

THE CASE OF THE CHINESE JEWELS

Part One

Synopsis

By

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San Francisco waterfront, California 1949-50. LILING and her sister SOON HUO (How) are two young, beautiful Chinese war survivors who have been brought to San Francisco on the pretense of being hired by a Chinese family to work off their passage and fund their future in America. Reaching their destination, they discover they will work in sweat shops, become prostitutes or sold into bondage.

YOSHIO NAKAMURA operates an import/export company and several ships, one of which brought the women to America. The purveyor of the human cargo is LI WANG, a ruthless man with no concept of morality. When the ship docks, he tries to steal Liling's valuable necklace but Soon intercedes. After receiving a knife wound, Soon uses kung fu to disable Wang and the sisters' escape into the City to find their uncle GINO.HUO.

Nick's closest friend is Gino who owns a bar in the Tenderloin district of the City. The second floor of the building is Nick's office and most times his apartment.

The sisters locate Gino and, in his back room, Gino sutures Soon's knife injury and we learn about the sisters' exile and the time they spent during the war.

Gino enlists Nick's help in keeping the sisters safe from the smugglers and the authorities. Nick is introduced to the sisters and there is an immediate attraction by Soon to Nick. Nick, however, has a guarded interest in Liling.

In Nakamura's warehouse, Wang is blamed for losing his cargo. Nakamura beats Wang with his cane -whose handle is the hilt of a short sword - and is sent on a quest to find the sisters.

Nick asks his Public Defender friend MANNY DUNNING to help Shepherd the sisters on a shopping spree to buy clothes for the sisters. Leaving the dress shop, they are set upon by two of Wang's goons. Although the kidnapping attempt fails, Wang can now identify Nick And Manny

Nick and Manny take a proactive approach to find the smugglers. From sketchy information provided by Gino, Nick discovers the name of the ship and its owner, Nakamura.

Nick meets with SFPD Inspector TONY MANICELLI and explains the situation. Manicelli insists Nick go to the Immigration office. Before he does, Nick asks for a police sketch artist to render an image of Wang.

A young Chinese woman is finished out of the Bay and it is hoped it is not one of the women from the ship.

The sisters have been moved to an upstairs loft where it is hoped they will be safe.

Nakamura enters a strip club where the back room has been turned into an auction house where we watch young Chinese women being sold.