

**CHUN TI-KUNG: HIS
LIFE AND ADVENTURES.
A NOVEL**

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Chun Ti-Kung: His Life and Adventures. A Novel by Claude A. Rees

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CLAUDE A. REES

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His Life and Adventures

A Novel

By
Claude A. Rees



NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY

1897

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CONTENTS

PART I

<i>Chapter</i>		<i>Page</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>The Ancestral Coffin-shop</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>II</i>	<i>Country Mouse and Town Mouse</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>III</i>	<i>Bridegroom and Sing-Song Girl</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>IV</i>	<i>From Shunghai to Hoochow</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>V</i>	<i>His Uncle the Tao-tai</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>VI</i>	<i>A Son to worship at his Grave</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>VII</i>	<i>Work and Play</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>VIII</i>	<i>The Tao-tai tells Tales</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>IX</i>	<i>In pursuit of Pirates</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>X</i>	<i>A Bloodless Victory</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>XI</i>	<i>Muh Wang's Treasure</i>	<i>92</i>
<i>XII</i>	<i>Uncle and Nephew</i>	<i>98</i>
<i>XIII</i>	<i>The Tao-tai adopts Chun</i>	<i>104</i>
<i>XIV</i>	<i>Murder and Suicide</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>XV</i>	<i>Glory and Honour</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>XVI</i>	<i>Welcome and Farewell</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>XVII</i>	<i>Over the Western Seas</i>	<i>130</i>

1828

PART II

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>I An English Maid</i>	139
<i>II The East woos the West</i>	151
<i>III A perilous Marriage</i>	164
<i>IV First Misgivings</i>	175
<i>V Disillusion</i>	185
<i>VI The Fulfords</i>	195
<i>VII The Clouds gather</i>	205
<i>VIII An ill-fated Babe</i>	216
<i>IX The Blow Falls</i>	229
<i>X Chun's unfortunate Delay</i>	235
<i>XI Death the Helper</i>	243
<i>XII Sorrow and Exile</i>	252

PART I

PART I

CHAPTER I

THE ANCESTRAL COFFIN-SHOP

CHUN TI-KUNG's father, Chun Se-fei, kept one of the most popular coffin-shops in a good-sized village called Pa-li Kiao, not far from the Foo City of Chow-shing in the Province of Chekiang. Pa-li Kiao, being interpreted, means a bridge eight *li* distant from some more important town.

Chun Ti-kung's father had been for years gradually putting by coin from his system of investing largely in planks of wood when cheap, and these in almost every year gave him a good return when they were converted into coffins; the price of a coffin for moderately rich people often amounting to £100 or even £150 sterling.

In the periodical famine years, and in the years 1862 and 1863, when the Taiping rebellion had devastated the country for miles around, and corpses were constantly being brought down for some sort of interment, his business increased to such an extent that his stock of boards was considerably reduced, and he found himself a well-to-do man. Many of the corpses belonged