



## Necklace and Calabash

*Robert van Gulik*

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**Necklace and Calabash** Robert van Gulik  
**A.D. 668**

Due to its proximity to the Water Palace, the summer residence of the Emperor's favorite daughter, Riverton lies within a Special Area administered by the military. To Judge Dee, returning to his district of Poo-yang, the peaceful town promises a few days' fishing and relaxation. But it is not to be. A chance meeting with a Taoist recluse, a gruesome body fished out of the river, strange guests at the Kingfisher Inn, a princess in distress--before long the judge is facing one of the most intricate and baffling mysteries of his career.

## Necklace and Calabash Details

Date : Published December 15th 1992 by University of Chicago Press (first published 1967)

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Author : Robert van Gulik

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## From Reader Review Necklace and Calabash for online ebook

### **sabisteb aka callisto says**

Sprecher

Aus dem Englischen von Klaus Schomburg

Hörspielbearbeitung: Heiko Daniels

Erzähler: Ernst Jacobi

Richter Di: Hans-Michael Rehberg

Meister Kalebasse: Peter Fitz

Wei Theng: Rudolf Wessely

Prinzessin: Sascha Icks u.a.

Regie: Götz Fritsch

Produktion: hr/SWR 2008 - Ursendung

Hörspiele, welche vom SWR produziert werden sind eigentlich immer qualitativ sehr hochwertig und wirklich gut gemacht, so auch dieses Hörbuch. Die Sprecher sind gut, wenn auch nicht die Top Sprecher, hier auch der Punktakbzug, weil es da in Nebenrollen einige gab, die ich einfach schlecht fand, und die mich genervt haben. Die Geräuschkulisse ist unterstützend aber nicht aufdringlich, keine nutzlose musikalische Untermalung, einfach stimmungsvoll und minimalistisch, so wie ich es liebe mit einem Hauptaugenmerk auf den Dialogen ohne unnötige Effekthascherei. Ich hoffe sehr, dass dieses Hörspiel irgendwann auf CD erscheinen wird, ich kann es absolut empfehlen.

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### **Antoinette says**

Judge Dee is looking forward to fishing in the peaceful town of Riverton but instead becomes involved with a gruesome murder, a stolen pearl necklace, a Taoist recluse and a princess in distress. Set in T;and dynasty China, Judge Dee never fails to deliver on a tight plot, interesting characters and amazing historical and cultural context.

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### **Erik says**

One of the best of the series, and the most like a Chandler novel. You wouldn't think one could do the scene where the detective is told to just shut up and get in the car in the 7th century, but van Gulik pulls it off.

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### **kostas vamvoukakis says**

Απ? τα καλ?τερα του δικαστ? τι. Πολ? ωρα?α υπ?θεση και υπεδειγματικη η διαλε?κανση του μυστηρ?ου

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## Gerry Campbell says

### hard to put down

hard to beat van Gulik's Judge Dee books for the skillful combination of Chinese cultural traditions & Poirot-style sleuthing. This is one of the best, though Dee is on his own without his two trusty lieutenants.

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## KHÁNH Nguy?n Qu?c says

K?t c?u truy?n ??n gi?n nh?ng logic. Nh?ng suy lu?n trong truy?n kh? th? v?, thu h?t ng??i ??c. Cho dù y?u t? may m?n l? ch? ??o v? y?u t? r?n r?n kh?ng ???c s? d?ng nhi?u th? ?ây v?n l? m?t quy?n ?áng ??c cho d?n nghi?n trinh thám.

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## Jayaprakash Satyamurthy says

Judge Dee goes solo and incognito, making this an especially taut and focused volume in this series. Still, a variety of settings are investigated, the requisite three mysteries are solved and there's a sprinkling of taoist philosophy to boot.

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## Nikoleta says

Το βιβλ?ο «Το περιδ?ραο της πριγκ?πισσας» ε?ναι ελαφρ?ς διαφορετικ? απ? τα υπ?λοιπα βιβλ?α της σειρ?ς. Για αυτ? ευθ?νεται το ?τι, εν? στα υπ?λοιπα βιβλ?α ?λες τι ?ρευνες τις κ?νουν οι γνωστ? βοηθο? του Δικαστ? Τι και απλ?ς ο δικαστ?ς ?ρχεται να εξετ?σει τα στοιχει? και να δ?σει την λ?ση, στο συγκεκριμ?νο βιβλ?ο ο μοναδικ?ς ?ρωας ε?ναι ο Τι.

Ο δικαστ?ς ταξιδε?ει ολομ?ναχος και φτ?νει στην Ποταμο?πολη, στην οπο?α θα μπλεχτε? αν?μεσα σε περ?εργα παιχν?δια εξουσ?ας.

Μου ?ρεσε λ?γο περισσ?τερο απ? τις ?λλες περιπ?τειες του που ?χω διαβ?σει. Ξεδιπλ?θηκε ?λη η δι?νοια του χαρακτ?ρα του, εν? -σε αντ?θεση με τις ?λλες ιστορ?ες- δεν φοβ?θηκε επιτ?λους να λερ?σει τα χ?ρια του.

Η ιστορ?α πολ? καλ?. Η ατμ?σφαιρα ελαφρ?ς σκοτειν?, κ το α?νιγμα πολ?πλοκο και ενδιαφ?ρον!

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## Sasurappu says

Dee is traveling and hopes to get a little vacation. What he gets is a murder, court intrigue and a plucky girl partner. I liked how van Gulik shows that life at the court, while glamorous, can also really suck.

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## **Mazeli Dee says**

This was one book where Judge Dee did not have the pleasure of his trusted lieutenants' presence. But he proved in this adventure that he could definitely handle anything by himself.

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## **Joseph says**

It's so good to fall back into a good Judge Dee detective mystery. Unlike a Christie novel, or a Holmes' novel, or a Father Brown novel, where the complexity of the crimes bog the story down, and one can no longer be entertained by the question, "who done it?" Gulik raps his mysteries in exotic locales in the customs of an ancient time, where one is thrilled half by the mystery, but also by discovering Judge Dee's medieval Chinese world, bit by bit, with descriptions of wall paintings, costumes, customs of the powerful, and bits of Chinese philosophy and martial arts thrown in. Judge Dee is a modern detective as well--he's not so abnormal as Holmes, not as queer as Father Brown nor Christie's famous Dutch detective. He holds a position of a magistrate. He has a family (three wives!) He is neither too young to be distracted by recklessness nor too old to not be indifferent to the women around him. He is neither a poor fighter (he's displayed in this novel in several instances of martial excellence) nor is he a distractingly excellent fighter (he retains two body guards.) He seems merely very good at what he does, which is an excellent portrait. He is not too perfect nor too inhuman that one isn't able to relate to him, time after time. I'm looking forward to the next time I can read more Gulik.

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## **Vitaliy Hristyuk says**

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## **Timons Esaias says**

I'm working my way through the whole Judge Dee series, reading one every six months, when I go to the WPF Residency. The book is, therefore, a treat I give myself.

This volume was one of the more enjoyable reads, partly because the situation is a tad more complex than most in the series, and partly because I thought I knew how the main crime was done. I was wrong.

Judge Dee is traveling without his usual escort, taking a brief vacation on the way back to his official posting, when this novel begins. He meets a somewhat mysterious Taoist pilgrim, just as he's coming into town. And when he gets into town, there's been a killing. Dee's judicial writ doesn't hold in this place, because it's in the territory of an Imperial Palace, so he chooses to adopt a false identity, and stay out of the action. Despite pretending to be a doctor, he is soon drawn into a couple of mysteries, and some life-threatening adventures. Some folks seem to know who he really is, which makes the whole situation much more complicated.

This was a pleasant little escape, and the word "grimace" appears nowhere in it.

Recommended.

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### **Ivonne Rovira says**

A so-so Judge Dee novel is better than most other historical mysteries. In *Necklace and Calabash*, Judge Dee goes to Rivertown for a fishing vacation. But crime doesn't take a vacation, and it turns out Judge Dee can't, either. Judge Dee ends up in disguise as an eminent doctor; as is usual in Chinese mysteries, Judge Dee investigates three mysteries: the murder of an inn cashier, a missing wife, and a stolen imperial pearl necklace. While not as great as some other Judge Dee novels, *Necklace and Calabash* still provides an exciting read.

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### **Dora says**

επαναλαμβανομαι... αλλα τον αγαπω τον Τι

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