

Two Trillion 141

Chapter 141: The Master Wants to Take a Look

The antique stall owner caught up in the quarrel was a man in his thirties, with a face that seemed impervious to reason, looking like a simpleton with a rather large scar on his forehead that was quite intimidating.

At this moment, he was fully self-assured, holding a red bead bracelet and shouting loudly to the people around him.

"Look, everyone, look, this is a genuine southern red agate bracelet, which cost me a high price as the treasure of my stall! It was sitting there fine, and they wanted to try it on, but it fell to the ground, breaking two beads. Now, what do you say about this!"

Around him, there were many other stall owners, who usually hustled together, naturally sticking up for each other.

"She has to compensate, doing business these days is not easy. Top-quality southern red agate, that's worth a lot of money!"

"Exactly, life for life, debt repayment, you break it, you pay, it's only fair."

"With the quality of this southern red agate, just look at how nice it is, it can't be cheap."

With some people backing him up, Scarface was also wearing a proud look, lifting the bracelet in his hand high, which was more like a red banner than a southern red agate bracelet.

"You're exaggerating way too much, as if the thing in your hand is worth that much! Do you really think we've never seen anything good? You're asking for the moon!"

One of the two women, the older one, retorted furiously. She seemed about thirty-five or thirty-six, with ordinary looks but exceptionally sharp eyes, speaking decisively, "Besides, your ratty stall could not possibly have a 'treasure of the stall' worth ten thousand. Who are you trying to fool! Let me tell you, we came out to relax, not to be fleeced by you!"

What an impressive way with words!

She could take on hundreds by herself!

Bai Xiaosheng was full of admiration as he listened.

Standing beside the speaking woman was another who could rival Han Shuying in figure, with black hair cascading down like a waterfall.

She wore a huge pair of sunglasses that almost covered half her face.

Yet, even so, the snow-white pert nose and the luscious, plump lips beneath the sunglasses were enough to make people's thoughts run wild—

One could only imagine the breathtaking beauty that must lie behind those shades!

At the moment, the beauty with the sunglasses kept tugging at her companion, seemingly trying to calm things down.

Would she really agree to pay ten thousand?

Bai Xiaosheng observed the situation and could not help but scrutinize the woman more closely out of curiosity.

"Hey, you don't agree, is that it? Want evidence? I've got it! Here is the expert appraisal certificate from the authoritative department, stamped and everything! I have three or five of them, do you want to see?" Scarface was undeterred, shouting his claim.

While shouting, he kept sneaking glances at the woman with the sunglasses.

"Hey, what do you think, are these appraisal certificates real or fake..." Han Shuying was engrossed and couldn't help but nudge Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng, driven by curiosity, was so intent on scrutinizing the beauty, and with all the noise around, he didn't hear Han Shuying's words, naturally ignoring her.

When Han Shuying asked twice without getting a response, she noticed Bai Xiaosheng's unblinking gaze and instantly became annoyed.

What, is she prettier than me? Can't even take your eyes off her?

Women love to compare themselves, and when jealousy strikes, it's terrifying!

Bai Xiaosheng was completely unaware that he was on the verge of danger!

Under Han Shuying's fierce gaze, Bai Xiaosheng was still oblivious.

She was really angry!

Initially, Han Shuying wanted to give Bai Xiaosheng's arm a twist, quietly reaching for his sleeve. Her eyes suddenly shifted, a wicked smile forming on her lips.

She had a new idea!

"Stop arguing, the appraisal master has arrived!" Han Shuying shouted loudly, giving a sudden push.

Caught off guard, Bai Xiaosheng stumbled, almost falling onto the glasses-wearing beauty, breaking into a cold sweat.

"What are you doing?!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed angrily, unable to help but glare back at Han Shuying.

Han Shuying looked nonchalant, with an "it's none of my business" attitude.

All the gazes around them, whoosh, turned towards Bai Xiaosheng, and the crowd began to murmur.

"How did a treasure appraiser pop out of nowhere..."

"How old is this kid, yet a master..."

"We already have a jade master, Sir Ran, here, and now a young talent is joining the fray?"

Surrounded by voices of discussion, most of which were filled with ridicule.

You see, appreciating antiques and jade requires an immense investment of time and money, not to mention one-on-one mentorship.

For someone like Sir Ran to exist was already a miracle, and this young man in front of them, who barely had any experience showing, dared to call himself a master?

The scoffing grew more and more intense.

Han Shuying glanced around at all the people pointing fingers, listening to their mockery and scorn, suddenly regretting her decision.

She had made Bai Xiaosheng the target of ridicule.

All men care about their pride.

Was this joke taken too far?

Sir Ran.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, he was indifferent; instead, his gaze flickered slightly, the name popping up again, seemingly with quite a high level of renown!

Being called "Sir" at a young age—other than the "Comedy King," calling oneself that in the little world of Tiannan's jade community might be a bit too arrogant.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head; this was none of his business!

He took a step, intending to return to the crowd.

The woman wearing sunglasses clearly wasn't short of cash, already prepared to compensate; he had no reason to wade into these murky waters.

"Don't go, Master. Since you dared to come forward, why not have a look for us?" Scarface mocked with a sneer.

"Haha, does he even know about southern red agate?"

"Exactly, Scarface, you're asking too much of him."

The crowd joined in the senseless heckling.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be bothered to respond, but as he took the second step someone tugged at his sleeves.

There was a struggle.

With a rip.

Bai Xiaosheng's sleeve came off.

He had been wearing that garment for quite a while, and although it had become a bit whitened from washing, it was comfortable to wear. Now, it finally tore.

The people around burst into uproarious laughter.

"The Master's clothes are too worn, they've seen better days..."

"Sorry, sorry, I didn't mean to," the woman in sunglasses hurriedly said, and then she stuffed the torn piece of cloth back into Bai Xiaosheng's arms, timidly adding, "I just thought... If you understand these things, could you possibly take a look for us?"

Her politeness and courtesy, her voice still very sweet.

She exuded a vulnerable charm, making it difficult for anyone to refuse her.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed and turned around.

"What's it gonna be, brother? Are you going to cover the costs for this miss? If not, go about your business!" Scarface frowned and dismissively said to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows twitched, he looked at him coolly, glanced at the strand of southern red agate in his hand, and took a step forward to walk over.

Seeing this, Han Shuying grew anxious. She had only meant to play a small joke; if Bai Xiaosheng came back, they could continue enjoying the spectacle, or if not, just leave. There was absolutely no need to get involved and complicate things for himself.

Han Shuying took long strides, reaching Bai Xiaosheng's side in a few steps.

"Hey, you're not seriously thinking of stepping in, are you? Don't go looking for trouble!" Han Shuying said, "Besides, do you even understand this stuff? You'll be laughed at!"

"You said it yourself, I'm a master, so I've got to show some skill," Bai Xiaosheng replied irritably, glancing at Han Shuying and truly walking over.

Han Shuying was both angry and annoyed, reaching out to grab Bai Xiaosheng but catching only air.

With one sleeve missing, Bai Xiaosheng was naturally out of her grasp.

The 'raggedly dressed' Master Bai, stood proudly in front of Scarface, extending his hand.

"Pass it over, the master here wants to take a closer look!"

Chapter 142: This Also Qualifies as Nanhong_1

Scarface looked at Bai Xiaosheng with cold, disdainful eyes.

"Where did this greenhorn come from—some fresh face I've never seen before, younger than me by several years. Does he even know about jade, does he know what 'Southern red' is?"

"Is he standing up because he thinks the girl is pretty and wants to play hero?"

Looking at Bai Xiaosheng's washed-out white clothes, he looked nothing but poor.

Scarface couldn't help but sneer and ignored Bai Xiaosheng's provocation.

"Scarface, go on, hand it to the 'master' to take a look and prepare to compensate."

"Yeah, let us see the level of the master, whether this string of Southern red is worth eight thousand or ten thousand."

"Master, if you don't know, ask me, I'll teach you."

The surrounding stallholders joined in the heckling, bursting into laughter.

They had all been hustling in the same place, and had started to root for Scarface since a while ago.

A crowd of onlookers had also gathered around the stall, pointing and discussing animatedly.

Compensation was definitely in order.

Most people were disputing the price of the compensation.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, no one questioned.

A master? Bullshit!

The old experts on TV, what do they look like? Either with a full head of white hair looking like immortal Taoists or with faces full of robust beards—that's the standard look.

What counts this young guy?

Han Shuying was secretly anxious and full of regret, stomping her foot.

She indeed played a small joke with Bai Xiaosheng, but that didn't mean he should seriously climb up the pole and become a public spectacle.

She hoped that he actually knew something; otherwise, it would be so embarrassing!

Han Shuying sighed inwardly.

Next to the bespectacled beauty, the older sister frowned tightly, looked around, and whispered to the beauty, "Otherwise, just give him ten thousand and be done with it. It's not worth making a big deal out of it. More and more people are coming!"

The bespectacled beauty, who was initially inclined to compensate, now, seeing Bai Xiaosheng standing there being pointed at by everyone, felt it was somehow unfair.

"Let him have a look, then we can compensate," said the bespectacled beauty to Scarface, raising her voice.

Even if they were to compensate, they had to save some face for the person helping them.

This beauty is quite kind.

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Scarface couldn't help but glance at her; he heard that this woman was considering a compromise and immediately felt amused.

This woman is really beautiful, that slim waist, those long white legs, truly a stunning creature, and her voice was also lovely!

Scarface greedily took a long look at the beauty, then carelessly placed the Southern red bracelet in Bai Xiaosheng's hand.

"Take a look, kid, this is the genuine persimmon-red from Southern red!"

Bai Xiaosheng, holding the string of beads, felt its substantial weight.

In fact, he didn't understand anything about Southern red; just holding it, his mind was full of questions.

"Red Lotus, search all my questions and filter the best answers!"

"Okay," Red Lotus replied.

Immediately afterwards, Bai Xiaosheng knew whatever he wanted to know.

"Southern red, a precious variety of agate named after its origin in the Southern Border, is characterized by bright colors and a fine texture."

"Persimmon-red, along with brocade-red, is the highest quality of Southern red, with brocade-red being bewitching without being gaudy, red yet warm. Persimmon-red does not allow light to pass through under strong light, and has a consistent color. Besides, there are rose red, flame patterns, cherry red, etc."

...

Almost in an instant, Bai Xiaosheng's mind was filled with knowledge about Southern red.

"The master is truly a master, just by looking, not even using tools!"

"Impressive! His eyes act as a strong flashlight, 365 UV light, and magnifying glass."

"Ha-ha, I've been running a stall here for so many years, and this is the first time I've seen someone appraise like this! Impressive!"

A few people around Scarface laughed, and those in the know also shook their heads.

In the pockets of everyone present, a few trinkets could be found.

The most common tools were powerful flashlights, 365 nanometer UV lights, magnifying glasses, and even some sellers would actively offer these gadgets to buyers.

However, even with a full set of tools, without a decade or more of experience, they would be of no use. And even with ten to twenty years of experience, there was no guarantee against errors.

"Red Lotus, how to appraise this?" Bai Xiaosheng asked discreetly.

"The method to appraise the Southern Red is to index, without the aid of tools, there are seventeen ways, which are..." Red Lotus quickly poured the information in.

Bai Xiaosheng blinked and suddenly his thoughts shifted. Why did he have to appraise and judge on his own?

Red Lotus was there!

Bai Xiaosheng's thoughts turned again, and he asked tentatively.

"Red Lotus, analyze the authenticity of this string of Southern Red!"

At Bai Xiaosheng's request, Red Lotus paused for two seconds.

During those two seconds of waiting, Bai Xiaosheng felt as if time was dragging on indefinitely.

Red Lotus's assistance involved an entire web search, but could the authenticity of this string be searched online? No!

What about analysis?

"Indexing color spectrum of Southern Red, performing color comparison..."

"Indexing density of Southern Red, calculating the weight of beads with diameters between 17.65 and 18.01, performing quality comparison..."

"Indexing examples of weathering patterns, porosity, patinas, performing comparison..."

...

To an outsider, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be merely handling the string of beads, silent for just over a dozen seconds.

In Bai Xiaosheng's mind, an information storm was brewing.

Bai Xiaosheng was astonished at how Red Lotus could be utilized in such a manner!

Before, he would just look up methods, points of knowledge, and then practice them himself. But as it turned out, Red Lotus could precisely analyze an object upon request.

However, even though it only took a dozen or so seconds, Bai Xiaosheng felt dizzy and heavy-headed, with a wave of heat like sunstroke.

"My God, this data processing is too massive. It seems even Red Lotus, the artificial intelligence, needs to dissipate heat. I'm the human heat sink!" Bai Xiaosheng thought in surprise.

It seems that in the future, large-scale analytical tasks should be done by Red Lotus sparingly. It's not that Red Lotus cannot do it, but rather he himself couldn't handle it.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but close his eyes and pinch the bridge of his nose.

"The final analysis result..."

Less than twenty seconds had passed, and the appraisal was complete!

"How about it, master? Are you tired? You look haggard." Scarface laughed heartily and asked disdainfully, "Did you figure it out? How much is this worth, eh? Ten thousand yuan, not expensive, right?"

A burst of laughter erupted from the crowd.

The bespectacled beauty slightly lowered her head and covered her face with sunglasses, while the older sister by her side was already taking out her phone, ready to make a transfer payment.

More and more people gathered, and this farce was coming to an end!

"I'll wire you the money! We'll compensate!" The older woman said coldly, looking at Scarface.

"Good, it should've been done this way from the start. Everyone is satisfied, and we wouldn't have needed to let our 'master' here get dizzy and pale from looking." Scarface sneered at Bai Xiaosheng and prepared to initiate a mobile transfer.

Han Shuying took a deep breath. Regardless, it was finally over.

"Wait a minute, who said we're compensating you ten thousand?"

A voice rang out.

Bai Xiaosheng looked up, exhaled a turbid breath, and his smiling eyes radiated endless confidence.

To let Scarface walk away with that ten thousand would mean his suffering had been for nothing.

"Is this piece even worthy of being called Southern Red?" Bai Xiaosheng scoffed, tossing the string of beads back to Scarface, who scrambled to catch it.

"I also know a bit about Southern Red; it seems genuine to me, it's just a matter of quality and price," said the bespectacled beauty.

"If it's not Southern Red, then what is it..." Scarface bellowed defiantly.

"Big glass beads!"

Bai Xiaosheng lifted his eyelids and sneered.

Chapter 143: You go, ask Old Sun for _1

"Glass beads?"

Bai Xiaosheng's statement rendered the entire place silent.

Then, with a bang, it exploded into commotion.

"Wasn't it said to be a South Red agate bracelet? How could it be glass beads?"

"Who hasn't seen glass beads? This doesn't look like that at all!"

"Yeah, look at that color, that texture, where does it even slightly resemble glass?"

The onlookers were pointing and discussing animatedly.

"What nonsense are you talking about, kid, have you ever seen South Red agate?"

"Exactly, you're clearly here to cause trouble!"

"Scarface, you can't put up with this! If I were you, I wouldn't stand for it!"

The stall owners were indignant, but the gleam in their eyes betrayed their interest in the unfolding drama.

"Bai, don't talk nonsense if you don't understand!" Han Shuying stomped her feet in annoyance.

Whether it's South Red agate or glass beads, the lady was about to pay; what's it got to do with you!

The sunglass-wearing beauty and her companion hesitated.

Spending ten thousand yuan on a strand of glass beads, it's one thing to have too much money, but the key point is that it's uncomfortable to know you're willingly being taken for a ride...

Scarface's face changed color, his eyes darted with a trace of panic, then he turned fierce, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng and shouting, "What nonsense are you spouting? This is clearly top-quality South Red agate, and you won't get away today without clarifying things, even if you offer ten thousand yuan!"

Bai Xiaosheng reached out, took back the South Red agate bracelet from Scarface's hand, calmly showing it to the people around.

"Those who know their stuff here will tell you that as a top-quality representative of South Red agate, 'Persimmon Red' is characterized by being red, sticky, fine, moist, and even. 'Persimmon Red' has a warm and delicate texture; under sunlight, you will find it has an overall reddish glow tinged with yellow, leaning toward an orange-yellow hue," Bai Xiaosheng raised his voice and said.

The crowd immediately quieted down, antique-hunters always enjoyed such explanations.

Listening in, they could show off the knowledge elsewhere or apply it personally to hunt for treasures.

"But look at this so-called 'Persimmon Red,' what color is it? It's even slightly transparent." Bai Xiaosheng raised it high for the sunlight to shine through, "Touch it, it's missing that moist, slippery feeling of fat; bring it close, you will find there are not even natural stone patterns. When light passes through, you can see the surface cinnabar spots floating, and such level of transparency and cinnabar spots are only found in Cherry Red agate, but the cinnabar spots in genuine Cherry Red are inside, you know why this is?"

Bai Xiaosheng's expression was certain, his eyes full of confidence, and at that moment, he was the epitome of an antique expert.

"Why?" asked the bespectacled beauty, unable to hold back.

Her question was also the question of the surrounding onlookers.

"Because this South Red made from glass has been corroded with strong acid to infuse the color, then it's color-fired at high temperatures and finally polished to achieve this effect," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "This could be considered high-quality imitation. The market price isn't cheap either, starting from at least five yuan per gram."

Five yuan per gram, this strand would be around one hundred grams, making it worth about five hundred.

Such high-quality imitation placed on Scarface's kind of stall would be considered a 'stall treasure,' given that the rest were probably not even as expensive as this...

"So I say, this is a strand of 'Persimmon Red' glass beads!" Bai Xiaosheng concluded authoritatively.

All around, there was a moment of silence.

Those who were knowledgeable caught on immediately; those who were not were shaken by Bai Xiaosheng's confident demeanor and his compelling analysis. Their gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng changed.

"Let us have a look!"

A few curious individuals stepped forward to examine it based on Bai Xiaosheng's description, and they began to discuss among themselves.

"Indeed, this is a high-quality glass imitation of South Red, acid-washed."

"Right, this thing wasn't done badly, definitely processed two to three times!"

"Usually, those who know their stuff can't avoid being duped, but you, young man, are good!"

These people frequented the market regularly, and with them speaking out like this, other bystanders became even more convinced.

The stall owners also gathered together, whispering amongst themselves.

"This kid really knows his stuff!"

"One look and you can tell he's from the circle!"

"Hey, Scarface really kicked a tough nut this time."

This time, no one spoke up for Scarface.

The lady in sunglasses and her female companion nodded repeatedly, completely convinced.

Han Shuying stared in amazement with her beautiful eyes wide open, sizing up Bai Xiaosheng as if she didn't recognize him, "Strange, why didn't I see it? This guy, he actually knows his jade stones!"

The unassuming Bai Xiaosheng gave Han Shuying quite the shock.

Scarface's expression kept changing, his eyes filled with resentment.

He knew better than anyone where this thing came from and what its quality was; he had intended to use it as the star item of his stall, hoping to deceive someone who knows less. When it was tried on and broke, he was overjoyed.

Just as they were about to pay, a kid stuck his nose in.

"You're talking crap, I have a certificate of authenticity from an expert, you..." Scarface, furious and frustrated, wished he could grab Bai Xiaosheng and beat him.

"Recognize this?" Bai Xiaosheng flipped his hand, revealing a card.

"What's this crap!" Scarface snorted coldly and snatched it, but his eyes grew duller the moment he looked at it.

"Sir Ran, Sir Ran!" Scarface exclaimed in surprise.

"Sir Ran's friend, no wonder!"

"Yeah, Sir Ran's friend, could he be wrong!"

Many people around exclaimed in surprise, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with even more confidence.

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm.

This business card, and even the person Sun Yiran, were nothing but bluffing tools in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

There was no help for it; in this circle, it's all about fame—you may speak the truth, but you can't make everyone fully believe you.

So, just let the fame do the talking.

"You really know how to use what you have!"

Han Shuying said in a low voice, her eyes smiling as she spoke.

"Sir Ran's friend... I'll take it! Look, give me three thousand, and you can leave," Scarface, handing the card back to Bai Xiaosheng, said dejectedly.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, turning to glance at the two women.

The older one hurriedly opened her bag, which contained a thick stack of cash, easily over ten thousand. She took out some and counted, then was about to take out more.

Bai Xiaosheng reached out and took a few bills, then turned to see Scarface, staring greedily at the bag.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, stepped in front of Scarface, and cheerfully stuffed the four or five hundred yuan into his hand.

"We don't want the item, this money should cover the value of the two broken beads," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

After all that talk, if you still want to take three thousand yuan, Bai Xiaosheng won't agree!

"Bro, this isn't right!" frowned Scarface, now clearly unhappy.

"I'm friends with Old Sun, and you still want more? Go find him! He's in the jade betting district; we're heading there soon, too. We can go together if you want!" Bai Xiaosheng said coldly.

Sir Ran, just "Old Sun" in the mouth of Bai Xiaosheng...

Who knows what Sun Yiran would think if he knew...

That guy kept taking his chances at eyeing Shuying—I'm just using him as a pawn; we're even now.

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself.

Scarface wanted to say something else, but ultimately, he didn't. Giving Bai Xiaosheng a vicious glare, he turned and left without a word.

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said to the two women, then called out to Han Shuying.

The four of them walked toward the inside of the market.

Scarface sat at his stall, his eyes filled with hatred as he watched Bai Xiaosheng go, then turned to look at the two women—

One appealing, the other wealthy.

Suddenly, Scarface stood up and hurried away.

Chapter 144 Let's Go Gambling on Stones_1

As Bai Xiaosheng publicly explained the string of southern red beads, two elderly men stood and watched from start to finish outside the crowd that had gathered to watch the commotion.

One, broad and fat, exuded prosperity, hands clasped behind his back, with a hint of arrogance and leisure in his eyes.

The other had a strong mercantile air about him and smiled obsequiously the entire time to the elder by his side.

"This young fellow is quite interesting. Hmm, is he a friend of Yiran? That would explain it. Yiran often talks about various things to people around him. What a pity, my grandson is too reckless and young, and so are his friends, always looking to stand out," the prosperous elder said, shaking his head with a smile.

The implication was that Bai Xiaosheng's ability to discern the southern red beads all came from his grandson, Sun Yiran, and in the end, it was on the strength of Sun Yiran's reputation that he managed the situation.

"Old Sun, who in our circle doesn't recognize you. In this industry, when you speak, it's absolute authority!" the elder beside him chimed in with a laugh, "Mr. Yiran has learned directly from you, and his reputation is indeed outstanding; everyone is convinced. You see, he just needs to give a few pointers to someone, and that person becomes half an expert."

The flattery was comfortable and Old Master Sun laughed heartily, "Xie Youxin, you're getting better at talking. Alright, during the stone gambling later, I'll have Yiran help you out a bit more."

"Thank you so much!" Xie Youxin was overjoyed at these words.

"You go ahead to my shop and take a break, have some tea. I've got some top-notch Enshi Yulu for you to try."

Master Sun nodded and proceeded toward the Antique Jade City, accompanied by Xie Youxin.

Elsewhere, Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying, along with the bespectacled beauty and her companion, moved forward together.

"Thank you both for the help. May I ask how to address you?" the beauty asked with a smile.

"Bai Xiaosheng."

"Han Shuying."

They responded, one after another.

"And how may we address you two?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, returning the question with a smile.

The beauty with the sunglasses was about to answer when her companion stretched out her hand and tugged at her sleeve.

However, the woman with the sunglasses didn't mind in the least. She pointed to her companion, "This is Min, and I am... Zhang Min."

Min? Zhang Min?

That sounded like the name of one person.

Bai Xiaosheng and Han Shuying were slightly surprised, but they didn't mind it, nor were they curious.

On the internet nowadays, all those funny yet real names, like "Tang Poetry, Song Lyrics, Prose," there are people who have them, so what's so strange about their names?

"Miss Zhang, did you guys also come here to buy jade and antiques?" Han Shuying inquired.

"Why, does it not seem like it?" Zhang Min countered.

Han Shuying glanced at Zhang Min's fair jade neck, where a delicate pendant hung—Cartier. It wouldn't come cheap, not for anything less than several hundred thousand.

And that was just one example.

As an internet celebrity, aside from playing games, Han Shuying paid the most attention to fashion. She could rattle off endless details about various clothing and jewelry brands and their prices for days on end without repeating herself.

This Zhang Min, from her clothes to her hand-held Kun bag, everything was a high-end brand. Combined, they were worth as much as a luxury car.

Could they be fake?

Ordinary people might wear a fake brand out of vanity, but not deck themselves out in fakes from head to toe.

Of course, such people did exist, but they would undoubtedly be snobby and arrogant. Zhang Min, on the other hand, was neither ostentatious nor haughty, and had a friendly demeanor.

Her every word and mannerism exuded nobility and poise.

"I just think that if you really wanted to buy jade jewelry, you wouldn't need to come to a place like this. A brand specialty store would be much more convenient."

Han Shuying's reply was tactful, not pointing out the apparent ostentation.

"I just think this place is fun, so I came here to stroll around," Zhang Min said cheerfully.

"Hmph, you have no idea how tired I am from your 'strolling around'!" Min groaned on the side.

Her attire was decent, but clearly not as high class as Zhang Min's.

"Thank you, Min. I rarely get to come out, so I want to relax and have fun," Zhang Min said, coquettishly leaning on Min's shoulder.

"Alright, alright, now that we're out, what's the point of bringing that up!" Min said with a bitter smile.

"I just knew you're the best!"

Zhang Min acted spoiled again.

"Doesn't wearing those huge sunglasses bother you?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Han Shuying quietly tugged at him.

This guy was usually sly as a fox, but how could he be so dumb sometimes? How a girl dressed was none of a big guy's business.

Besides... perhaps she had her reasons.

"I put them on purpose," Zhang Min actually didn't try to hide it, responding to Bai Xiaosheng, "In this era of judging by appearances, with these on, people might think I'm a great beauty. But actually, taking them off makes no difference."

As she spoke, Zhang Min really did take off her sunglasses.

That girl had a beautiful contour to her cheeks, her eyes and nose were also delicate, but it was a pity about the freckles all over her face, and she had even applied smoky makeup. Rather than enhancing her looks, it kind of made her ugly!

She would've looked better without makeup, better with the sunglasses on!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly had an impulse to ask her to put them back on.

Han Shuying initially couldn't bear to look straight at that face, but as she kept looking, she wrinkled her brows almost imperceptibly.

She always felt that the girl's features looked familiar somehow, but she just couldn't remember where she had seen her before.

"Forget it, maybe I'm overthinking it." Han Shuying shook her head slightly, deciding not to dwell on it.

The few of them ambled forward, with Zhang Min appearing even more curious than Han Shuying, constantly asking about the oddities on the stalls. Since Min couldn't always provide an answer, she turned to Bai Xiaosheng instead.

With the help of Red Lotus's search ability, Bai Xiaosheng started to explain all sorts of things to the curious baby.

"What's this, a piece of pork belly?"

"That's called Meat Stone, a type of rock."

"Hey, how can that piece of wood be an antique?"

"That's agarwood, good stuff, very valuable."

"That little porcelain cup is so pretty."

"Yongle Blue and White Hand-pressed Cup."

"Is it real?"

"The real ones are in the Forbidden City..."

Zhang Min asked questions along the way, and Bai Xiaosheng explained casually with just a glance.

Han Shuying and Min looked at him, astonished.

He sounded more authentic than the real thing, who knew if he was making it up. Han Shuying murmured in her mind, but seeing the stall owners' equally amazed looks at Bai Xiaosheng, perhaps what Bai Xiaosheng said was actually right.

This guy really knew his stuff!

Han Shuying blinked, suddenly recalling Bai Xiaosheng saying he also knew a lot about jade.

"How about we go gambling on stones!" Han Shuying suddenly suggested.

Excitement tinged her expression.

"Gambling on stones?" Zhang Min looked at Bai Xiaosheng curiously.

"Gambling on stones usually involves betting on jadeite raw stones with weathered skin," Bai Xiaosheng explained.

Zhang Min looked confused.

"It's like heaps of stone eggs on the ground. You pay money, you get to choose, and if you cut open a good one and there's fine jade inside, you make a profit. Otherwise, it's like throwing your money away," Bai Xiaosheng reluctantly offered this explanation.

Han Shuying and Min couldn't help but roll their eyes; that explanation was truly layman-friendly!

"I get it, sounds like fun, let's do it too!"

Zhang Min cheered, eager to pull Bai Xiaosheng along. In just a short while, she seemed to have become quite cozy with him.

"Hey, you're going the wrong way, it's this way..." Han Shuying watched them, feeling worn out.

Chapter 145 Sun Family Master_1

The Antique Jade City of Tiannan, the gambling stone area, at the very back.

A cluster of workshop-like buildings, with dim lighting inside, arranged like a shopping mall, with horizontal and vertical aisles. Along the aisles are stalls, and above each stall is a uniformly constructed shed, which obscures the already dim light.

In such an environment, it's convenient for buyers to use strong flashlights or ultraviolet lights to inspect the rough stones, and of course, it also facilitates the buyers in spotting potential cuts.

In front of each stall, there are always several people examining the rough stones, and once the price is settled, they hand it over to the craftsmen nearby to start stone cutting and carving.

At some smaller stalls, you could get a stone the size of a fist to play with for a few hundred yuan, satisfying people's curiosity and their dreams of striking it rich overnight.

The sound of cutting stone, usually noisy and grating.

But today, it was much quieter, and there were far fewer people surrounding each stall.

That's because today, once a month in the center of the gambling stone area, the "Jade Selection Event" is held.

Each stall contributes a choice piece of rough jade, for the capable to come and select, like a monthly fair.

Even some owners of jade stone shops in the Antique Jade City would partake in a few rounds.

At this moment, in the central area.

There were long tables arranged in an arc, with two circles, one large and one small, leaving a gap for entry and exit. On the tables were the choice rough stones brought out by the stalls for selection.

Even the process of selecting stones had its own rules. Whoever entered had to choose at least one stone, with the cheapest starting at a value of ten thousand yuan, and the most expensive reaching into the millions.

Right now, around the area, hundreds of people were gathered, whispering and discussing animatedly.

From time to time, someone would walk over, make their selection, and then cut the chosen rough stone on the spot.

Those with good luck were naturally beaming with joy, while those less fortunate, or even losing their entire stake, were all eagerly awaiting someone worse off than themselves to show up.

In the front row of the onlooking crowd, several Taishi Chairs were arranged in an arc, seating the witnesses invited by the organizers.

Right in the center of these seats was the Sun surname elder who had stopped at the entrance of Antique Jade City to watch Bai Xiaosheng appraise the southern red agate, with Xie Youxin beside him, looking respectful.

"Today, we're lucky to have Elder Sun as our witness. Why don't you give it a try?" Xie Youxin suggested with a flattering smile, "If we win, you take seventy percent and I'll take thirty. If we lose, it's on me."

"Stop pulling my leg, Boss Xie. With Elder Sun able to spot potential in stones, even thirty percent is a steal for you!" someone beside them sneered.

"Indeed, I'd be willing to go two-eight with Elder Sun, as long as he agrees!" another person called out.

The profits from gambling on stones could be more than tenfold.

The surrounding jade stone shop owners were there to play but also to wait. Their eyes sparkled with anticipation of acquiring a fine piece of jade as soon as one was revealed so they could buy it on the spot.

"Ahem, gentlemen, I'm here to serve as a witness, and so are you all. It doesn't seem quite proper for us to discuss these matters," the Sun surname elder laughed as he stroked his beard.

"Yes, of course." The crowd hurriedly nodded in agreement.

"Who is that old man that all the shop owners are so respectful towards?"

Among the onlookers, someone asked, which immediately drew disdainful looks and snickers.

"That's the legendary figure of the jade circle in Tiannan, God Eye Sun, Sun Tianli!"

"It's him! I've heard of him; he's been on national radio!"

The crowd couldn't help but gasp.

God Eye Sun from Tiannan, his skill was extraordinary. Without any tools, just by looking with his eyes, touching with his hands, and gauging the weight, he could tell the quality of jade within a stone!

Moreover, without ever making a mistake!

This was truly a miracle, akin to the supernatural!

Sun Tianli received praise from everyone around him, and the smile on his face couldn't help but show some pride.

His achievements today were the result of decades of accumulated experience.

The great literary master of the Northern Song Dynasty, Ouyang Xiu, once wrote "The Oil Selling Old Man," in which the old man "placed a gourd on the ground, covered its opening with a coin, and gently ladled oil into it, pouring through the coin hole, yet the coin remained dry."

Sun Tianli was at this level, which, frankly, relied entirely on the hand-feeling honed over the years.

Of course, intuition was also very important.

At this moment, Sun Yiran was surrounded by a group of young people, standing on the side, eager to try his hand at picking stones.

When Sun Tianli saw his grandson, his eyes sparkled with an indescribable satisfaction.

"Yiran's talent is even higher than mine, and in the future, the Sun Family will have another master! Even now, he's already capable of holding his own!"

"Mr. Yiran is about to take the stage," Xie Youxin said to the elderly Sun with a flattering smile, "I just don't understand the rule you set for him, allowing only five stones for selection—that's way too few."

"Out of those five, two are selected for you, isn't that enough?" the old man lowered his voice, "If I let him pick freely, what would others do? Not to mention, wouldn't they say we have inside dealings?"

"Haha, yes, indeed. Mr. Yiran, at the very least, possesses a good fifty percent of Old Sun's success rate in stone selection, not to say it's a sure bet, but it's close enough!" Xie Youxin laughed loudly, clearly holding Sun Yiran in high regard as well.

"You don't know, but they've given Mr. Yiran a nickname in the circle—'Sir Ran'!" Xie Youxin remarked nostalgically.

"What nonsense!" Sun Tianli scolded with a laugh, "Do that brash young man really live up to it?"

"He does, he does!" The people around joined in the chorus.

This made Sun Tianli's face beam with pride, and he couldn't help but feel proud.

Entrance to the gambling stone area.

Bai Xiaosheng and three others walked in.

"So this is the gambling stone area, huh? It's so dark here," Zhang Min couldn't help but whisper.

"Yeah, it's different from what I expected. Why does it seem a bit quiet?" Han Shuying was also surprised.

Bai Xiaosheng and Min shared the same sentiment.

"Young ladies, this must be your first time, right?" A woman tending a stall nearby said with a smile, "It's not usually like this, but today happens to coincide with a 'stone meeting,' so everyone is inside making it lively."

"A stone meeting?" Bai Xiaosheng and the others were completely bewildered.

The woman didn't bother to explain and simply pointed inward with her hand, "Just go over there and take a look, and you'll understand what's happening."

As she spoke, the woman sized up the group. She had no particular reaction to Bai Xiaosheng, Han Shuying, or Min, who looked average and wore ordinary clothes. However, she nodded at Zhang Min, sensing that she looked like she had money.

"The gambling starts at ten thousand inside. If you're lucky, there's money to be made," she added.

"Starting at ten thousand?" Han Shuying frowned immediately. She hadn't planned on playing big this time—just spending a few hundred or thousand to pick some small ones for fun was her intention.

"It seems really interesting. Let's go have a look!" Zhang Min was unusually excited, pulling Bai Xiaosheng and heading straight inside.

Han Shuying and Min had no choice but to follow.

They had just gone in.

Two men walked in hurriedly behind them. It was Scarface, accompanied by a man with a rat-like face but a somewhat burly build. They stared at the backs of Bai Xiaosheng and his group and followed them inside.

"Scabby?" The woman at the entrance couldn't help but frown, looking worriedly after Bai Xiaosheng and his companions. She muttered to herself, "What is that rascal up to now, targeting them? Those young people are probably in for trouble."

"Ah well, at worst, it's just a loss of money. What's it to me?" The woman sprawled leisurely on the chair, choosing not to concern herself further.

Chapter 146 I am the Expert!_1

The betting area for gemstones was bustling in the center, with no shortage of onlookers.

Bai Xiaosheng, Han Shuying, Zhang Min, and Sister Min made their way through the crowd, finding a gap and squeezing to the very front.

The prime spot they now occupied was very close to the table with the raw stones, less than two meters away.

On the table, stones of various sizes and colors were laid out, each marked with two lines of numbers in chalk: an identification code above, and a price below.

So this was the "stone meeting"!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly realized.

A meeting of stones!

In front of the crowd, a red warning line was stretched, and within the perimeter, signs were placed at intervals—

"No bystanders allowed. If you enter, you must choose one."

To enter, you had to choose a stone?

It seemed like a strict rule.

"To think that a small piece like that is fifty thousand?!" Han Shuying exclaimed in surprise after noticing the price tag of the watermelon-sized raw stone on a closer table.

"Can you even make that money back?" Zhang Min couldn't help but ask as well.

Those around them couldn't help but roll their eyes.

Did they think this was like buying cabbage, where the amount you spent had to match the value you got?

This was stone gambling!

If it weren't for Han Shuying's stunning beauty and Zhang Min's impeccable figure, the surrounding crowd would have burst into jeers long ago.

A young man nearby couldn't resist explaining to Han Shuying, "Beautiful lady, if Imperial Green of full color is revealed, what is fifty thousand? Its value could multiply dozens of times, even a hundredfold!"

"Really? Are there many Imperial Greens?" Zhang Min asked in astonishment.

The young man was about to explain when he suddenly got a clear view of Zhang Min's freckled face and jumped in shock, instantly losing interest and lazily said, "How could there be many? If that were the case, they'd be just like cabbages. Sometimes, several stone meetings might pass without producing a single one."

"Sir Ran is entering the arena!" Suddenly someone exclaimed.

The young man's eyes lit up, and he stretched his neck eagerly to look over.

The surroundings suddenly fell silent.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a stir in his heart.

Sir Ran? That Sun Yiran!

His reputation was indeed not small!

The women were also curious, turning their gaze in that direction.

Straight ahead.

Sun Yiran walked in with his head held high, circling the table and examining each stone.

Many he just glanced at and moved on without lingering, only stopping for those that piqued his interest. He would then pick them up to take a closer look, even weighing them in his hand.

"The Sun Family's stone selection technique!" someone exclaimed.

"Without using any tools, relying solely on a pair of eyes, a pair of hands, to observe, touch and weigh—it's like magic!" someone couldn't help but say.

"Is it really that miraculous?" Han Shuying and Zhang Min couldn't help but widen their eyes in anticipation.

This is pretty much like the strategy I found.

Bai Xiaosheng gave a look of indifference.

Bai Xiaosheng's strategy involved examining the surface of the sand, feeling the texture, tapping the stone for sound, and weighing—it was a complete set that was far more meticulous than Sun Yiran's method.

Looking at Sun Yiran's technique, it seemed like... a simplified version.

In the arena, Sun Yiran continued to roam and select stones.

The crowd watched him intently, their eyes sparkling in the hush.

Finally, after more than ten minutes, Sun Yiran chose a stone, nodding his head in satisfaction. Someone immediately came over to take the stone away.

Then, as if Sun Yiran had gotten into the groove, he sped up his selection, choosing the remaining four stones within thirty minutes.

The five selected stones were shown to the witnesses—Xie Youxin specifically used a red chalk to draw circles on two of the stones, indicating they were his, while the other three bosses evenly divided the remaining three.

"Let's cut the stones!" Sun Tianli smiled and called out loudly. He had looked them over, and the raw stones were not bad.

With the slightly grating sound of cutting, exclamations were heard one after another.

"This one's got good color! What a profit!"

"This one too, great material!"

Out of the five raw stones, three elicited exclamations. Although one was of slightly inferior quality, it was not a loss. Only the last stone, the cutter suddenly stopped, then cried out, "Ice Sun Green!"

Xie Youxin sprang to his feet, his eyes turning green with envy. The last stone, his own, was priced at a hundred thousand, and with one cut he had revealed Ice Sun Green.

"How big is the material, and what's the quality?"

The surrounding bosses looked at Xie Youxin, their eyes filled with envy and jealousy.

"Old Xie is really lucky, such good fortune to come across!"

"You've made a fortune, Old Xie! You can't forget about Old Sun or Mr. Yiran!"

With the Ice Sun Green material in hand, Xie Youxin was utterly radiant, his smile spilling over, almost stretching to his ears with delight.

"Good, very good! Old Sun's skill in appraising stones is indeed impressive, just as Mr. Yiran is incredible, magical, truly magical!" Xie Youxin was beside himself with excitement, hardly knowing what else to say.

Seeing such fine material, exclamations rose all around.

Zhang Xiaoqiu and Chen Xue, who had been following Sun Yiran, couldn't help but feel proud, especially Chen Xue who looked at Sun Yiran with eyes brimming with immense admiration and love.

"In the Tiannan jade stone circle, among the younger generation, who can compare to Yiran! Just with this skill alone, even without the Sun Family's assets, Yiran would still thrive!" Chen Xue's eyes shone with fervor.

This man was hers!

"Sir Ran, amazing!" Zhang Xiaoqiu shouted enthusiastically.

Encouraged by him, the group of young people also began to chant.

"Sir Ran, Sir Ran, Sir Ran!"

Sun Yiran gracefully acknowledged the crowd, an air of arrogance about him. He had the right to be proud.

Suddenly, his eyes lit up.

He saw Han Shuying standing there—an incredibly beautiful woman; compared to her, Chen Xue was several levels behind. Beside her stood a woman with an explosive figure, a pity that her face was somewhat lacking, even a bit ugly.

Still, with money for plastic surgery, she would still be extraordinary!

Sun Yiran became extremely interested in the two women and strolled over to them.

"What a coincidence, Miss Han, are you here for stone gambling too?" Sun Yiran smiled and said, "If you don't mind, I can pick a stone for each of you, how about it?"

Although Sun Tianli had said he could only choose five stones, it was only something he had said to the present bosses to avoid conflicts of interest.

Now, he wanted to choose stones for beauties, and he believed his grandfather would support him, and the other bosses would not say anything. After all, they still needed to rely on the Sun Family.

"Sir Ran wants to pick stones for them!"

Surprised voices rose all around.

"Why did that woman come along!" Chen Xue frowned, becoming alert as she quickly circled around.

Seeing how Sun Yiran had repeatedly succeeded just before, with such an expert to help gamble on stones, Han Shuying naturally was happy.

She was just about to nod her head.

A sneer came from the side.

"Why have you followed again, seeing how impressive our Sir Ran is, are you eagerly attaching yourself to him?" Chen Xue had already moved beside Han Shuying, arms crossed, with a cold mocking sneer.

"Don't talk nonsense!" Sun Yiran's face changed, and he barked.

Han Shuying was quite pleased, but at that comment, her face turned dark.

"Hmph, what's so great about choosing stones! As if I don't have someone on my side! Bai Xiaosheng, go! Let him see what a true expert is!"

Bai Xiaosheng, who had remained silent, was suddenly pushed to the forefront.

"Oh, an expert?" Sun Yiran's eyes narrowed slightly, and upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, he couldn't help but let out a derisive chuckle.

Bai Xiaosheng had no intention of competing, but upon seeing that expression, his brows furrowed, and then he broke into a smile.

"Yes, that's me, the expert!"

Chapter 147 Bai Xiaosheng Takes the Stage_1

Bai Xiaosheng, in front of Sun Yiran, actually dared to call himself an expert, which immediately caused a sensation.

The onlookers, who loved stirring up trouble, spread the news quickly, greatly exaggerating the extent of Bai Xiaosheng's "provocation."

By the time the news reached Sun Tianli and his crew, it had turned into someone publicly challenging Sun Yiran!

"That guy, he's not a friend of Mr. Yiran?" Xie Youxin said in surprise, standing next to Sun Tianli.

The surrounding shopkeepers also whispered among themselves.

"Someone dares to compete with Mr. Yiran in divining stones?"

"Recklessly courting death, the folly of youth!"

A group of shopkeepers shook their heads and sneered at Bai Xiaosheng.

Of course, not everyone saw it the same way.

"That young man must be skilled to dare to stand out and go up against Sun Yiran," one remarked.

"Indeed, this could be interesting to watch!"

Some jade stone shop owners, who were less close to the Sun Family and enjoyed a good spectacle, were suddenly invigorated.

Sun Tianli, with an expressionless face and an indifferent look, chuckled, "Heh, someone wants to compete with Yiran in divining stones? Interesting!"

In his view, his grandson was extraordinarily talented and had inherited his true skills, unmatched among his peers, so this was just asking for humiliation!

He thought the youngster who had stepped forward was probably just trying to catch everyone's attention.

Not worth a sneer!

Meanwhile.

Han Shuying, looking around, began to regret that the joke had gone too far; sarcastic voices mocking Bai Xiaosheng could be heard everywhere.

Face is the most important thing for a man; being humiliated in public is difficult to bear!

Unlike her, Zhang Min had been listening to Bai Xiaosheng talk about antiques and was already quietly admiring him; she was now looking at him with full of anticipation regardless of what others said.

The surrounding mockery and ridicule fueled the excitement.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't care at all.

His visit to the Lu Family had shown him a state of being—the composure and casualness of those at the top, to whom all else is as light as clouds and breeze.

"Aren't you here to bet on stones? The timing is perfect; I'll pick a stone for you, to fulfill your desire," Bai Xiaosheng said to Han Shuying with a smile that betrayed his confidence and infectious spirit, easing her mind.

No matter the result, I should support him and cheer him on! Han Shuying nodded firmly to Bai Xiaosheng, burying her worries deep within her heart.

She quietly fumbled in her small purse, readying her bank card.

The raw stones started at ten thousand yuan each; she hoped the one Bai Xiaosheng chose wouldn't be too expensive...

Zhang Min didn't notice Han Shuying's concern and continued to cheer enthusiastically. Min, standing beside her, stayed silent, slowly shaking her head.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng had been talking eloquently about antiques all along the way, it was still just surface knowledge; whether what he said was right or wrong, no one knew, and a mistake would have been harmless.

Not like this—once chosen, he would have to fork over real money. A misstep meant the money would be wasted, without a sound to be heard!

Min was not optimistic about Bai Xiaosheng's chances.

Sun Yiran watched with irritation as the two women fussed over Bai Xiaosheng, yet he maintained his composure and even made a welcoming gesture toward Bai Xiaosheng.

"Go get a set of tools for this gentleman," Sun Yiran said, pulling a staff member aside and instructing them.

Ordinary people betting on stones require the aid of tools. It's simple—just a strong flashlight, a small UV light, and for those more professional, a monocular magnifier, soft and wire brushes, and the like.

Although they were just small items, a complete set of tools was not insignificant.

Bai Xiaosheng had nothing at hand and appeared to have brought nothing with him.

Sun Yiran's so-called "kindness" was to show off his grace, to highlight the disparity, and to ensure Bai Xiaosheng would lose convincingly!

The staff immediately brought over a small toolbox.

"No need," Bai Xiaosheng said, waving his hand as he looked at Sun Yiran with a smile. "If he doesn't need it, neither do I. Let's rely on hand selection."

At those words, the entire place fell silent.

Then it burst into raucous laughter.

"Did I hear that right? He also wants to 'divine stone' barehanded?"

"Looks like Sir Ran has met his match this time, haha!"

"The Sun Family's stone divining technique—can someone else master it? This kid is incredible!"

Mocking voices washed over Bai Xiaosheng like a tide.

Han Shuying was anxious again, stamping her foot, "Why is he being foolish again? With tools available, why show off like this!"

"It should be fine, right? I... I believe in Big Brother Bai," said Zhang Min, who this time, was a bit hesitant herself.

Min decisively shook her head; to her, Bai Xiaosheng was simply too arrogant and overconfident.

Sun Yiran was taken aback, then laughed, but it was a mocking sneer.

Did Bai Xiaosheng think divining stone was as easy as picking melons?

"Alright, since Bai insists he's so confident, please, go ahead!" Sun Yiran said with a proud smile. "If you can reveal a piece of high-quality material, I'm willing to pay ten times its market value to buy it!"

The place was filled with raw stones, but those that could be cut to reveal good material were few!

The owners of each stall would display what "appeared to be top-notch," and then affix steep prices.

Stone gambling is a bet for enthusiasts, but for businessmen, it's definitely a way to earn money; the ones that could assuredly reveal good material would never be used for gambling.

Most people who gambled on stones relied on self-taught appraisal skills, which was nearly indistinguishable from trusting to luck—a fact even experts had hard time disputing. Sun Yiran may have been young, but having started at eight and immersed for over a decade, he had acquired what seemed like unfathomable skill in stone divining, thanks to his old man's hands-on teaching.

He didn't believe Bai Xiaosheng could luck into good material. If he did, he was willing to spend ten times the market value for that stroke of fortune!

Sun Yiran's magnanimous and dominant attitude earned loud cheers from the crowd!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without a word.

A simplified barehanded stone divining, and they get this excited? Should I show them what it's like to divine with just a glance?

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly found the whole situation amusing.

Over there, Xie Youxin was beaming with joy, having just received his appraisal. The choice piece that Sun Yiran had selected for him was valued at four hundred thousand just for the material itself!

Once processed into a finished product, its value would be astonishing!

At that moment, hearing Sun Yiran's declaration of ten times the market value, he couldn't help but say to Sun Tianli in admiration, "Mr. Yiran truly is generous..."

"Well, that also depends on how lucky this Bai Xiaosheng is," joked Sun Tianli. "If he uncovers something worth a hundred or so yuan, even tenfold is only a thousand. Does that count as money?"

The two of them laughed heartily, and the laughter echoed all around.

Bai Xiaosheng stepped forward, brushing past Sun Yiran as he walked onto the field.

The noise around them fell silent.

Many eyes eagerly fixed on him, not in hopes of witnessing a miracle but waiting to see Bai Xiaosheng embarrass himself and become the subject of grand mockery.

This kind of "anticipation" swept through the venue.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze swept across the raw stones on the table, and with an impassive air, he instructed Red Lotus.

"Scan these raw stones, and filter out one for me!"

"Understood, Master. Initiating analysis of cortex color and texture... Initiating cut surface pattern analysis... Initiating fracture analysis..." Red Lotus began to issue a sequence of sounds.

Beneath the high-speed operation of Red Lotus, the heat generated made Bai Xiaosheng's brain truly "overheat," and his arrogance soared with it.

"Sun Yiran, just watch. I will beat you with nothing but my eyes!"

Chapter 148 Silence in the Entire Venue_1

"Eh, isn't that half of the batch picked over by Sir Ran?"

Suddenly, someone among the onlookers made a discovery and exclaimed in surprise.

At his words, everyone else also noticed it.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually making his selection from the part that Sun Yiran had already chosen from!

"He's actually trying to pick up what Sir Ran left behind!" someone said in disbelief.

"Simply foolish. If Sir Ran has already been through it once, doesn't that mean there's even less chance of finding good jade material?"

"I just heard Sir Ran say, if he finds good material, Sir Ran will buy it for ten times the market price! Tsk tsk, if it were me, I wouldn't even consider this half and directly gamble on the other side!"

"That's why I say this kid is dumb!"

The discussions around were even more intense than before.

In everyone's mouth, the word 'foolish' followed Bai Xiaosheng's actions.

Shuying's face was filled with anxiety, Zhang Min was somewhat nervous, and Min shook her head slightly.

"Quiet down, don't disturb the divining stone!" Sun Tianli's face darkened slightly as he raised his voice and shouted.

"Right, everybody pipe down and watch quietly," Xie Youxin chimed in.

The organizers used their staff to maintain order.

The wave of discussion hadn't fully subsided yet.

Over there, Bai Xiaosheng had already picked up a raw stone as big as a watermelon.

He had made his choice!

"So quick, he's already picked it out!" the crowd around murmured in surprise.

He only took a few minutes, which was much less than the time Sir Ran took to select his first piece.

And furthermore—

"He seemed to have just looked at it, then stroked it for a while, and even patted it a few times, as if picking watermelons!" Zhang Xiaoqiu, amidst the crowd, couldn't help but shout out.

The crowd erupted into laughter.

"I think he doesn't know how to divinate stones at all, he's completely guessing!" Zhang Xue sneered coldly, "Probably, he chose the cheapest one."

A staff member ran over, took the stone from Bai Xiaosheng's arms, and carried it to the workshop table.

Someone else rushed to Bai Xiaosheng's side, holding a POS machine.

"Sir, please swipe your card to pay first, then we can start cutting the material," the person said politely.

That's how stone gambling worked: money and goods exchanged, with no regrets allowed.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded his head.

"Use mine, I brought a card!" Shuying called out quickly from the side, waving a bank card, "How much?"

"Two hundred thousand!" the person responsible for collecting payment said calmly to her.

"Two hundred thousand!" Shuying's expression froze.

The onlookers were astounded!

Bai Xiaosheng had actually chosen such an expensive piece of material!

Shuying's complexion became somewhat difficult to maintain. She didn't have that much money in her card!

And she hadn't brought any other cards with her.

This damned guy, really daring to choose such an item. If it turned out to be a useless piece after one cut, two hundred thousand would just be gone!

Even for someone like Shuying, who was a well-off professional gamer and super internet celebrity, the thought of gambling two hundred thousand on such a venture was painfully distressing.

Forget it. If it's a loss, then so be it!

In front of so many people, a man's pride is important!

Shuying bit her lip, took out her phone, and was about to transfer money from Alipay.

"Can you please wait a moment? I need to transfer..." Before Shuying could finish speaking, she saw Bai Xiaosheng take out a bank card and hand it to the person collecting payment without any expression.

The collector efficiently took the card, swiped it, printed a receipt, and handed it back.

Already paid?

Shuying was stunned as she watched Bai Xiaosheng return the bank card to his pocket as casually as one would after buying groceries at a supermarket.

"This guy, he's got money!"

Han Shuying scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a nouveau riche.

For the longest time, she hadn't cared what Bai did for a living, assuming from his ordinary attire that he was at most a wage-earning office worker, perhaps a minor white-collar employee.

Like today, he wore a starched but somewhat shabby shirt. Who could have known that he would nonchalantly swipe two hundred thousand yuan without so much as furrowing his brow!

Sun Yiran also slightly startled.

The casual ease with which Bai Xiaosheng made the payment was something even he felt somewhat inferior to.

Two hundred thousand yuan—I must see what you can produce from that!

Sun Yiran's eyes flashed with a sharp gleam, not believing that among the stones he had personally gone through, there could truly be anything of value.

"The stone cutting has begun!" someone murmured softly.

The machine cut into the rock, emitting a piercing noise.

With one slice, the master craftsman checked and even slightly shook his head.

"It's over, two hundred thousand yuan down the drain!" someone couldn't help but exclaim.

Two hundred thousand yuan! That was no small sum of money; even the rich, throwing it away like a pebble into the ocean to create barely a ripple, would have found it painful to bear.

"Spending two hundred thousand yuan just for a stone egg, that's a real wealthy man!" Zhang Xiaoqiu deliberately raised his voice.

"That's the consequence of being overly arrogant, tsk tsk, still thinking he could find a leak from Sir Ran!" Chen Xue followed closely with a face full of disdain.

Under their influence, other people also started to voice out frequently.

"Not knowing the immensity of heaven and earth, what a pity for such a large sum of money..."

A wave of ridicule inevitably rose all around.

Sun Yiran couldn't help but secretly sigh in relief, a smile appearing on his face.

Just moments ago, even he was a bit anxious.

If this youngster somehow got lucky, he would be at a loss where to put his face. To miss out on good material and be defeated by an unknown youngster would be the ultimate insult.

Now, all was well, and Sun Yiran felt greatly at ease in his heart.

There, the master craftsman began to cut carefully and slowly, as if he had seen a bit of green, but only sparse speckles which made him shake his head.

Laughter rose again.

Han Shuying bit her lower lip, wanting very much to leave with Bai. Zhang Min too watched quietly.

Only Bai remained composed.

A joke, a mere two hundred thousand yuan, what of it if it's thrown away? Besides, he trusted Red Lotus.

"This kid is quite calm, to carelessly throw away two hundred thousand yuan without changing his expression. Who knows what family he comes from," Sun Tianli commented indifferently.

"Why concern yourself with him? In any case, he hasn't revealed any valuable material. Mr. Yiran wins," Xie Youxin said, raising a cup of tea to his lips, blowing away the floating leaves, and taking a sip.

"Rich color!" Suddenly, a sharp cry rang out.

The crowd, abuzz with debate, was silenced by this piercing scream. Everyone looked over to see the stone-cutting in progress.

"Ice-type Imperial Green!" the stone cutter exclaimed, almost jumping up on the spot under everyone's watchful eyes.

Ice-type Imperial Green!

Silence fell abruptly around them, and the faint smile on Sun Yiran's face instantly stiffened.

Xie Youxin sprayed out his tea.

Even Sun Tianli was taken aback.

Those in the know were left speechless, while Han Shuying, Zhang Min, and Min, who didn't quite understand, could tell from the shocked expressions of those around them that this time, something truly big may have been discovered.

"I, Bai, have labored over this for a long time; how could I possibly choose just a stone egg?" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled lightly. "It's just been hidden too deeply!"

"Expert valuation, nine hundred thousand yuan!"

The consecutive announcements brought the entire venue to silence!

"A top-quality stone worth nine hundred thousand yuan!" Xie Youxin couldn't help but swallow hard.

Such a large piece of top-quality material, if processed into a finished product, and then marketed well, how much money would it sell for!

And Bai Xiaosheng had spent only two hundred thousand yuan!

The staff carefully presented the stone to Bai Xiaosheng, who took it in his arms.

Carrying the stone, Bai walked towards Han Shuying, and as he passed by Sun Yiran, he suddenly paused and chuckled at him.

"At ten times the market price, would you want it?"

Chapter 149 Trouble!_1

Bai Xiaosheng deliberately asked Sun Yiran a question.

"Ten times the market price, do you want this piece of jade?"

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Sun Yiran's face twitched, feeling as though all the gazes were scorching his cheeks!

The material worth nine hundred thousand, at ten times the market price, would be nine million! Even he was astounded by this price!

But most importantly, it wasn't even about the money.

Indeed, the material was good, really good, but it was worth nine hundred thousand at most. To spend nine million on it would be the epitome of folly, sheer idiocy! Anyone with a normal brain wouldn't make such a move!

However, just now, he had said he would buy it, at ten times the market price, no less!

Face, oh face! A person lives for face just as a tree lives for its bark!

To buy would be stupid, but to not buy would be to lose all face.

He, Sun Yiran, Sir Ran, if he went back on his word under everyone's gaze, how would he ever mix in these circles again!

Watching Bai Xiaosheng, with a half-smile that seemed mocking, Sun Yiran felt his head throbbing with blood.

"I'll take this piece of jade!" Sun Yiran glared ferociously at Bai Xiaosheng, nearly grinding his teeth as he spoke.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"I won't sell!"

So you think you are Sir Ran, making big claims about buying at ten times the market price, but you never asked if I was willing to sell. Now, I, am, not, willing!

Sun Yiran was stunned, feeling a mix of relief and a surge of anger overwhelming him!

This Bai Xiaosheng, not selling but asking, was clearly mocking him in public.

Sun Yiran's eyes, bloodshot, watched as Bai Xiaosheng, holding onto the jade material, approached the dazed Han Shuying.

"I said I would gamble on a stone for you. Now, it's yours," Bai Xiaosheng said, casually thrusting the ice-type Imperial Green jadeite, worth nine hundred thousand, into Han Shuying's arms.

Han Shuying hugged it nervously, ignoring the dust and grime on it.

This was something worth nine hundred thousand. If she got distracted and it hit the ground, what would break was real silver and gold!

Han Shuying's face was full of nervousness.

"You're really giving this to me?"

She was somewhat incredulous; Bai Xiaosheng was giving away something so valuable too easily, wasn't he?

The girls around who were watching the show were so envious that their eyes seemed to bore into the jade material, eyeing Han Shuying with envy, jealousy, and spite.

"When I say I'll do something, I do it, especially not deceiving women. Also, it's not a gift for nothing; when we get back, you have to return the two hundred thousand capital to me," Bai Xiaosheng said, emphasizing seriously, with a mercenary twinkle in his eye.

The surrounding crowd collectively rolled their eyes.

Is this guy insane, giving away a nine hundred thousand jadeite while fussing over his two hundred thousand in capital.

Han Shuying was dumbstruck and gave Bai Xiaosheng a deep glance, obediently stepping aside.

"Miss!" Suddenly, someone called out from the side.

Han Shuying looked over.

Xie Youxin, his eyes brimming with a smile and incessantly glancing at the piece of material, had positioned himself nearby at some point.

What a fine piece! Especially a whole one like this. If it were to be crafted by a skilled artisan or even a master, and then marketed properly... the price...

Xie Youxin felt his heart ablaze with eagerness.

"What do you want?" Han Shuying asked skeptically, looking at him.

"This piece of material, are you selling it?" Xie Youxin suppressed the agitation in his heart and raised a finger, "I am willing to pay one million!"

The recent bidding was nine hundred thousand, and Old Xie had added a hundred thousand. For a shrewd businessman like him, increasing the price was a rare occurrence.

It was all because the material was simply too good!

In fact, there was trickery involved in this jade betting.

The price quoted for jade that was uncovered "by convention" would only be lowballed, to facilitate buying at moments like this.

This material was unquestionably worth more than nine hundred thousand!

"Not selling!" Under Old Xie's eager gaze, Han Shuying replied bluntly.

"I've added an extra hundred thousand, and you're still not selling?" Xie Youxin found it unbelievable.

"For this stone, on top of Old Xie's price, I'll add another fifty thousand. Miss, will you sell it or not!" someone asked from the side.

Xie Youxin looked over and it was his "arch-enemy" Boss Zhou!

"Boss Zhou, but I was here first!" Xie Youxin said angrily.

"The lady hasn't agreed to you, I'm not poaching a deal, this is fair competition!" Boss Zhou snorted coldly, with a smile on his face as he looked at Han Shuying, "What do you say, Miss?"

"I, I'll add another twenty thousand!" Xie Youxin was getting desperate.

"I'll add another ten thousand!"

"I'll add yet another ten thousand."

In a moment's time, the two of them were arguing so loudly that their faces turned red and their necks grew thick.

The price of the jade material shot up to one million two hundred thousand!

People around were dumbfounded.

"Miss, what do you think, just say something!" Xie Youxin was anxious.

"I still don't want to sell," Han Shuying muttered, "Seeing how you're acting, it seems like this stone isn't bad. I want to have it made into a jade bracelet for my own use."

Have it made into a jade bracelet, for personal use?

Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou were stunned.

Luxury, such luxury!

"Make this whole piece of stone into a jade bracelet?" Xie Youxin's face twisted, "Miss, if you want bracelets, pendants, I have them, and they're of this quality too. I'll sell them to you at cost! Please don't ruin this entire piece of stone!"

"Yes, at worst we two families will share the cost for this stone. Whatever jewelry you want, we'll give it to you at cost!" Boss Zhou also said with a trembling voice.

There are no mortal enemies in business; if the two families could cooperate to acquire it, Xie Youxin would agree!

Han Shuying was tempted and tugged at Bai Xiaosheng's sleeve.

Bai Xiaosheng turned his head, listened to Han Shuying's brief explanation of the situation, and waved his hand indifferently, "This is a gamble I took for you, but now it's yours. Whatever you want to do with it from now on is up to you. I won't interfere; you make your own decision, anything goes."

Eventually, Han Shuying agreed.

The two bosses were over the moon as they led her to the side to handle the paperwork.

Zhang Min and Sister Min stood by, their mouths agape in shock, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with strange eyes. That guy must have an incredible resolve to view money as mere dirt.

In the distance, Sun Tianli squinted his eyes, staring at Bai Xiaosheng.

Just now, was it a fluke, or did he really divine the stone!

Could a person just casually pick out an Ice-type Imperial Green?

If it was about the ability to divine stones, Sun Tianli didn't believe it. He hadn't possessed such a skill in decades!

Go test him!

From a distance, Sun Tianli gestured to Sun Yiran with his eyes.

Sun Yiran clenched his teeth and walked up to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Bai, I want to have another go with you! How about that?" Sun Yiran's voice was somewhat hoarse, his eyes bloodshot as he glared intensely at Bai Xiaosheng, "This time, let's see who picks out the jade stone with the highest unit price!"

"If you win, I, Sun Yiran, will no longer mix in this circle, and the jade stones I pick will also be yours. If you lose, the same applies! What do you say!"

Sun Yiran's last words were almost a shout.

The whole place went silent.

Everyone looked at him in astonishment; this was no longer just jade gambling, it had escalated to a "fight for life".

Even Sun Tianli was startled, looking at his grandson with complex eyes.

Being defeated in public by a complete nobody, Yiran, with his pride deep in his bones, naturally couldn't stand it.

Gamble!

Could the Sun Family's genius really lose? Sun Tianli's face darkened, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng kept silent, giving Sun Yiran a cold glance.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, he finally spoke, two words.

"No good!"

Chapter 150 - Well then I'll bet with you!_1

"You think I want to gamble just because you want to? I gamble on stones for the mood, not for the money. Competing for superiority isn't interesting to me."

In Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, sons of grand estates like Sun Yiran, although endowed with astonishing talents or abilities in certain aspects, have never been through the ravages and honing of life. They always think their face is more important than the sky, and they don't know how to judge the situation or be tolerant.

A tree that stands out in the forest is often destroyed by the wind.

With this thought as a warning, Bai Xiaosheng shook his head and motioned for Han Shuying and Zhang Min to prepare to leave.

Han Shuying had already finished the procedures with Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou. The money had been transferred into her account, and she had also arranged a time to select jewelry. Naturally, she didn't hesitate and followed behind.

Zhang Min, or Min, didn't have any issues either; she could leave on a whim.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng turning his head to leave, Sun Yiran was stunned, then his eyes reddened.

He thought that Bai Xiaosheng disdained to compete with him.

"Stop them!" Sun Yiran ordered with a dark face.

Zhang Xiaoqiu and Chen Xue had already made it to the side. They often frequented this market and knew some people, and immediately called a few to block Bai Xiaosheng and his group.

"Sir Ran said, you have to compete with him—one match! If you don't, don't think about leaving!" Zhang Xiaoqiu said coldly.

"Exactly!" Chen Xue's eyes also showed a cold glint.

Behind them, others who had come to help were also clamoring.

Bai Xiaosheng looked around and was surprised to find that Scarface was among them, shouting the loudest.

"You're trying to play bully with us?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

If it really came to fighting, he wasn't afraid. Hadn't he dealt with Mrs. Pang's three brothers, making them completely submissive? The bunch in front of him, though many, were just blusterers who would immediately lose heart if a couple of them were knocked down.

"What should we do?" Zhang Min was by Bai Xiaosheng's side, somewhat flustered.

Just now, Min had quietly tugged at her, trying to stand aside to keep distance from Bai Xiaosheng and avoid any trouble, but Zhang Min still stubbornly stood by Bai Xiaosheng's side.

"They're too arrogant. Is this a bandit's den or what? Is there no one to enforce justice?" Han Shuying said angrily, turning her head to look for Xie Youxin and Boss Zhou, who had just treated them with eager hospitality. These two were old-timers in the circle, of a certain age, and knew many people; surely they could say something.

However, Han Shuying looked around and didn't see a trace of these two old men.

Upon looking again, she realized that at some point they had moved away from this area and gone to the witness seats, chatting with a group of bosses, totally indifferent to the situation here, pretending to be unaware.

And Sun Yiran's grandfather occasionally glanced over here, also chatting and laughing with the bosses.

This was simply outright, blatant protection!

Han Shuying couldn't help but want to rush over.

Bai Xiaosheng grabbed her arm.

"Do you really want to gamble with me?" Bai Xiaosheng locked eyes with Sun Yiran, seeing nothing but obsession and ferocity.

"Then I'll gamble with you!"

Bai Xiaosheng turned back, walked past Sun Yiran, and paused briefly beside him to say coldly, "If you lose, your jade will belong to me, and you will get out of this circle!"

Even a clay figure has a temper, let alone Bai Xiaosheng who had never considered himself a magnanimous person.

You bully me, don't blame me for being impolite!

"Good, compete with him, win against him!" Han Shuying and Zhang Min also glared hard at Sun Yiran, cheering and encouraging Bai Xiaosheng.

"There's gonna be a show, Sir Ran is going to gamble on stones with that guy!"

"The winner takes the opponent's stones!"

"The loser will never enter Yushi City again!"

"This is so thrilling, is there a pot where we can place our bets too? Let's bet on the outcome!"

The onlookers discussed excitedly, and some even wanted to place bets on the match.

However, all this had no impact on Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Yiran; they had already entered the center of the field, starting to walk around the table, divining stone.

The previously chatty witnesses—those business owners—were now sitting up straight, their eyes unblinking as they fixated on the two people in the middle of the room.

To be fair, almost all of them believed that the winner would be none other than Sun Yiran.

Just now, Sun Yiran couldn't beat Bai Xiaosheng due to a moment of luck.

But how could anyone be so lucky as to hit big twice in a short period of time?

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't possibly win; it was a foregone conclusion that Sun Yiran would be the victor.

At that moment, what these business owners were more concerned about was what kind of stone Sun Yiran would pick out!

Would he pick out another piece of Ice-type Imperial Green?

Boss Zhou stretched his neck out, rubbing his hands together in deep concentration; just now, he and Xie Youxin had partnered up to acquire that top-quality stone. Although they made a hefty profit, it was not a feast enjoyed alone, which left him somewhat dissatisfied.

If another treasure were unveiled, he would undoubtedly make his move first!

Xie Youxin stealthily glanced at Boss Zhou, harboring the same thoughts.

In fact, it wasn't just the two of them; all the Jade Stone Shop owners present were holding back their eagerness.

They had let the Xie and Zhou surnames take the lead just now, but this time, if another high-quality stone emerged, they would definitely scramble for it. Even if they couldn't get their hands on it, they would drive up the price!

"Do you think Bai can win this time?" Zhang Min asked with some concern.

"Maybe." Han Shuying murmured.

She had no confidence herself, but the surrounding discussions overwhelmingly supported Sun Yiran; Bai Xiaosheng had no one cheering for him, which was a bit pitiful.

"You all might as well save it, Sir Ran has definitely won!" Chen Xue scoffed on the side.

"Don't speak so absolutely!" Han Shuying retorted with a cold huff.

"Beauty, Xue is right. Sir Ran has been playing with jade stones since he was eight, and under Old Mr. Sun's instruction, he has never been wrong when divining a stone with his bare hands. He may have lost to luck this time, but it was only that once." Zhang Xiaoqiu stood beside Han Shuying, his eyes roving over her, "After losing the bet this time, he'll no longer be able to come into this circle. But no worries, I, Zhang Xiaoqiu, am quite well-known here; if you want to come, just look for me."

Zhang Xiaoqiu's smile was lecherous.

"I've learned karate, for fending off perverts. Do you know what happened to the last person who looked at me like that?" Han Shuying glanced at him, her gaze icy cold.

Zhang Xiaoqiu, chilled by her gaze, couldn't help but ask, "Did you fracture his bone?"

Women who had practiced self-defense techniques were known for their ferocity; he had experienced it firsthand.

"Not a fracture, since there were no bones there." Han Shuying muttered.

Zhang Xiaoqiu's complexion changed, and he discreetly increased the distance between them.

On the stage.

Sun Yiran was incredibly serious, scrutinizing each stone with rapt attention. There were stones priced at hundreds of thousands, even millions, that he had looked over but not chosen.

This time, the standard for victory was the highest value per unit. Those large, highly-priced stones, when cut, had to have their value averaged by weight, which didn't necessarily give an advantage.

Sun Yiran walked back and forth, finally pausing in front of a raw stone, examining it repeatedly, his eyes gradually brightening!

This is the one!

Priced at three hundred thousand!

With his stone chosen, Sun Yiran was full of confidence, smug as he looked back at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Have you chosen yet? We're all waiting for you," Bai Xiaosheng said with composure and a hint of annoyance, standing there before a half-meter tall large stone block.

Choosing a large one, huh? Sun Yiran sneered.

"Let's start cutting the stone if you've made your choice," he said.

"Excuse me, sir, please step aside; we need to move this block over there," a staff member hurried over to Bai Xiaosheng's side, eyeing the half-meter tall behemoth.

"Move?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh, "No need; just carrying it over will do."

He raised his hand, cradling a raw stone in his palm.

Priced at ten thousand.