.

The news that made Zhuang Rui happiest was that Qin Xuanbing was returning to China. By the end of this month, just three to five days before the Lunar New Year, the project she was hosting in the UK would be completed, allowing her to return home for the holiday. Fang Yi wanted to hold an engagement ceremony before the New Year to settle things regarding their two children.

Zhuang Rui wholeheartedly agreed with Fang Yi's suggestion. With this matter settled, Qin Xuanbing would have even more reason to stay in Beijing. He had been holding back for several months, and his heart was already itching to go, especially after meeting those Russian exchange students from the China exchange group at Bai Feng's house. He missed Qin Xuanbing even more.

"Brother Zhuang, Brother Zhuang, I'm back..."

After making several phone calls, Zhuang Rui lay down on the bed and fell asleep. The stone-cutting in the morning had been very tiring. Just as he was drifting off to sleep, Peng Fei knocked on the door.

"What's wrong? Is it getting dark?"

Zhuang Rui walked into the living room and realized that it was already dark outside. He took two cans of drinks from the refrigerator, tossed one to Peng Fei, and said with a smile, "Why are you so excited? Did you win a few bids?"

"Brother Zhuang, we won all three bids, and all of them used the second bid you gave us. We paid a total of four million euros..."

Today, Peng Fei witnessed firsthand what it meant for money to be treated like toilet paper. The numbers flashing on the big screen added up to several hundred million RMB, and he alone had processed over 40 million RMB in payments. Although he had served in the military since childhood and didn't have a deep understanding of money, Peng Fei was still quite excited.

"Well, it's all just numbers. Once that matter is settled, you won't even care about this little bit of money..."

Zhuang Rui couldn't help but laugh when he heard Peng Fei's words. This was also within his expectations. Those rough stones were all icy jadeite, and one of them was blue floating flower jadeite, which is extremely rare. However, the performance of these rough stones was not very good. He had paid more than one million euros for each of them, so it was normal for him to acquire them.

"Brother Zhuang, my sister is my only family now. I'm already grateful that you think highly of me, treat me like a brother, and treat my sister like a sister. I'll follow you for the rest of my life. Whether that matter is true or not, it has nothing to do with me..."

Peng Fei spoke earnestly. He knew money was a good thing, but he also knew that besides what he had learned in the army, he had no other skills. Was he just going to live off that money and wait to die? Compared to that kind of life, he would rather stay by Zhuang Rui's side. In just a few days, he had already broadened his horizons considerably.

Furthermore, his younger sister was living happily at Zhuang Rui's house, and Peng Fei was satisfied with his current living environment. He did not want to change his current life because of that vague and illusory so-called treasure.

"Let's talk about this later. You're going to get married too. Hmm, you can stay at my place after you get married. There are plenty of rooms there anyway..." People are all about fate. Zhuang Rui just felt a

connection with Peng Fei for no reason and was willing to trust him. Putting himself in Peng Fei's shoes, what Peng Fei was saying was the best reward for Zhuang Rui.

"What's wrong? Is there something else?" Zhuang Rui asked, noticing Peng Fei's hesitant expression.

When Zhuang Rui asked Peng Fei, his fair face suddenly turned red, and he stammered, "Brother Zhuang... I... I want to make a phone call back home, I don't know if that's okay?"

"Missing Yaya? You've finished typing. Didn't we activate global roaming for your phone?"

Zhuang Rui asked in surprise, explaining that he had already told Peng Fei to call Ya Ya every day because he was worried that Ya Ya might relapse into autism since she had just moved to a new environment and her brother wasn't around.

"No...it's not for Ya Ya, it's for one of my classmates..." Peng Fei lowered his head as if he had done something wrong.

"Female classmate?"

"Um....."

"Haha, you little rascal, go ahead and make the call. We're not short of a few phone bills. You're killing me with laughter. Go to your room and make the call. Come out and tell me what's going on..." Zhuang Rui laughed heartily upon hearing this. This guy was really honest, even more so than he had been back then.

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Peng Fei dashed into his room, but less than a minute later, he emerged with a grim expression.

"What's wrong?" Zhuang Rui could tell at a glance that Peng Fei's expression was not good.

Under Zhuang Rui's persistent questioning, Peng Fei finally revealed what had happened. It turned out that during a year when Peng Fei was serving in the army, he returned home to visit his family and, at a class reunion, started dating a female classmate from junior high school.

The two had always had a good relationship, but after that incident last year, Peng Fei has not been able to get over the two things: being discharged from the army and the death of his parents. Not only is his younger sister autistic, but he himself has also developed some autism.

Feeling like he had nothing left, Peng Fei abruptly drove away his girlfriend who had come to comfort him. After moving and becoming a mover, he cut off all contact with the girl. He felt that he couldn't give her happiness, so he might as well let her go and pursue it.

However, after following Zhuang Rui, Peng Fei's mindset changed, so he called that girl just now, but what happened? She hung up on him as soon as the call connected.

"That girl doesn't have a boyfriend, does she?" Zhuang Rui asked.

"No, I met a classmate last month who said she doesn't have a boyfriend yet..." Peng Fei shook his head.

"Alright, then what are you worried about? When others wanted to help you, you rejected them and then disappeared without a word. What kind of friendly attitude do you expect from them? Don't overthink it. When we get back to Beijing, you can go and apologize to them yourself..."

"Really? Brother Zhuang?" Peng Fei's eyes lit up.

"Of course it's true. Otherwise, if you were a little sweeter, you could probably settle things over the phone right now..." Zhuang Rui laughed. This Peng Fei looked a bit like a pretty boy, but he didn't have Ximen Qing's methods.

"Then...then let's just wait until we get back..." Hearing Zhuang Rui say this, Peng Fei felt relieved.

For the next few days, Zhuang Rui wandered around the sealed-bid area. However, since he had plenty of time, he didn't work as hard and only looked at about five thousand pieces of rough stones each day. In his notebook, he wrote down more than two hundred bid numbers.

These two hundred-plus lots all consist of rough stones with poor outer appearance but great inner quality. With Zhuang Rui's capital, it's not that he can't snatch up those rough stones with excellent cut surfaces, but even with the 20 million euros Qin Haoran just gave him, he can only bid on two or three at most.

As for the open bidding, in addition to the three pieces that Peng Fei won, Zhuang Rui won five more, spending a total of 11 million euros. However, the value of these raw materials is definitely over 30 million euros. After being polished into jewelry, the price will double. Zhuang Rui decided to only cut two pieces for Qin Ruilin's shop and keep the rest to see how the market develops in a few years.

After receiving the labels from Zhuang Rui, Song Jun and Fatty Ma have made several successes in the past few days, bidding on five or six rough stones in succession. Fatty Ma, that show-off, is even planning to cut a stone on-site tomorrow to satisfy his craving.

Now Zhuang Rui only has the 200 million euros Qin Haoran gave him left. He has almost spent the more than 10 million euros he brought with him. And there are no good jade materials in the upcoming open auctions. So Zhuang Rui plans to put all his energy into the sealed auctions and try to get a few good quality and cheap rough stones.

"Damn it, do they think money isn't money?"

When Zhuang Rui walked up to the first piece of icy jadeite with a starting price of 30,000 euros, he cursed inwardly. This piece of jadeite was not good; it was completely black and a rough, uncut piece. Unexpectedly, in just a few days, there were more than 20 bids for it.

After checking each bid, Zhuang Rui discovered that the highest bidder had offered 180,000 euros, while his own bid of 31,000 euros was sitting alone at the bottom of the drawer.

Chapter 467 Sealed Bidding (11)

Sealed bidding differs from open bidding. Open bidding follows a sequential order of bid numbers, and bids can be opened daily. If you like something, you can submit your bid that day; it's a one-time transaction—once you buy it and sign the "Winning Bid Contract," no one else can take it from you.

However, the bidding period for sealed bids is very long, now extended to 12 days. After your first bid, if you feel unsure, you can fill out another bid form and submit it. Therefore, many people feel that their first bid was too low and will bid multiple times on the same piece of raw material.

Sometimes you might just put in 1 million euros, and the next person might immediately put in 1.2 million euros. Although no one knows the other's bottom price, it doesn't stop everyone from raising the price based on the performance of the raw material. You could say that a sealed bid is a battle of wits, courage, and money.

Zhuang Rui estimated that this piece of icy jadeite could only yield about ten kilograms of jade meat, with a value of around three million RMB. It wouldn't be worth investing more than that. After thinking for a moment, Zhuang Rui took out a bidding form, wrote down a price of 185,000 euros, and threw it into the bidding box.

Zhuang Rui doesn't lack jadeite, but he lacks money. Although he still has around 20 million euros, the prices on the betting slips for those rough stones with good outer skin and great inner quality are mostly over five million euros. Zhuang Rui's little money is simply not enough to compete with them.

Of course, there aren't many such rough stones, only seven or eight pieces. Among them, the one with glass-like texture on the cut surface has already been offered 13 million euros, which is more than 130 million RMB. I wonder if anyone will be able to surpass that number.

Zhuang Rui wouldn't pursue this rough jade stone. The glass-type jade inside only weighs three or four pounds; the rest is icy and golden-thread jade, far less valuable than it's worth. Buying it would definitely be a loss.

The other rough stones that performed well also had varying qualities of jadeite. However, even the best ones were only worth a few million euros more than the current highest price. Zhuang Rui would not invest his money in such rough stones with high input and low output.

The more than 100 rough stones that Zhuang Rui has his eye on have poor outer appearance but contain jade inside. Only three or five of them have no bids, while the rest are worth at least 100,000 euros. The total value of these stones is far beyond what Zhuang Rui can afford.

"Brother Ma, are you with Brother Song? Let's meet up tonight..."

"Uncle Qin, let's have dinner together tonight. I've got my eye on a lot of materials; I can give you some to keep an eye on..."

After wandering around the venue for a day, Zhuang Rui made phone calls to Fatty Ma, Qin Haoran, and others.

Although labeling them might arouse suspicion among these individuals, Zhuang Rui had no choice. With so many excellent raw stones, he couldn't possibly afford them all himself, and he was absolutely unwilling to watch others buy them. Rather than that, he decided to let his own people benefit from them.

"Uncle Qin, how much money do you have left?"

Zhuang Rui arranged to meet Qin Haoran and Song Jun at different times, and he is currently in Qin Haoran's hotel room.

The day after Qin Haoran returned to Hong Kong, he went back to Myanmar. During this time, he had been selecting raw materials in the sealed-bid area. He had much more funds than Zhuang Rui, but he also spent a lot of money, so he probably didn't have much money left.

"There are still about forty million euros left..."

Excluding the 20 million euros given to Zhuang Rui, Qin Haoran spent nearly 30 million euros on the open bids Zhuang Rui gave him. Now, all of this money is intended to be invested in sealed bids.

Zhuang Rui pondered for a moment, then took out a piece of paper and, referring to his notebook, began to write in great detail. He simply wrote down his opinions next to the numbers, though he wouldn't specify exactly what kind of jadeite would be found in those rough stones.

Not only that, Zhuang Rui also deliberately wrote many things wrong, such as writing "ice type" as "glass type" and "glass type" as "probably ice type", making the tone very vague. He would rather make Qin Haoran spend more money than have Qin Haoran and others doubt anything because of his accurate judgment in the future.

After a full half hour, Zhuang Rui handed Qin Haoran a piece of paper covered in writing on both sides, saying, "Uncle Qin, let's not compete for those with good outer appearances. These 30-odd rough stones were carefully selected by me. Although the outer appearance is average, the chances of finding jade inside are relatively high. You should focus your efforts on these. If you can secure them all, Qin's Jewelry probably won't have to worry about jade raw materials for the next ten years..."

The raw stones Zhuang Rui wrote down on the paper included almost all qualities of jadeite, from bean-type to glass-type. If Qin's Jewelry could really acquire them all, as Zhuang Rui said, within ten years, Qin's Jewelry could absolutely be self-sufficient in jadeite raw materials.

Among the rough stones that Zhuang Rui provided, besides the good ones, there were also three or four pieces with extremely poor quality. Two of them were of very poor quality, and two of them didn't contain any jadeite at all. These were the rough stones that Zhuang Rui had just looked at today. It was unlikely that he would find imperial green jadeite in this venue, but there were plenty of low-quality stones everywhere.

If Qin Haoran could bid on all of them, his doubts would surely dissipate when he saw these rough stones during the stone-cutting process. Zhuang Rui had no other choice but to come up with this idea, since it would be too outrageous if all the rough stones he offered were to be worth it.

"Xiao Rui, are you sure?"

When Qin Haoran took the paper, he was startled. He had been looking at it for almost a week and could only identify fourteen or fifteen pieces of rough jade as his main focus. Zhuang Rui, on the other hand, offered twice as many.

"I'm not entirely sure. I generally don't look at rough stones that look good. Good stones are expensive, and the profit margin isn't high, so it's not worth it. The point of gambling on rough stones is to gamble on those that look average or even bad. That's how you can make the biggest profit with the lowest cost..."

Feeling that he had spoken too boldly, Zhuang Rui tried to smooth things over. Even so, Qin Haoran still had some doubts. If Zhuang Rui's previous achievements hadn't been so outstanding, Qin Haoran wouldn't have even considered one of the raw stones on this piece of paper.

"Honey, Xiao Rui is right. The competition for the best-performing rough stones will definitely be fierce. Why don't we do as Xiao Rui says and focus on investing in the average-performing ones? Maybe we can make a big profit..." Fang Yi didn't know how to judge the quality of rough stones, but from a business perspective, she agreed with Zhuang Rui's suggestion.

"Okay, let's do as Xiao Rui says. Starting tomorrow, I'll focus on these rough stones and try to get them on the auction..."

Qin Haoran recalled his father's excited expression when he returned to Hong Kong and personally picked him up at the airport. In the end, he chose to trust Zhuang Rui. This decision led to Qin's Jewelry's market share of jade jewelry surpassing that of the jewelry industry's hegemon, King Fook, in the following years. Of course, these are all stories for later.

After leaving Qin Haoran's place, Zhuang Rui went to the room where Fatty Ma was staying. This guy and Song Jun had been waiting anxiously for a long time. They had bought some Burmese specialties and were drinking in the room.

When Zhuang Rui asked, he was both amused and exasperated. The two brothers had been acting recklessly. In addition to bidding on the few open-bid stones that Zhuang Rui had given them, they had also bid on several other rough stones in the past few days, spending nearly 20 million euros. Now, the two of them together only had less than 10 million euros left.

After thinking for a moment, Zhuang Rui wrote down the numbers of 10 rough stones and handed them over. If they were lucky, they should be able to win four or five of them. Even if the two of them lost all of their previous 2,000 yuan gambling, these few stones would be enough for them to break even.

These two men knew nothing about jade gambling and had been relying on Zhuang Rui for help. They hadn't even brought a jade gambling expert, so they naturally trusted Zhuang Rui a lot. They didn't even bother to look at the note Zhuang Rui handed them before pulling him aside to drink some wine.

"Damn, wouldn't it be great if this guy could create clones of himself?"

Standing amidst the mountains and seas of rough stones in the sealed-bid area, Zhuang Rui stood up from beside a piece of raw jade and thought with a touch of helplessness, "If I had a clone technique, I could place a clone next to each of the boxes I want to bid on the day after tomorrow, and then bid a price higher than the highest bid in the box before the sealed-bid deadline."

With only two days left until the sealed bid closes, Zhuang Rui has revised his bidding proposal repeatedly, constantly changing the raw stones he's focusing on. The reason is simple: there are just too many worthwhile raw stones to choose from, leaving Zhuang Rui unsure which one to pick.

Not only green jadeite, but he also saw many rare colored materials in the past two days, including red jadeite, blue jadeite and purple jadeite. This made Zhuang Rui very conflicted. He could only give up the materials he had previously liked and shift his focus to these few pieces. There was nothing he could do, since he didn't have enough money.

"Hmm? What kind of material is this?"

After more than a week of observation, there were not many jadeite pieces in the sealed-bid area that Zhuang Rui hadn't seen. When he walked to a corner, a rough jadeite caught his eye.

From his first experience gambling on jade in Nanjing, through his trip to Pingzhou, to this comprehensive Myanmar jadeite auction, it can be said that no one on Earth has seen a more complete range of jadeite varieties than Zhuang Rui. However, the jadeite in this rough stone that is now in front of him is something that Zhuang Rui has never seen before.

This is a rough piece of jade weighing over 100 kilograms. Its surface is somewhat reddish-brown, and at first glance, it looks a bit like a piece of red jade from the Dakan Wood Factory.

Chapter 468-469: Blind Bidding (Parts 12 and 13)

But when Zhuang Rui's gaze pierced through the rough stone's outer layer, which resembled the red rust of a pot's bottom, what he saw was a misty, yellowish crystal. Zhuang Rui had seen at least tens of thousands of rough stones, and he had seen red mist, white mist, even purple and blue mist, but yellow mist was something he had never seen before.

These yellow crystals are interspersed with some red mist, but the red color is relatively light and is completely enveloped by the yellow crystals, making them difficult to distinguish without close inspection.

Passing through these yellow mist crystals formed by weathering, Zhuang Rui's gaze fell upon the central part of the rough stone. A bright color caught his eye—a bright yellow, like oil, giving it a delicate, fragrant, and alluring feel.

The spiritual energy contained in this rough stone is different from that of other jadeite. It doesn't have that cold feeling. On the contrary, the spiritual energy is like the sunshine on your head, making Zhuang Rui feel warm.

"Yellow jade? Or chicken-fat yellow..."

Zhuang Rui's heart skipped a beat. If there was any type of jade he hadn't seen before, it was probably yellow jade. It wasn't that he hadn't seen it before; there was yellow jade in the rough stones in the market, but the quality was too low. It looked greasy and dirty, and Zhuang Rui didn't even want to look at it a second time.

However, the yellow jade in this rough stone was completely different from what he had seen before. The yellow color was as pure as chicken fat that had just been slaughtered, and the jade was as transparent as glass. In terms of both texture and color, it was the best of the best among yellow jade.

Like all colored jadeite, the formation of yellow jadeite requires the presence of secondary minerals such as limonite during its formation process. Countless years of erosion and fusion create this unique color. Unlike red, blue, purple, and green jadeite, top-quality yellow jadeite is much rarer.

Because of the favor shown by the old lady of the Qing Dynasty and the "First Lady" of the Republic of China, the idea that "only green is valuable" has been formed in people's minds, which has also led to the misconception that "green is good". Jade lovers have been pursuing green jade blindly.

Consumers overlook the fact that green jadeite can be either pure or mixed colors, and its value varies. Some people are even unaware that there are also red and yellow jadeite. Green has almost become synonymous with jadeite.

However, in recent years, as people's appreciation ability and taste in jewelry have continued to improve, the outstanding decorative and personalized qualities of red and yellow jadeite have become increasingly popular. Their warm color characteristics are also easy to coordinate with the skin tone of Chinese people, and therefore their value is increasingly recognized by jade lovers.

Although in the current jade jewelry market, the natural value of jadeite is lower than that of jadeite, this is based on the principle of equivalent quality. Vibrant jadeite is obviously more valuable than dull jadeite.

In fact, red and yellow are both primary colors, and their mixed colors are quite vibrant. Green and purple are secondary colors, and if mixed with other colors, they can easily become gray and dark. In other words, many jadeite pieces are not actually more valuable than jadeite.

In terms of the natural value of jadeite, jadeite with pure color and good texture is more valuable. Golden and translucent pure yellow jadeite is a very precious top-grade jadeite, just as the value of yellow jade exceeds that of cultured white jade. Top-grade pure yellow jadeite is extremely rare in the market and is even more precious and rare than imperial green jadeite.

It is worth mentioning that when using jade as an ornament, in addition to considering the common values mentioned above, one must also consider its individual value. Although jade is expensive, it is more suitable for people with fair skin to wear, while people with darker skin will find that jadeite is more harmonious and beautiful. Therefore, for people with darker skin, jadeite has a higher individual value than jadeite.

Since decorative appeal is the main advantage of jadeite, color is particularly important. A piece of jadeite with good color but average texture has more potential value than a piece with mixed color and good texture, and therefore its natural value is also higher.

Of course, if the jadeite is of low quality, or even loses the basic characteristic of transparency, then no matter how good the color is, it is just a stone and not jade, so it has no value. The yellow jadeite in this stone can be considered top-quality in terms of both quality and color.

Since the Song Dynasty, bright yellow has been the exclusive color of the emperor in China, with the emphasis on "yellow as the most precious". Therefore, in recent years, the best yellow jadeite will immediately fetch an astronomical price as soon as it appears on the market, and yellow jadeite items are simply not available in circulation.

There was once a famous jade carver from Sihui, Guangdong, who by chance obtained a piece of top-quality yellow jade in Myanmar. He carved it into a roast chicken and later presented it on a plate at the China Art Expo held in Beijing.

Many people were stunned at the time, thinking it was a freshly roasted chicken. When they looked more closely and realized it was indeed a jade carving, they couldn't help but admire the artist's ingenious conception and skillful carving technique, as well as the natural color and texture of the yellow jade.

It is said that the piece of roast chicken-shaped yellow jade was later offered for over 100 million yuan but was not sold, because the owner of the piece regarded it as a family heirloom and vowed never to sell it.

Yellow jadeite is called "Fu Yi" in the "Fu Lu Shou" tricolor of jadeite, symbolizing good fortune, prosperity, and longevity. It is believed to last for thousands of generations, which is why many wealthy people have been pursuing top-quality yellow jadeite pieces in recent years.

Of all the yellow jadeite in this rough stone, the one in the very center has the purest color and texture. Zhuang Rui examined it carefully; it was slightly smaller than a football and weighed about ten kilograms. It could easily be carved into a decorative piece. Judging by the quality of this yellow jadeite, its value was probably no less than the jadeite fruit plate he had given to his grandfather.

"Take it, we must buy it..."

Thinking of this, Zhuang Rui felt excited. Compared to red and green jadeite, pure yellow jadeite is even rarer. This piece of yellow jadeite could definitely be the prized possession of Qin Ruilin's shop in the capital.

Taking a deep breath, Zhuang Rui stood up, first stretching his legs which had gone numb from squatting, then observing from a different angle. To onlookers, it seemed that Zhuang Rui was looking down at the rough stone, but in fact, his eyes were fixed on the bidding box.

So many bids?

As soon as the spiritual energy entered the bidding box, before he could even discern the numbers on the bid slips, Zhuang Rui became frustrated. A huge stack of business card-sized bid slips had already been densely packed in that box, roughly estimated to be at least two or three hundred. In other words, at least one-tenth of the people participating in this public auction had bid on this piece of rough jade.

Actually, this was Zhuang Rui's own doing. After he won the gamble on that piece of icy red jadeite, not only Chinese buyers but also buyers from all over the world started paying more attention to colored jadeite other than green. People were bidding on pieces with slightly better outer skin.

This piece of jade has a typical red jade skin, so even though it was in a corner, it was still discovered by discerning people.

"Two hundred and eighty thousand euros...three hundred thousand euros...damn it, one million six hundred thousand euros..."

Zhuang Rui meticulously examined each of the bids, spending nearly an hour before finally identifying the highest price. After reading the numbers on that bid, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but swear.

It's worth noting that the starting price for this rough stone was only 50,000 euros, or 500,000 RMB. The highest bid has now exceeded that by more than 32 times.

Although he knew there was something good inside the rough stone, Zhuang Rui was still somewhat indignant. He didn't know whether to praise the person who bid for it for having good taste or for being foolish and rich, daring to pay such a price just because the outer skin looked like red jadeite.

"Hey, brother, move aside, I need to submit a bid..."

Zhuang Rui's upper body was blocking the bid box, and someone behind him nudged him, signaling him to move aside.

"Oh, it's Boss Zhuang! You've also taken a liking to this rough jade?"

Zhuang Rui didn't recognize the person speaking, but he must have seen him gambling on stones before. Seeing Zhuang Rui's attention on the rough stone, the man didn't put the bidding form in the bidding box.

"I heard there's a piece of red jadeite here that looks pretty good, so I came to take a look..."

Zhuang Rui smiled. He knew that whatever he said now would make the person in front of him suspicious, so he might as well admit that he had seen the rough stone.

"Oh, what does Mr. Zhuang think?"

"Yes, Mr. Zhuang, please tell us about it..."

The conversation between the two attracted the attention of several people observing the rough stones nearby. If we were to say who was the most prominent person at this Myanmar jade auction, it would undoubtedly be Zhuang Rui. Among the merchants who came to Myanmar to gamble on jade, perhaps nine out of ten did not know who the Prime Minister of Myanmar was, but they all definitely knew Mr. Zhuang from Beijing.

"I should have just glanced at it and left..."

Zhuang Rui felt a little annoyed. He could imagine that the person who took the bid would definitely change the price on it before throwing it into the bid box.

"Alright, kid, let me share my thoughts. Everyone can tell from the surface that if there's jade inside, it definitely won't be green jade; red jade is the most likely possibility. Moreover, the whole piece is seamless, without any cracks. Although it's a completely gambled piece, the risk is still very high. Hmm, I'm very optimistic about this piece..."

After saying the above words, half-jokingly, Zhuang Rui took a bid form from the bid box next to him and continued, "However, the price still needs some careful consideration. Please take a look, and I'll take my leave now..."

Zhuang Rui's actions left everyone gathered around the rough stone dumbfounded.

They hadn't expected Zhuang Rui to say anything good about the material, because everyone here was a competitor in the bidding. As the saying goes, rivals are enemies. If Zhuang Rui really liked the rough stone, even if he didn't say anything bad, he probably wouldn't be so praising it.

"Could it be that they deliberately want us to bid on this piece of rough jade?"

For a moment, a question arose in the minds of the onlookers. Perhaps this was a trap set by Zhuang Rui. The person holding the completed bid also looked somewhat doubtful and hesitant, and hesitated to put the bid into the bid box.

Zhuang Rui had already walked far away. He had no time to guess what these people were thinking. However, on the first page of Zhuang Rui's notebook, he had already written down the number of the rough stone and made a symbol that only he could understand.

"Peng Fei, if anyone knocks on the door, just say I'm not home, I've gone out shopping..."

Zhuang Rui gave Peng Fei some instructions, and then moved everything off the coffee table in the hotel living room. The only things left on the coffee table, besides his own notebook, were more than twenty bid forms.

Tomorrow is the deadline for bidding. After Zhuang Rui called Song Jun and Qin Haoran to tell them not to bother him, he prepared to categorize the key raw materials and then decide which ones to keep based on his budget.

So many people have come to visit Zhuang Rui these past few days that even with the "Do Not Disturb" sign hanging outside his hotel room, people still knock on the door, which annoys Zhuang Rui to no end. This makes him miss the White Lion. If that big guy were guarding the door, no one would bother him.

"A piece of colorless glass-type jadeite, 420,000 euros; a piece of bright green glass-type jadeite, 970,000 euros; a piece of purple glass-type jadeite, 1,290,000 euros; a piece of blue jadeite, 1,380,000 euros..."

Zhuang Rui spent the entire day yesterday carefully examining the twenty most precious rough stones he had selected, and recorded the highest bids in the boxes at the time.

"Fortunately, it's less than 20 million euros in total..."

Zhuang Rui looked at the figure of 18.9 million euros on the computer and breathed a sigh of relief. You see, these twenty rough stones were the ones he had selected after many days of looking at them. The jade inside was of the highest quality in terms of texture, color and clarity. Zhuang Rui was unwilling to give up any of them.

Aside from that piece of yellow jade, top-grade jade such as imperial green, blood jade bracelet, and purple-eyed jade did not appear at this public auction. However, this is normal. In the jade gambling circle, many people have been around for their whole lives and have never even seen imperial green, let alone gambled on it.

The top-quality jadeite of the categories mentioned above is extremely rare, with only one piece appearing every five or six years. Buyers who come to Myanmar are already very satisfied if they manage to gamble on a piece of icy jadeite.

The rough stones now in front of Zhuang Rui all have average appearances on the outside, but contain valuable material inside. Zhuang Rui originally thought he could easily acquire them, but after observing for the past few days, he didn't expect that even these poorly performing stones had received high bids.

Basically, the highest bid in the box now exceeds the price of the raw stone by more than 10 times. For example, Zhuang Rui took a look at that piece of yellow jadeite before the area was cleared out last night, and the highest bid in the box had reached 2.1 million euros, which was more than 42 times the starting bid.

What reassured Zhuang Rui a little was that not many of the rough stones he was looking at had been ordered repeatedly. This meant that the buyers weren't focusing on these stones, but rather casting a

wider net to catch some that slipped through the cracks. Zhuang Rui just needed to keep a close eye on these materials tomorrow and then put the bid in the box at the last minute.

As for those pieces with excellent surface finish or cut, Zhuang Rui deliberately lingered there for a few days. However, what surprised him was that one of the rough stones had already been bid up to 18 million euros, and people were still flocking to see it these past two days. It seemed that the final bid would not be released until the bidding deadline.

After analyzing the condition of these rough stones, Zhuang Rui began filling out the bidding forms. He added between 30,000 and 80,000 euros to the highest prices that had already appeared for these rough stones. As for the red jadeite rough stone, Zhuang Rui thought for a long time and filled in a price of 3.18 million euros, which was 1.08 million euros higher than the existing highest price. Zhuang Rui was determined to get this stone.

"Damn it, I'm broke again..."

After filling in all the prices, Zhuang Rui used a computer to add up the numbers, which totaled 20.86 million euros. Not only did he add in all the 20 million euros that Qin Haoran had given him, but he also had to add another 860,000 euros from the 900,000 euros he had left. After all this, Zhuang Rui would only have 40,000 euros left in his hands.

"This amount of money is probably only enough for the expenses of a courtyard house for one or two months, right?"

Before coming to Myanmar, Zhuang Rui had gathered all the funds he could access, including the money in Qin Ruilin's account in Beijing, the profits from Zhao Guodong's auto repair shop and 4S store over the past few months, the first dividend from the Xinjiang jade mine, and even 1 million yuan from the mastiff farm. This made Liu Chuan very nervous; if they hadn't just gotten married, he probably would have come to Myanmar with Zhuang Rui.

Zhuang Rui has experienced periods of financial hardship before, but the key issue is that he is getting engaged to Qin Xuanbing at the end of the month, and the 40,000 euros he has will probably not be enough to cover their expenses.

Zhuang Rui smiled bitterly. When he was poor, life didn't seem too difficult. But now that he has hundreds of millions in assets, he often feels that he doesn't have enough money. Maintaining the car doesn't cost much, but the various expenses for the courtyard houses in Pengcheng and Beijing amount to more than 100,000 yuan a month.

"Should we keep one or two pieces of material to cut and sell when the bidding starts?"

Zhuang Rui had this thought for a moment, but he quickly dismissed it. At the current Myanmar jade auction, people were using money to buy raw jadeite stones. It was conceivable that the price of finished jadeite products would rise further in the near future. Buying raw materials now would be too much of a loss.

"Treasure map?"

Zhuang Rui shook his head. Even if that thing was still there, he and Peng Fei couldn't move it. He was only going there to satisfy his curiosity. Zhuang Rui really didn't have any hope.

"Never mind, Qin Ruilin's sales this month are pretty good anyway, he should be able to collect several million by the end of the month..."

With only 40,000 euros left, Zhuang Rui felt a little uncertain, but it wasn't the time to starve yet. The revenue from his several stores at the end of the month could help him out in an emergency. His engagement ceremony with Qin Xuanbing couldn't possibly cost millions, could it? His mother would never agree to that.

Zhuang Rui now understands why those great collectors often complain about being poor. Faced with a room full of treasures, they sometimes can't even pull out two hundred yuan from their pockets, which is similar to his current situation. With so many raw stones, Zhuang Rui is reluctant to sell any of them. If he didn't have to sell to support his collection, he really couldn't afford to play this game.

"Peng Fei, come here, I need to tell you something. Tomorrow you'll be like this..."

After shaking his head to clear his mind of those chaotic thoughts, Zhuang Rui called over Peng Fei and handed him all the bid slips on the table, instructing him to put them into the appropriate boxes according to the numbers on the slips the next day.

Zhuang Rui knew he was too conspicuous. As soon as he entered the jade gambling venue, he was stared at like a celebrity. The gazes were so intense that they wanted to strip him naked and see what he was thinking. He just couldn't understand why those male and female celebrities liked being stared at so much. Did all celebrities have some kind of exhibitionist fetish?

The next morning, after meeting with Song Jun, Qin Haoran, and others, Zhuang Rui arrived at the jade gambling venue.

Myanmar's weather only has two seasons: dry season and rainy season. It's currently the dry season, with sunshine almost every day. However, the weather is a bit strange today. The dark clouds are hanging low in the sky, which looks like a sign of a downpour.

Fortunately, the bid boxes were all waterproofed, so even if it rained, the rainwater couldn't get into them. However, the weather made people feel very depressed, with a sense of impending doom and impending doom. It seemed to be connected with tomorrow's bid opening, making people feel heavy-hearted. When they saw acquaintances, they didn't greet them with smiles like they had a few days ago. Everyone's face was tense.

This is understandable. Whether they can leave with jade after a twelve-day jade auction depends entirely on today. After arriving at the venue, almost everyone shed their pretenses from the previous days and went straight for the rough jade they had their eye on. They wanted to decide whether they needed to adjust their bids based on the situation of today's bidders.

"Peng Fei, go ahead. No need to rush to submit them. Just put them all in the ballot box before 3 PM..."

Zhuang Rui gave Peng Fei a wink, then wandered aimlessly around the venue. Occasionally, he would run into an acquaintance near a piece of rough jade and chat for a few minutes. He seemed very relaxed, which didn't surprise anyone. They knew he had already won hundreds of millions in gambling, so of course he wasn't under any pressure.

In the morning, almost no one bid. They were all chatting next to the rough stones they had their eyes on, but they all looked a little distracted. However, after lunch, many people got busy.

One by one, bids, some already prepared and some just filled out, were dropped into the bid boxes. Unlike open bidding, sealed bids don't provide a price for reference; these bidders can only bid their highest bid at the last minute based on the quality of the raw materials.

"Brother Zhuang, they've all gone in..."

With two hours left before the bid deadline, Peng Fei returned to Zhuang Rui's side.

Chapter 470 Blind Bidding (14)

Zhuang Rui raised his wrist and glanced at his watch. The second hand had just passed three o'clock. There were only two hours left before the bidding phase of the Myanmar jade auction would end, and the entire following week would be dedicated to the opening of bids.

Don't be surprised, it's only a week of bidding time. Because there are so many sealed bids, the bidding process is supervised by special personnel every day in order to ensure fairness, impartiality and transparency. It's impossible to speed it up, after all, it takes a lot of manpower and energy to compile and input all that data into the computer.

Each container opening requires dedicated supervision, and the process of tallying the bids and entering the winning bids into the computer requires repeated verification by three people before confirmation, ensuring that no problems arise.

The opening of the Myanmar jade auction is one of the grandest events in Myanmar. Almost all government officials from cities near Yangon are temporarily transferred here to help, and the venue where the raw stones are displayed is closed off and under martial law by the military during the bidding period.

"Peng Fei, you rest for a bit, I'm going to take another walk..."

Zhuang Rui greeted Peng Fei and then walked into the sealed bidding area. At this time, there were almost no people walking back and forth in the sealed bidding area. Most people had their own rough stones to look at and were standing next to them, waiting for the deadline for sealed bidding to arrive.

Upon seeing Zhuang Rui approaching, these people all tensed up, fearing that he would throw a bid into the box next to them. They only breathed a sigh of relief when Zhuang Rui walked past them without stopping.

In reality, they knew that their actions were futile. If others wanted to invest, they would have already done so. If the price was higher than theirs, they would be left with nothing to do but watch helplessly. These people were merely seeking some psychological comfort.

Following the junction of the sealed and open bids, Zhuang Rui seemed to be wandering aimlessly, sometimes stopping to examine a rough stone. To onlookers, this appeared to be Zhuang Rui cramming at the last minute, doing useless work. Only Zhuang Rui himself knew that he was checking the bid boxes he had submitted.

"Boss Zhuang, are you still selecting raw materials?"

"Hehe, just wandering around, maybe I'll find something I like, and throw in a dollar or two..."

Along the way, people greeted Zhuang Rui. Although the sealed-bid area was not small, it was still quite a sight to see two or three thousand people crammed inside. Basically, there was a person standing next to every few pieces of raw jade, pretending to examine the jade around them. In fact, everyone knew that they were asserting their dominance, much like a white lion taking a piss in the corner of a yard.

However, a sealed bid doesn't guarantee you'll win just because you're there. The first person to bid might be the one who wins in the end. It all depends on each person's financial resources, courage, and vision.

"Huh? So many people?"

After examining twelve rough stones, Zhuang Rui's heart gradually calmed down. No one was paying attention to those stones, which was just as he had predicted. The bids placed earlier were just some

buyers trying their luck. However, when Zhuang Rui got close to the piece of yellow jade, he couldn't help but slow down.

Next to the rough stone, five or six people were chatting casually, but Zhuang Rui could tell that their smiles were a bit forced, and they were probably secretly competing with each other. Among them was Boss Zhang, who had greeted him the day before yesterday.

"Boss Zhuang, have you taken a liking to this piece of jade?"

When Mr. Zhang saw Zhuang Rui approaching, he quickly greeted him, but a hint of panic was visible in his eyes.

"Hehe, I was just wandering around. This piece of material is pretty good. I bid on it yesterday. You can take a look. I have a few more bids left..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled at the man and walked over without stopping, his eyes discreetly glancing at the bid box. Thankfully, Peng Fei's bid was currently at the top, and the figures on the lower bids didn't exceed 2 million euros.

"Xiao Rui, I saw you wandering around by yourself from afar. Time's almost up, stop wandering..."

When Zhuang Rui reached the entrance of the sealed-bid area, Qin Haoran greeted him. The first 100-odd rough stones were also the most competitive. Although Qin Haoran had listened to Zhuang Rui and placed bids on dozens of other stones, he still did not give up on the best-performing rough stones and placed his bids on them.

"It's alright, Uncle Qin, we've submitted all the applications we could. Whether we win or not depends on luck..."

Zhuang Rui smiled. He had figured it out. He couldn't possibly run back and forth between those 20-odd rough stones before the bidding deadline, could he? It had already taken him more than half an hour to walk around once, so there was no way he could stop others from raising their bids at the last minute.

Thinking of this, Zhuang Rui relaxed and started chatting with Qin Haoran and Fang Yi. As time went by, the hands on his watch slowly approached five o'clock in the afternoon.

"Uncle Qin, I'm going to check my bid..."

With five minutes left before the bidding ended, Zhuang Rui was getting impatient. He didn't care about the other bids, but he absolutely couldn't let that top-quality yellow jadeite fall into someone else's hands.

"Boss Zhuang, why are you back again?" The jeweler surnamed Zhang looked very unhappy when he saw Zhuang Rui walk back to the rough stone that was suspected to be red jade.

"Mr. Zhang, I've also taken a liking to this piece of material. What's wrong? You're the only one who can bid, and I'm not allowed to?"

Zhuang Rui's words made the boss grit his teeth in secret. He took out a bid form from his pocket. The bid form should have already been filled in with the bid number. Now he only needed to fill in one more number.

"The time for this year's sealed bid has come. Please do not crowd and exit in order. Attention guests, the time for this year's sealed bid has come. Please do not crowd and exit in order..."

When the minute hand stopped at 12 and the hour hand stopped at five o'clock, the staff's voice came from the loudspeaker in the venue, but no one paid any attention to it, because at that moment, many people were busy with their tasks.

As soon as the loudspeaker blared, countless hands reached for the bid boxes beside them. Bids that had already been written or had just been revised were thrown in. Mr. Zhang, who was standing next to Zhuang Rui, also reacted quickly and threw in his last bid, while intentionally or unintentionally blocking Zhuang Rui from entering.

After submitting his bid, Mr. Zhang let out a long sigh of relief, looked at Zhuang Rui, and laughed, "Hehe, Mr. Zhuang, this is my last bid anyway. Whether I win or not, I'll leave it to fate..."

"Yes, I submitted my application yesterday. I'm just here today to put my mind at ease..."

Zhuang Rui smiled. Actually, he also had a bid form with his number filled in in his pants pocket. The reason he didn't take it out was because he saw that Boss Zhang's final bid was 3.15 million euros, which was exactly 30,000 euros less than his own 3.18 million. Zhuang Rui breathed a sigh of relief.

"Let's go, Boss Zhuang, if we don't leave now, the soldiers will be here to kick us out..."

Fearing that Zhuang Rui might do the same and throw in another bid at the last minute, Boss Zhang affectionately took Zhuang Rui's arm and walked towards the exit of the jade trading center. Little did he know that his actions were exactly what Zhuang Rui was thinking, and that Zhuang Rui was afraid he might change his mind again.

"Hey, hey, Old Li, move aside..."

"Hey Lao Wu, can you tell me the price now?"

"Let's go back and talk, let's go back and talk..."

Old Wu isn't buying it. He's telling me he can fill out a form in 10 seconds. Why would I make things difficult for myself?

As Zhuang Rui walked towards the main entrance of the venue, all he saw and heard was this scene, somewhat like the moment before the open bidding, except that the numbers on the big screen were replaced by hands reaching for the bid box.

At this moment, many people even overturned their bids from just minutes earlier, filling out new bid forms and dropping them into the bidding box in a matter of seconds. Compared to the gambling on jade in Pingzhou, this is true madness, because the numbers changed inadvertently in these moments often amount to millions of euros.

However, the Myanmar organizing committee didn't give everyone much time to go wild. Just as the broadcast started, squads of soldiers in camouflage uniforms and armed with guns rushed out from the

three entrances of the venue, driving away everyone who remained in the raw stone area. Their attitude wasn't exactly brutal, but it was definitely not friendly.

Some people who wanted to back out and change their bids were driven away by the soldiers and reluctantly headed towards the exit. Their manner of turning back every three steps and looking back every five steps was quite similar to that of Old Mrs. Zhao dancing the tango with that effeminate gentleman.

"Come on, let's drink to the end of this Myanmar jade auction bidding..."

Zhuang Rui went outside and contacted Qin Haoran and the others by phone before returning to the hotel. Qin Haoran had specially booked a private room for the celebration. Song Jun and Fatty Ma, who were on good terms with Zhuang Rui, also came to join in the fun. There was another guest, Hu Rong, a jade tycoon from Myanmar.

For Qin's Jewelry, this trip to Myanmar has yielded unexpected gains. That piece of red jadeite rough is enough to make Qin's Jewelry shine in the world of jadeite jewelry. Of course, Qin Haoran is also full of expectations for the rough stones that Zhuang Rui gave him.

"Brother Zhuang, your skill in appraising raw stones is far superior to mine. I was preparing to take over a new mine a while ago, and I'd like to ask you to help me take a look in a few days..."

After everyone toasted and sat down, Hu Rong, who was sitting next to Zhuang Rui, gave Zhuang Rui a thumbs up. He was one of the appraisers of the rough jadeite in this bidding. At the time, Hu Rong was not very optimistic about that piece of red jadeite, but he did not expect Zhuang Rui to win big with his bet.