

THE DRAGON OF LOCKE

THE DRAGON OF LOCKE

A Mystery Suspense Investigation about
a Stolen Dragon and Missing Brother



Written by John M. Pluff

by John M. Pluff

LOGLINE:

A detective and his partner begin investigating the disappearance of a man's brother-in-law in California only to discover it may be linked to the theft of a valuable dragon deity from a Chinese monastery and a smuggling ring stealing artworks and antiquities.

SYNOPSIS:

After retiring as a police detective in Sacramento following a bust of a child rapist gone wrong, Dan Sellers becomes a PI. Five years later, he gets a job from a former client, Arthur Lee in Stockton to find out what happened to his brother-in-law William. So Dan and his partner Winnie Falk head to Stockton, where they learn that William disappeared four days before when he went to check at their warehouse on a shipment from China. Dan and Winnie also discover a smuggling ring, and it appears that Lee has been acquiring expensive art, though Lee's wife assures them that William would never be involved in such smuggling as a devout Christian.

Their investigation begins with a trip to the warehouse, where complications mount. They arrive to find Lee's cousin has been killed, while the statue of a dragon deity has been stolen from one of the crates. Soon after two detectives and four police officers arrive and hold them for questioning for a few hours.

Over the next few days, Dan and Winnie discover even more clues. Among other things, a boat captain, who is the friend of Dan's father and grandfather, tells him about the leader of the Tong in Locke, Jimmy Kwan, who controls illegal activity in the Chinese community. He also tells them about one of his workers, Johnny Zhang, who might be able to get him to see the Tong leader.

Then, when Dan meets Lee at a Stockton restaurant to update him on the investigation, Dan suggests there is a connection between the smuggling ring and the missing brother-in-law. Meanwhile, Winnie goes to meet a minister to learn more about the Chinese in Locke, the Tong, and the man who hired them to investigate. But she is drugged with knock-out drops and ends up in the hospital, and Dan learns from the detectives that whoever drugged her wasn't the real minister.

After that, Dan meets with Zhang and gets an introduction to Jimmy Kwan, so he and Winnie head to Locke to meet him.

Meanwhile, as Dan and Winnie get closer to finding out what really happened to the dragon, it turns out that the thief who took it was the brother-in-law William, who wants to return it to the monastery. But now William is in hiding, because Kwan has sent two thugs to look for him to get the dragon, which he wants to sell for big money, since the dragon is very valuable.

Eventually, after more twists and turns, the two detectives, in cahoots with a rival gang are killed by Kwan's goons, who also discover the man who took William to safety. Then, after the man reveals where William is, Kwan's men capture William and bring him to a warehouse to get him to tell them where he has hidden the dragon.

But, in a final twist, a monk from the Chinese monastery arrives to get back the dragon under gunpoint, and after he is disarmed, it turns out that William has taken the dragon to return it to the monastery, because he thinks that's the right thing to do. While Kwan is concerned about not being able to sell the dragon. Dan and Winnie assure them that, as they agreed, he will get a reward for his help in getting back the dragon, and they will keep the police away from his business. And now the brother-in-law is back, though Lee has lost any money he hoped to get by smuggling the stolen dragon from China.