

The Snakes

Act I

Prologue

(A bare mountain top. Grandfather and Yun are searching for something. They have been searching all day.)

Grandfather

I'm tired, let's go back.
我累了，我們回去吧。

Yun

You rest here. I'll just look nearby.
您在這休息，我隨處看看。

Grandfather

I should never have told you.
我實在不該告訴妳的

Yun

You had to. It's my story too.
您應該告訴我的
這也是我的故事啊

Grandfather

But I never meant for you to go on this wild goose chase. It'll be the death of me.
但我絕不是要妳白費力氣地追尋
這個秘密將與我一同死去

Yun

Oh, oh, look! *(she runs off stage and comes back)* Just another white root. They fool me each time. *(goes off)*
噢！你看！
唉！又是一根樹枝！
每次都被騙！

Grandfather

Don't go too far. It's getting dark. *(to himself)* Obsessed. I guess I was the same when I first heard of the two snake sisters, one white as cloud and the other green as bamboo....*(afraid, he looks up and calls)* Yun, where are you? Come back now. Yun? Yun!

別跑太遠呀！天色越來越暗了！
當我聽說白蛇和青蛇姊妹的故事時
我就跟你一樣沉迷
一條白如雲，一條綠如竹
雲？妳在哪？趕緊回來！雲？雲！

(crack of thunder, two giant puppet snakes—in the style of Chinese lion dance—dance)

Scene I At the lakeside

Suzhen

These new fingers tingle, alive and fresh, but my tongue sits in my mouth like a dead lump.
My muscles feel as sluggish as if I were coming out of a long sleep.

這些新長出來的手指讓我感到刺痛
卻又如此新鮮充滿活力
但我的舌頭麻木得像個腫塊
全身的肌肉都懶洋洋的
感覺像剛從一段長眠中甦醒

Qing

Look what long legs and arms! But we can't slip down a hole or glide up a tree anymore.
We're clumsy brutes.

看！我們長出了好長的手腳！
但我們再也不能滑進洞裡或爬樹了
我們變成笨拙的野蠻人了！

Suzhen

I suppose we're delicate....for humans.
我想對人類來說
我們應該算是很嬌嫩的

Qing

Well, let's go find out what they think of us!
那我們去試探人類怎麼看我們吧！

Suzhen

No...it's too dangerous.
不！那太危險了！

Qing

What was the point of meditating so long if we aren't going to take this final test?
如果我們不去完成最後的試煉
那我們修練那麼久不都白費了嗎？

Suzhen

You know we only *look* human.
我們只是「看起來」像人而已

Qing

If they're so vicious why did we even want to become human?
如果人類那麼可怕
那為什麼我們要變成人類？

Suzhen

Now that I am one I forget...
我倒是忘了自己為什麼變成人……

Qing

We wanted to understand why they hate us.

因為我們想了解人類為什麼恨蛇

Suzhen

(interrupts) We wanted to be human because it was the highest form of mortal existence.
我們想成為人類
是因為人類是萬物之靈

Qing

I never believed that. The only way to find out is to go live among them. That town across the lake looks like a good place to start. Let's go. *(she's about to jump in)*
我從來不相信這種事
要找到答案只能和人類一起生活
對面那村子感覺蠻適合展開新生活
走吧！

Suzhen

(catches Qing by her clothes) You can't just plunge in.
你不能這麼直接跳入水裡！

Qing

Oh, right. Damned inconvenient.
好啦！真該死的不方便！

Suzhen

(to Boatman) Boatman, we want to cross.
船夫，我們想要過河

Boatman

This boat's already reserved.
這艘船已經有人訂了

Qing

Take us first and then come back.
先載我們過去你再划回來！

Boatman

No!
不行！

Qing

Why you...
你竟敢.....

Suzhen

Qing, stop. Oh, it's beginning to rain.
小青！好了！噢！快下雨了！

Qing

(to Boatman) Listen, if you take us across now, we'll pay double. If you don't, *(lowers her voice)* I'll squeeze the life out of you.

聽著！載我們過去就付你雙倍的錢
如果你拒絕.....我就殺了你！

Suzhen

Please, it's raining so hard your passenger probably won't come.
拜託你了！雨下這麼大，
本來預定的乘客很可能不來了

Boatman

Here he comes now.
他這不就來了

Xuxian

(enters) What's wrong?
怎麼回事？

Boatman

These ladies want to cross.
這兩位姑娘也想要搭船

Xuxian

Tell them to get in. Hurry, the storm is picking up.
快請她們進來！快！風雨就要來了！

Boatman

(to Qing) You'll keep your word and pay me double?
你會遵守承諾付我兩倍的錢嗎？

Qing

Row, tortoise.
繼續划啊！你是烏龜嗎？

Xuxian

You have no umbrella? *(he holds his umbrella over Suzhen).*
妳忘了帶傘嗎？

Suzhen

Thank you.
謝謝你！

Xuxian

Take the ladies home first.
先載姑娘們回家去！

Qing

Where do you live, sir?
公子，請問你住哪裡啊？

Xuxian

Not far from the Qian Tang Gate.
在錢塘門附近

Qing

(pretends) We live near there, too.
我們也住那附近耶！

Xuxian

Really? *(to Suzhen)* Then you must know my pharmacy. My name is Liang Xuxian.
是嗎？那妳們一定知道我的藥鋪。

在下梁許仙

Qing

I am called Xiao Qing, and my sister is Bai Suzhen.

我叫小青，我姐姐叫白素貞

Suzhen

Thank you for taking us across.

謝謝你讓我們一起搭船

Xuxian

Take the umbrella with you.

這兩傘妳們就拿著吧

Qing

(Suzhen refuses but Qing takes it) We'll return it to you tomorrow.

我們明天會還你的

Xuxian

Fine, no actually, I'd better come pick it up. Where did you say...

好的，沒關係，

我想還是我自己去拿吧！

妳說府上在？

Qing

We're on the corner of... Yu Sheng Road. *(Qing whispers to Suzhen)* There must be a Yu Sheng road...

我們就住在雨旋路轉角處那裡！

村裡一定有一條叫雨旋路的吧！

Black out

Scene 2 At Xuxian's pharmacy

Suling

Get up, lazy good for nothing. How many times do I have to tell you, the herbs have to be picked before dawn?

快點起床了懶骨頭

到底要我說幾遍

藥草一定要在破曉前去採

Xuxian

(he snuffles and sneezes with a cold) I know, I know.

好啦好啦，我知道啦！

Suling

Brother, we have to work even harder now that Chan's son has returned. We're already losing customers to him.

弟弟啊，老陳的兒子也回來賣藥了

我們必須更努力才行，

我們已經開始流失客人了

Xuxian

Don't worry. Last night I had a dream about two beautiful goddesses, one in green silk, and the other in white. I'm sure it's a sign of good fortune.

妳別擔心了！

我啊，昨晚夢見了兩位仙女：
一個身穿綠衣；一個身著白裳
我相信這是個好兆頭！

Suling

You and your goddesses! I know what such dreams mean. Go, before Chan's assistants have plucked the mountain bare.

仙女啊！天知道那是什麼夢！
快去！別讓老陳的手下拔光整座山

Xuxian

(*getting dressed*) Don't worry, they don't know where to pick the best herbs, and just mix the good and bad together.

別擔心！
他們不知道哪兒能取到上等的藥材
只會好壞參差地混合藥材罷了

Suling

So they sell cheaper. What can we do but follow?

所以他們才賣那麼便宜！
如果不學他們降價，我們能怎麼辦

Xuxian

Not as long as Dr. Ping still recommends us.

有平大夫開我們家的處方籤就好啦

Suling

Dr. Ping is getting old and so are his patients. You have to be more enterprising. Go to the city and drum up more business. And we should look for your bride among the doctors' families.

平大夫和他的病人都老了！
你應該更有點企圖心！
往城裡去招攬更多客人
而且我們可以從醫生世家中挑個媳婦

Xuxian

Only if I can choose for myself.

我希望能自己選擇所愛的人

Suling

I'm your father and mother, I raised you.
我是你的父親兼母親，是我養大你

Xuxian

I'll think about it. First to the mountain.

再說吧！我得先上山一趟。

Black out.

Scene 3 At the Snake Sisters' house(103)

Qing

(playing cards) I'm tired of waiting. Perhaps he isn't as eager as he seemed.

我不想再等了！

也許他沒有表面上看起來那麼想來

Suzhen

It was so embarrassing. I'm so used to people running away from me.

這實在是很難為情

我已經太習慣人類會逃開我了

Qing

(knocking) Speak of the human!

說人人到！

Xuxian

Hello, I've just come...

哈囉！我來.....

Qing

To get your umbrella.

來拿你的雨傘

Suzhen

Why, you're all wet! Come in.

怎麼，你全身都濕透了！快進來！

Xuxian

I've been up on the mountain picking herbs *(shows his sack)* and the storm caught me by surprise.

我上山採藥去了

這暴風雨來得措手不及呀！

Qing

Show us what you've got. My sister and I are quite knowledgeable about herbs. *(he spreads them out; they study the herbs; he studies Suzhen)*

給我們看看你摘了哪些藥草

我和我姐姐對這方面都蠻瞭解的

Suzhen

Yes, quite good quality, but there are better higher up...

品質相當不錯，但有更好的.....

Xuxian

I only go up to the very top of the mountain twice a year. It's too dangerous. There are landslides, and besides, it's covered in snow.

我很少上到山頂，那裡太危險了

那兒土石容易鬆動，還終年積雪。

Suzhen

.....I will go get tea.
..... 我去倒茶

Xuxian

(*whispers*) Are neither of you married?
妳們倆..... 嫁人了嗎?

Qing

No. Are you?
還沒，你呢？

Xuxian

Not yet, but just this morning my elder sister was saying I must marry soon.
還沒。今早我姐還催我快成親呢

Qing

And what did you tell her?
那你怎麼和她說？

Xuxian

That I would make my own choice.
我希望能擇我所愛

Qing

It seems you already have.
看來你已經選好了

Xuxian

Yes, Little Sister, you've guessed my mind. I love your beautiful sister, but am I, a poor pharmacist, worthy of her? An unknown man cannot just walk in and expect to be taken at face value.

是的，小青妹妹。
我的心事都被妳看穿了
我對妳美麗的姐姐一見鍾情
但我一個窮藥師怎麼配得上她呢？
一個陌生男子不能這樣突然出現
就期待著心意被接受啊.....

Qing

Your face is not bad.
你長的算還不錯。

Xuxian

Hers is the loveliest I've ever seen. And she moves with some otherworldly grace, I can't quite explain.

她的面容是我見過最美的。
她有著超脫塵俗的優雅.....
我實在無法精確地形容呀！

Qing

Then it's best not to try.
那你最好不要亂說話

Suzhen

(*enters*) Please accept some tea. So, is your business new or has your family run the pharmacy a long time?

請用茶。

所以，你的藥房是自己開的？
還是祖傳的事業？

Xuxian

The Liang family has been making medicine for four hundred years, but I'm afraid the business isn't prospering. The new twists and turns of business leave me like a....

我們梁家賣藥有四百多年的歷史了
但我怕這個行業將一蹶不振
新的問題一波接著一波讓我.....

Qing

A lobster in a boiling pot?

像沸水裡的龍蝦？

Xuxian

Not exactly.
不全是這樣

Qing

But you are turning red.
但你臉都紅了

Suzhen

Qing, let Mr. Liang speak.
小青，讓梁公子說話。

Xuxian

I'm lucky to have the backing of the famous Dr. Ping who once saved the governor's life, but I can't rely on his loyalty forever and have to find a new strategy.

我很幸運受到名醫平大夫的支持
他可救過村長的命呢！
但我不能永遠靠他的幫助
我還是得自尋出路。

Qing

What are you going to do?

那你打算怎麼做？

Xuxian

I don't know. People nowadays are so confused by misleading labels, and medicines 'doctored' with false ingredients.

我不知道
現在人們總是被錯誤的標籤、
和掛羊頭賣狗肉的假藥誤導

Xuxian

Our traditional medicine has become a new fad. Now with so many people growing rich, they're all clamoring for exotic cures.

我們傳統的藥方已經蔚為風行了
但隨著人們愈發富有
他們愈發對特殊的療方感到興趣

Qing

Why? Are rich people more sick than before?

為何？

有錢人比從前更容易染上疾病嗎？

Xuxian

(laughs and shakes his head) The things people get into their heads. When they hear about some fashionable new disease, they suddenly have to have it too. They imitate the wealthy even in sickness. Rare animal parts are all the rage, and so profitable—bear bile, tiger bone, shark's fin, rhino horn, snake blood....

是因為人們腦袋裡的意識形態呀！

一聽到有新的疾病開始流行

大家也一定要「趕」流行

他們模仿有錢人的一舉一動

連「生病」都不放過

以珍稀動物為藥材也已經開始流行

其利益之高，無法計算

熊膽、虎骨、魚翅、犀角、蛇血...

Suzhen

(shivers) How barbaric!

實在是太野蠻了！

Qing

what do you do?

那你又能怎麼做？

Xuxian

I have told my customers it's an illegal and cruel trade, but they just don't believe me. They think that when a rhino's horn or a shark's fin is cut off, the animal just grows another, like fingernails or hair. Well, you know how people think.

我早已苦苦勸告客人們

這些都是違法且殘忍的血腥交易

但他們那裡聽得下去？

他們說犀牛被斷角或鯊魚被剪鰭後

會再長出一模一樣的

就像指甲或頭髮那樣！

唉，妳也知道人們怎麼想的

Qing

We do?

我們真的知道嗎？

Suzhen

Tell us.

請告訴我們。

Xuxian

The rarer the animal, the higher the price; the higher the price, the more it's killed. It's a vicious circle by greedy businessmen...like my competitor, Chan.

動物愈稀有，價格愈昂貴
價格愈昂貴，殘殺就無法避免
這是奸商們造成的惡性循環
就像我的競爭對手小陳做的一樣

Qing

(*whispers*) Truly, our minds are not human.

我們的想法確實和人類不同

Xuxian

It's no longer about health at all! Only status! That's why I no longer stock animal parts.

這已經完全無關醫療了！
可怕的「利益至上」！
這也是為什麼我不再收購動物藥材

Qing

You won't get rich.

這樣你是賺不到錢的

Xuxian

With the growing trade in fake medicine, I might not be alive either.

用假藥交易堆砌而成的財富
我不屑擁有！

Suzhen

Mr. Liang, my sister didn't mean to offend.

梁公子，我妹妹並非有意冒犯。

Xuxian

It's all right. My sister thinks the same. I'd better go. I didn't mean to bother you with my troubles. (*goes*)

沒關係，我姐姐與青妹妹想法一致
我想我該走了
我無意打擾你們那麼多時間

Suzhen

Rarer than the rhino is the man who would endanger his livelihood for his self respect. Oh, he forgot his umbrella.

很少有人會為了自尊危及生活的
噢！他忘了他的傘了！

Qing

He didn't forget. I think we're going to have to save this noble pharmacist from his high-minded self. Well, sister, we're not two days into this human experiment. Are you ready to tie your fate to a man's?

他才沒有忘記

我想我們該去解救這高尚的藥商了

姐姐，我們才當人類一陣子

妳真的準備和這男人過一輩子嗎？

Suzhen

It may have been fate that I met him, but not that I have fallen in love.

遇上他也許是緣分

但不代表我已經愛上他了

Black out

Scene 4 In Xuxian's pharmacy (202)

Xuxian

No, Mayor Xia, it will not help you.

別這樣，夏村長

這對您一點好處都沒有啊！

Xia

But I want rhino horn. I must please my new wife.

但我就是需要犀牛角

這樣才能取悅我新的小妾啊

Xuxian

It's now very expensive.

犀牛角現在非常昂貴的！

Xia

I have the money

老子有的是錢！

Xuxian

But I have only a little horn left and it's used for bringing down fever. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but rhino horn is not an aphrodisiac.

但現在犀牛角只剩下一點點

而這些是預備做退燒藥的

很抱歉讓您失望了，但我不得不說

犀牛角並非房中之藥

Xia

A what?

你說什麼？

Xuxian

An, uh, sex aid for men.

呃，就是大家說的威而鋼

Xia

Using foreign words now, are you? I've been coming to this pharmacy since my grandmother first brought me, but if you won't give me what I want, I'll go Chan's. (*exit*)

說中文好嗎？從我小時候開始，
我祖母就帶我來這買藥了
你要是不賣我，我就去小陳那買！

Suling

(*enter*) What did he want?
他想要什麼？

Xuxian

Rhino horn. He has a new wife.
犀牛角，他娶了個小妾。

Suling

You didn't give it to him? What's wrong with you? He's the mayor, you fool. We can get more.

你沒有賣給他嗎？你在搞什麼鬼？
他可是村長啊你這個白痴！
我們原本可以賺得更多！

Xuxian

Not legally.
這可是違法的

Suling

The price will only go up.
這會是雙贏的生意，價格只會上漲

Xuxian

I will not be responsible for the extinction of a noble beast. A rhino used to be a gift only for emperors. Now a billion people want a piece of it!

我絕不盲目跟著把高貴的動物殺光
犀牛角從前是只有君王才有的貢品
看看現在整個村的人都想當王了！

Suling

Noble beast! You might as well be a vet.
說什麼高貴的動物！
你乾脆當獸醫好了

Xuxian

Western pills better and cheaper than rhino horn. When horn was all we had, we used it sparingly, now when it's disappearing people think it's the magic cure for everything.

西藥可比犀牛角來得便宜又有效
過去只知道用犀牛角做藥引子時
我們謹慎用之
但現在當它快要消耗殆盡時

我們卻把它當作萬靈藥！

Suling

People remember their mothers using it, and when they're sick they want their mothers.
Xuxian, you're a good man, but you understand neither business nor psychology.

人們記得從前是這麼用的
而現在他們生病後也想遵循古法
許仙，你是一個好人
但你不懂做生意也不懂別人的心思

Suling

So everyone else will get rich on lies while we dig our graves with the truth. Brother, at a certain point integrity is just stubborn pride.

別人正靠著謊言賺大錢的時候
我們則因為死守真相窮到沒飯吃！
弟弟啊！有時正直只是無謂的固執

Xuxian

(he looks up and sees himself in mirror) I have the reputation of this family to uphold. I will not betray my own knowledge.

我需要維護家族的名譽
我絕對不會違背自己的原則

Suling

I know you think I'm old fashioned and small minded...
我知道你覺得我很古板又小心眼

Xuxian

No, no....
不，妳誤解我的意思.....

Suling

And only think about profit, but it's not true. I too, care about our family name. Can't you see we have to change with the times?

而且只想著賺錢，但這不是真的，
我也一樣關心家族名聲，
但你不覺得我們應該跟上時代嗎？

Xuxian

Well, what do you suggest?
好吧，那妳有什麼建議？

Suling

Go with Dr. Ping the next time he goes to the city. Learn the current practices...and find a wife.

下次平大夫進城時也跟著他去吧！
學習時下的技術，順便找個妻子

Black out.

Scene 5 Snake Sisters' house(254)

Qing

(*Xuxian knocks on their door*) Well, neighbor, good to see you.

早安啊鄰居！

Xuxian

Is your sister at home?

青妹妹，請問你姐姐在家嗎？

Suzhen

(*enters*) Oh, Mr. Liang, do sit down.

噢！梁公子，請坐

Xuxian

I am planning a trip to city and...

我準備去城裡一趟.....

Suzhen

To the city!

要到「城裡」去嗎？

Xuxian

You seemed to think I was too old fashioned.

你好像覺得我是個沒見過世面的人

Suzhen

Oh, I hope you didn't think...

噢！希望你別這麼覺得

Xuxian

You were right. And since I'm planning a long journey, I wish to discuss....

你說得也沒錯啦

我這一去城裡就是好幾個月

所以我想在出發前.....

Qing

(*interrupts*) You've come to ask about whether pearl powder is good for dizziness?

你是來問珍珠粉能不能治暈眩嗎？

Xuxian

No, I...

不是的，我.....

Qing

Or whether ginger root heals blistered feet?

還是問薑的根能不能消除水泡？

Xuxian

No, I...

也不是，我.....

Qing

Or why these sesame cakes made by my sister are such a good stimulant that I can hear your heart pounding?

還是問為何我姐的芝麻糕這麼好吃
好吃到連我都聽得到你的心跳聲？

Xuxian

No, I... *(realizes)* oh, ah, yes, they are delicious.

不是啦，我.....

喔！沒錯，真的很好吃！

Suzhen

(to Qing) Hush! How can you be so vulgar?

安靜！妳怎麼這麼粗魯？

Xuxian

(laughing) Suzhen, What I was going to say is that I want to marry you, but only if I also get the vulgar little sister.

素貞，我想說的是，我想娶你為妻，
但前提是跟妳那粗魯的妹妹一起

Qing

What! As your second wife?

什麼！要我當你的小妾？

Xuxian

(laughing) No, no, as my....little sister.

不是啦，當我的親妹妹一起生活

Qing

Aye, what a businessman! Suzhen, can you love such a man?

果然是個生意人！

素貞，你愛他嗎？

Xuxian

I've told you of the problems I face, but with you at my side I know I can overcome them. Ever since we met, I've thought of you as my... destiny. I wonder if you feel the same about me.

我已經坦誠告訴你我面臨的困境

我相信只要你在我身邊

我能克服所有的阻礙

自從我們相遇

你就是我命運中的一部分！

不知我們是否心有靈犀.....

Suzhen

Yes. Perhaps in an earlier life, we met, fell in love, and...

我也這麼感覺，或許在上輩子，

我們便已相遇、相戀、還有.....

Qing
And?
還有?

Suzhen
I don't know. I guess it's just a matter of faith.
我不知道
我想這只是一種信念罷了

Xuxian
In me?
對我的信念嗎?

Suzhen
Uh, well, yes, but I meant...in myself.
是的，但我的意思是.....我自己。

Xuxian
Then you will marry me?
所以你願意做我梁許仙的妻子嗎?

Suzhen
You don't know who you are marrying.
但你並不了解我。

Qing
(aside) Indeed!
沒錯!

Xuxian
As you say, it's a matter of faith.
就像你說的，只是信念的問題。

Suzhen
Yes, and without it, we die.
是的，若沒有了信念，
我們就不算活著

Xuxian
Oh! Suzhen, I love You! Good. Then it's all settled. In three days, I'll come to take you home
噢！素貞，我愛妳！
太好了！那就這麼決定了！
三天後，我會帶你回家！

Qing
Now all you have to do is persuade *your* sister.
你現在要做的是說服你姐姐！

Xuxian
I'll take care of that.

我會好好說服她的！

Black out

Scene 6 At Xuxian's pharmacy (303)

Suling

(slaps him) How dare you! I won't let you marry an uncivilized woman from the mountains. Have you lost your mind?

你好大膽子！

我絕不會讓你娶個山上的野蠻人！

你瘋了嗎？

Xuxian

Curb your anger at my not consulting you. You'll see I've made my decision to help our family.

不要對我發脾氣！

我是在想辦法解決我們家的問題！

Suling

I won't look at her or speak to her.

我絕不會見她！也不會跟她說話！

Xuxian

You'll treat her courteously. I'm going to get her and her sister now. *(leaves)*

你會好好對待她的

我現在要去接她和她妹妹

Suling

(shouts after him) Sister? You never told me about any sister! *(mutters to herself)*

A house of three women and one foolish boy! Nothing could be worse. Chan's son has been looking at me with a certain gleam in his eye. If Xuxian's mountain fairy gets any ideas about taking over the shop, at least Xiao Chan offers me another chance. Aye, what is a woman? I spend my life raising the no-good boy and now he marries a no-good woman.

妹妹？你沒跟我說過什麼妹妹？

這裡變成住著三個女人和一個蠢男人

有什麼比這更糟！

老陳的兒子總是別有意圖的看著我

如果許仙的仙女妄想接管這間店

至少小陳給了我搬走的機會！

哼，那女人算什麼東西？

我花了一輩子養了這個沒用的男人

現在他要娶一個沒用的女人

Xuxian

Sister, meet Bai Suzhen and her sister, Xiao Qing. *(they kneel and bow to her)* They bring gifts of silk, cash, and rare herbs.

姐姐，

這位是白素貞和她的妹妹小青，
她們帶了絲綢、禮金和藥草當聘禮

Suzhen

Dear Sister, thank you for welcoming us into your house. We'll serve you to the best of our poor ability.

親愛的姐姐
謝謝你願意讓我們加入你們的家庭
我們將盡微薄之力竭誠幫助你的

Qing

Dear Sister, we'll assist you in any way possible.

親愛的姐姐
我們都會盡全力幫你的

Suling

(softened by their humility) Well Brother, go to the market to buy something for the wedding dinner.

弟弟啊！
去市場買一些請客用的菜吧

Suzhen

We've brought cooked food with us. Please let us prepare the meal.

我們帶來了些菜餚
請讓我們準備這餐吧

Suling

Very well. *(they prepare the food and sit down to eat)* What's this? Duck? It smells very good. And this? Ah, the fish looks done to perfection.

很好！這是什麼？鴨肉？真香啊！
這個呢？這魚煮得真是剛剛好

Xuxian

(whispers) My sister loves a good meal.
我姐姐最受不了有好吃的！

Suzhen

(smiles) Who doesn't?
美食當前誰能抗拒呢？

Suling

You used medicinal herbs to flavor the dishes., I must say, they're quite delicious.

你竟然用藥草調味！
說實話，這些菜都好吃極了！

Suzhen

I'd like to start an herb garden in back of the shop.
我很願意在店鋪後種一些藥草

Xuxian

Good idea. Really good idea! It will cut down on costs.
好主意！可以省下採購藥草的銀子

Suling

I always said we should have an herb garden.
我總說我們應該有一座藥草園

Qing

And I'm happy to help gather herbs on the mountain.
我也很樂意幫忙去山裡收集藥草

Xuxian

You see, Sister. You won't have to go
姐姐，妳不用自己去採藥啦

Suling

She'll have to learn what to pick first. I might not be a cook, but I'm the daughter of Liang and know how to make the best medicine. Now, once you get to the city, try to drum up business among the wealthy merchants. if only you could discover some new disease ...

她必須先懂得什麼藥可以用！

我不是廚師，但身為梁家的女兒，

我知道怎麼做出最好的藥

以後你進城時，

就先向那些有錢人兜售我們的藥

如果你能編造一些新的疾病.....

Xuxian

I won't start making up fake diseases or raising false hope.
我絕不會做這種違背良心的事！

Suzhen

But there's nothing wrong with doing a little experimentation.
但做點試驗沒有什麼不妥

Suling

My meaning exactly. (*sighs*) You just don't know how to keep up with the times.
正是如此！

你就是不知道怎麼跟上時代

Xuxian

In these times of constant change, people appreciate stability and reliability. And now that I'm a married man, that reputation is even more important to maintain.

在現在這個急遽變化的時代

人們所重視的是穩定性和可靠性

既然我是有家室的男子

保有良好的名聲比什麼都來得重要

Act II

Scene 1 On the Mountain near Fahai's hermitage

Suling

(picking herbs) There, that's enough. Always pick only the freshest leaves. And never go over there. It's monk Fahai's hermitage.

這樣就夠了！只要最新鮮的就好！
還有記住絕對不要往那邊走
那裡是法海隱居的地方

Qing

Who?

你說誰？

Suling

Our holy man. Never disturb him. Watch out, there's an excellent fungus right by your foot.

他是我們最崇敬的人
絕對不要打擾他
小心！你的腳邊有蘑菇。

Qing

My foot? Oh, yes. He never comes down off the mountain?

腳？喔對啦！
法海從來不下山嗎？

Suling

Only twice a year. With Fahai up here meditating and chanting from morning till night, we in the town are safe. No, that leaf's got yellow edges. Well, you certainly pick faster than Xuxian. He dawdles over everything. I thought he'd never leave. Come, we have enough now.

法海一年只下山兩次
有他每天在這裡打坐、誦經祈福
我們村裡就會永保安樂
別撿那片葉子，邊緣都黃了！
妳動作比許仙快，他總是拖拖拉拉
他應該還沒走，來吧！我們撿夠了

Qing

He wasn't eager to go.
他根本不想走阿！

Suling

Quite! So in love in with your sister he was even more absent-minded. Not even getting out of bed till noon.

小聲點！自從愛上你姐姐後，
他更是茫茫然的，
不到日上三竿絕不下床

Qing

They were both happy.
他們也太幸福了吧！

Suling

Too happy, and with less sense than ever. Now he won't have much time in the city before the rainy season starts. Then the roads will be too muddy to travel. (*they enter shop*)
許仙是被幸福沖昏頭了
我看在雨季開始之前，
他沒什麼時間能待在城裡了。
雨季時路就會變得很難走

Scene Two At Xuxian's pharmacy

Suzhen

Good morning, give me the herbs. I'll dry them out while you eat. (*Mrs. Ma enters*)
早啊，先吃早飯吧！
我先來弄乾這些藥草！

Suling

Hello Mrs. Ma, have you eaten?
妳好，馬夫人，吃飽了嗎？

Ma

Where's your brother?
你弟弟去哪了？

Suling

He's gone with Dr. Ping to the city to learn about all the latest diseases.
他和平大夫去城裡研究最近的疾病

Ma

Well, I hope they don't bring any back.
是喔，希望他們可別帶什麼病回來

Suling

(*laughing*) Excellent joke, Mrs. Ma!
笑死我了，馬夫人！

Ma

Who's going to look after us if they're both gone?
如果他們都不在，誰照顧我們啊？

Suling

No need to worry. I am as good at making medicines as my brother. Now, how can I help you?
別擔心，我和許仙一樣熟知藥材。
現在，有什麼需要幫忙的嗎？

Ma

My son caught a fever yesterday. He cries out saying his joints are on fire.

我兒子昨天發了高燒，
他嚷嚷著關節痛得像著火一樣！

Suling

Oh dear! It's too early for dengue. Any rash?
喔，親愛的！
這季節對於登革熱來說還早呢！
他有起疹子嗎？

Ma

No. Sometimes I think he just gets sick to stay in bed and have me look after him. But what can I do?
不，我想他是裝病要我去照顧他，
但我又該如何是好？

Suling

You're right. It's best not to take chances. I'll make this *Yin Qiao San Jia Jian* for you. Make sure you boil it the full four hours and that he drinks it all.
妳說的對！最好還是別冒險
我拿些銀翹散給妳
一定要煮到兩個時辰
而且確定他有喝完

Ma

Even he knows the worse it tastes the better it works.
他會知道良藥苦口的

Suling

(*laughs*) Ah, your sense of humor never gets sick! (*exit in*)
馬夫人妳的幽默感倒是從不生病

Suzhen

(*coming out, calling*) Mrs. Ma, four hours is a long time to be with fever. Soak these leaves in vinegar and crush them to put on his forehead and chest. They should comfort him till the medicine is ready.

馬夫人！
發著燒等藥好的兩個時辰肯定難熬
請用醋浸泡這些葉片後搗碎
並敷在您兒子的額頭和胸口上
相信這樣他會舒服點的

Ma

I don't have any more money.
但我一毛錢都沒了

Suzhen

My gift.
當作是我的一點心意

Ma

Then, thank you. (*goes out. Qing enters.*)
那就多謝了

Suzhen

I'm glad our coming into the household has gone so smoothly. I was worried Xuxian's sister would cause trouble after he left. She's easily tamed with a good meal.
幸好到目前都沒事，許仙出遠門，
我本來擔心他姐姐會找麻煩
但原來她只要有美食就滿足了

Qing

I don't trust her. When I go with her to collect herbs, she criticizes me the whole time.
我還是不信任她！
我和她去採藥草時她一直碎碎念

Suzhen

Be careful! Don't make her nervous.
小心點，別弄得她神經兮兮的！

Qing

It's not fair! I don't like being stuck here as a servant—this is not what we, what I, meditated a thousand years for. You've got what you wanted, but I still need to search.
這一點都不公平！
我才不要被困在這裡當個奴婢
這不是我修行千年要的！
你是找到了你要的，但我還沒啊！

Suzhen

I know. But we have to be patient. Qing, I'm pregnant.
我懂，但我們真的要有耐心。
青，我懷孕了。

Qing

Already? You don't seem very nervous.
什麼？妳懷孕了？
但妳看起來一點都不緊張耶！

Suzhen

Of course, I am. As all first time mothers are.
怎麼可能不緊張
所有初次懷胎的母親都會緊張啊！

Qing

Hasn't it occurred to you that you might give birth to a snake...or worse?
妳從沒想過可能會生出一隻蛇.....
或更糟嗎？

Suzhen

No, I have faith in dominant genes—two legs, two arms, black hair, dark eyes, and ...

這倒不，我很相信顯性基因，
孩子肯定會有兩條腿、雙臂、
黑髮黑眼，還有.....

Qing

A fat tongue. (*shudders*) But don't worry. I'll look after you though I long to stay on the mountain.

還有人類的大舌頭！
不過別擔心，我會照顧妳！
雖然我是很想待在山上啦

Suzhen

You're free to roam as you like, but don't stay out after dark, or Sister-in-law will suspect you're seeing a man!

妳想到處晃晃當然沒有問題
不過記得天黑前回來
不然小姑會以為妳找男人去了呢！

(*Black out*)

Scene 3 At Fahai's hermitage(83)

Fahai

(*Qing is picking herbs on the mountain and accidentally disturbs Fahai. He looks up, startled from his meditation*) What are you doing here?

妳在這裡幹嘛？

Qing

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm picking herbs and didn't mean to disturb you, but I was so distracted....

噢，對不起，我是在採藥草啦！
不是故意要吵到你的
我剛才不小心分心了

Fahai

Why?
為什麼？

Qing

So many strange animals on the mountain that don't belong here. They're frightened and confused. Rabbits, sparrows with clipped wings; carp by the dozens, and red-eared slider turtles from America and....

這山上有好多不屬於這裡的生物
牠們看起來又害怕又困惑
有兔子、斷翅的麻雀、鯉魚、
還有異邦的烏龜和.....

Fahai

They've been released for The Buddha's birthday. The best time for earning merit. 牠們因為慶祝佛祖誕辰而被放生了

這是積陰德的絕佳機會

Qing

Yes, but surely not the best way. Most of these creatures will starve to death. Those that survive will be a danger to the native animals. I've heard you protect the mountain—you could persuade people not to do this.

佛祖誕辰？但放生肯定不是上策！
這些被野放的生物一定都會餓死
活下來的也會危害到原生動物
我聽說你一直在保護這座山
你可以呼籲人們不要再這樣了啊！

Fahai

Do not presume to teach me my responsibilities. People need a way to demonstrate charity and compassion.

不用你來教我怎麼做
人們需要行善來宣揚他們慈悲為懷

Qing

Acts of charity and compassion should be informed and thoughtful.
這根本不是什麼慈悲好不好！

Fahai

Do not presume to teach me the sutras. Many people make their living by selling the animals for release.

佛經裡的內容不需要妳來教我
很多人是靠賣動物供人放生過活的

Qing

Yes, a profitable business. But hardly merciful. The Buddha would not be pleased.

是賺大錢的生意
但根本沒有憐憫心！
佛祖才不會為了這種事開心

Fahai

Do not presume to understand The Buddha's mind.

不要以為妳可以參透佛祖的想法

Qing

No, I won't. I will quietly let him know mine. (*goes*)

我確實無法
但我會讓祂知道「我的」想法！

Fahai

Twenty years I've lived in peace on the mountain, and now suddenly she appears and captures my heart. (*he sits in 'earth-touching' mudra, closes his eyes*) I close my eyes, but still only see her face. She criticized me, but if I speak out now against the animal release, she'll think I do it for her. I will not be trapped by her beauty. In this case, right action is 'no action'; the ideal form is 'no form.' Ordinary people need forms. Only the highest beings like me know how to show charity and compassion in secret and without self-congratulation.

我已在山中清心寡慾活了二十年
 但現在她的出現擾亂了我的心
 儘管我閉上眼
 她的臉還是深深烙印在我腦海裡
 如果我因為她批評就公開反對放生
 那她一定會認為我是因為她而改變
 我不會被她的美貌所迷惑
 這種情況下，最好的作為就是無為
 正確的行動就是按兵不動
 凡人才需要用行動肯定自己
 只有達到像我一樣境界的人
 才會了解如何默默行善

Scene 4 In Xuxian's pharmacy (125)

Chan

(enters) Good morning, Miss Liang!
 早安，梁姑娘！

Suling

Xiao Chan! To what do I owe this unusual honor? Have you run out of an ingredient and come to pay a high price for some of ours?
 小陳！我何德何能有這榮幸啊！
 你是藥草賣完了
 想來這我們這高價買進嗎？

Chan

(laughs) No, but if that ever happened, here is exactly where I'd come....Everything looks the same.
 當然不是，但如果的是的話，
 我一定會來這裡
 這裡什麼都沒變呢

Suling

Why, of course.
 怎麼說？當然一樣啊！

Chan

I expected some change. *(sniffs)* Smells good. I keep hearing stories about how wonderful your cures are, and curiosity got the better of me. Your brother is still in the city?
 我以為…會有什麼改變
 好香喔！
 我一直聽大家說妳的藥有多棒
 所以我才想來看看
 你弟弟還在城裡嗎？

Suling

Oh yes, I'm not sure when to expect him back.
 對，我也不知道他什麼時候回來。

Chan

Then you're the better doctor. You've magically cured Mr. Chao of his gout. Mrs. Fu's arthritis that always acts up this time of year has disappeared, and old mother Ma goes about with a smile boasting of her son's strength. You certainly know how to make your customers happy. I don't see any dried sharks' fin or birds' nest on your shelves. Your jars of cicada husks and seahorses are almost empty too. A pretty woman's smile works more wonders than I imagined.

那你就是這裡最好的大夫了！
你神奇的治好了老趙的痛風
傅夫人每年發病的痛風也消失了
還有馬夫人整天炫耀兒子變得強壯
你一定知道怎麼讓你的病人開心
你的藥架上沒有半個魚翅或燕窩
那些裝蟬殼跟海馬的罐子也快空了
美人的笑容比我想像中的還有用

Suling

What a charming thing to say, Xiao Chan; but you know I'm older than you and should be shown more respect.

你嘴真甜啊小陳，但我年紀比你大
你應該對我尊敬些

Chan

Only by a year. I spent five years studying in the city and I return to find you unchanged. I suspect you've discovered the Elixir of Eternal Youth and are making it in the back of your shop.

也不過大一歲而已
我花了五年在城裡念書
回來發現你竟然一點也沒變
我猜你是把青春永駐藥藏起來了吧

Suling

Ah, if only that were true. The long hours of plucking herbs in raw weather have aged me quickly.

如果是真的就好了
長年在濕冷的天裡採藥讓我老很多

Chan

Not at all. Your cheeks are plump and your eyes bright. You're the best advertisement for your shop.

一點也不會
你的臉頰那麼紅潤，雙眼如此明亮
你就是你們藥鋪的活招牌

Suling

Now you're getting carried away. Have you come for any other reason than to make me blush?

現在你變得有點太諂媚了
你除了讓我臉紅還有其他事嗎？

Chan

Yes, I want to take advantage of your brother's absence to talk to you privately.
我想趁你弟弟不在和你討論一些事

Suling

I see. (*she pours tea*)

原來如此

Chan

We have been in unfriendly competition recently.
我覺得我們最近似乎開始惡性競爭

Suling

Ever since you came back with so many new ideas, you've sparked everyone's desire to be up-to-date.

自從你帶回這麼多醫藥知識後
每個人都渴望得到最新的藥材

Chan

Xuxian is now off trying to do the same. But many of my ideas I haven't been able to implement. As my father grows older; he's increasingly stubborn and just doesn't understand the new ways of doing business.

許仙不也正往城裡學些新醫術
但我很多想法根本無法實行
都是因為我那頑固的老父親
他不了解屬於新世代的經營模式

Suling

My brother suffers the same disease.
我弟弟也有一樣的毛病

Chan

Well, that's why I've come. You and I think alike...and are unmarried.

這正是為什麼我會在這裡了
我覺得我們的想法一致
而且都還沒成親

Suling

I don't quite understand...
我不明白你的意思

Chan

I think you do. If we marry and merge our businesses, we can capture the entire market. We're foolish to be working so hard and scraping by with so little when the opportunities to expand are so good.

我相信你懂
如果我們能結親而且一起經營事業
我們就能獨佔所有的生意
若我們還不抓住這大好機會
就只能像笨蛋一樣繼續賺蠅頭小利

Suling

(sighs) How many nights I've lain awake thinking the same. I've tried to persuade Xuxian.
好多次我輾轉難眠想著一樣的事
我也曾試著說服許仙

Chan

Then you and I...
那我們.....

Suling

You and I...(hears rustling in the back and pulls away)
你和我.....

Suzhen

(comes in with snacks) I heard the tea cups rattle and assumed a guest had come. Mr. Chan, what a pleasure to see you. Your father is well?
剛聽到有人在倒茶
想說肯定是有客人來了！
陳公子，真高興見到您
您父親最近如何？

Chan

Yes, and yourself? It must be difficult to have your husband away so soon after your marriage. (he eats)
他很好，你呢？
丈夫成親不久就離家一定很累吧？

Suzhen

Of course I miss him. But we're kept busy.
我確實很想念許仙
但畢竟我們都非常忙碌

Chan

Now I must go. If there's any way I can assist you in his absence, please do not hesitate to call. Good day. (exits)
我得要離開了。
如果你有任何需要我幫忙的地方
請不要客氣，告辭了。

Suzhen

That was very decent of him.
他看來挺不錯的

Suling

No, I don't trust him. I'd be happy if Xuxian did not know about this visit right away. It would give me a little time to find out what Xiao Chan is really up to. He laughed when he saw that Xuxian won't sell any more animal parts, not even seahorses.
不，我不相信他。
不要讓許仙知道小陳今天來過

我才有時間去查查小陳的目的
他知道許仙也不賣海馬時可開心了

Suzhen

I'm glad he doesn't after he told me they're disappearing. If one of a pair dies, the other won't mate again. I think poems should be written about seahorse fidelity.

許仙告訴過我這些動物瀕臨滅絕
他後來也不賣這些藥材了
妳知道若海馬夫妻中有一隻死去
另一隻就不會再找別的海馬了！
應該要寫詩讚揚這樣的忠貞才對！

Suling

Men like to eat them for virility, and you can never stock enough for that.

男人都為了男子氣概喜歡吃海馬
所以永遠供不應求

Suzhen

(puzzled) But it's the male that carries the eggs.

可是孵卵生子的都是公海馬欸！

Suling

What? The males get pregnant? *(they laugh)* Ah, my soft-hearted soft-brained brother. Next, he'll be saying we can't eat pork because the pig protests. *(exit)*

什麼？男人可以懷孕？
我那軟心腸的弟弟
下次他就會說我們不能吃豬肉
因為豬會抗議

Qing

(enters) Suzhen, look what I've found.

素貞，看我找到了什麼！

Suzhen

What is it?
這是什麼？

Qing

Don't you recognize it? A pangolin, sweet shy little anteater. I rescued it from a trap.

Poachers are setting them all over the mountain.

看不出來？穿山甲！愛吃螞蟻的！
我把牠從陷阱裡救出來的
那些盜獵者把陷阱佈滿整座山

Suzhen

But why?
怎麼會有這種事？

Qing

Chan is selling the scales as ‘good for the heart.’ A little sympathy would be better for peoples’ hearts. Oh, the more I learn about humans, the more I respect snakes.

小陳宣稱穿山甲的鱗片對心臟很好
有著憐憫之情對心臟還比較好吧！
越了解人類越覺得還是蛇比較高尚

Suzhen

What are you going to do with it?
那你打算怎麼安置這隻穿山甲？

Qing

Keep it in the herb garden—it eats only ants. Don’t tell Sister-in-law. She’ll want you to cook it up.

把牠養在藥草園裡，牠只吃螞蟻！
不要告訴蘇菱喔！
她絕對會要你把穿山甲給煮了！

(Black out)

Scene 5 In Xuxian’s pharmacy (230)

Suling

(holding letter) This is just like him. I told Xuxian to get back before the rainy season and now he’s delayed so long he’ll have to wait till after the Ghost month. Stupid boy! And he must have forgotten that next Tuesday is Mulian’s festival.

這就是許仙的作風
我告訴他要在雨季前回來
現在他拖那麼久
只能等到鬼月才回得來了，蠢蛋！
他一定忘記下周二就是中元節了

Suzhen

I’m sure he’s not forgotten. Something important must have detained him.
我相信他沒有忘記
肯定是有什麼重要的事才耽擱了！

Suling

If you had told him you were pregnant he would have returned fast enough.
如果你早點跟他說你懷孕的事
他一定早就飛奔回來了

Suzhen

I thought it best not to distract him from business.
還是別打擾他做生意比較好

Suling

Business! The word isn’t in his vocabulary. Our father was just like him, the beloved doctor treating people for free. If it hadn’t been for our mother’s careful management, we would have starved. He got all the acclaim and she was ridiculed for her penny-pinching.
什麼生意！他根本就沒放在心上！

我父親也像他一樣
 是個受人愛戴替人免費治病的大夫
 要不是有我母親用心持家
 我們早就餓死了
 我父親得到了眾人的讚美
 而我母親卻被說成守財奴

Suzhen

Xuxian knows he'd be lost without you. Tell me what we must do for the festival.
 許仙知道他不能沒有你
 請告訴我該為中元節做些什麼吧！

Suling

First we must help sweep and cleanse the temples. And then bring cooked offerings.
 首先我們必須幫忙清掃祠堂
 然後奉上煮好的供品

Suzhen

And offerings outside the house?
 供奉在屋子外面嗎？

Suling

Of course. I'll burn the paper money. I also invite Fahai to chant the *Yu lan ban* at the family shrine. You must make a good impression on him. And perhaps, it's best to keep your sister out of sight. Her sharp tongue might offend him.

當然！我會燒些紙錢
 也會請法海在祠堂前吟唱孟蘭盆
 你一定要讓他對妳有好印象
 如果可以的話，請你妹妹不要出現
 不然她的伶牙俐齒一定會惹惱法海

Suzhen

I'll send her up the mountain.
 我會請她先上山去的

Suling

But make sure she's back before dark. She'd be great temptation for a hungry ghost. (*goes*)
 但要確定她天黑前會回來
 對餓鬼來說小青可是秀色可餐呢！

Qing

(*enters*) The town is buzzing. What's going on?
 村子好熱鬧！有什麼新鮮事啊？

Suzhen

Ghost Month and preparation for Mulian's festival.
 是鬼月啊，大家忙著準備中元節！

Qing

Ah, I've seen those ugly Hungry Ghosts hovering around. Long skinny necks and bulging bellies they look like.....like a snake that's just eaten a rat. (*giggles*) But why are they showing up now?

我有看過那些四處遊蕩的餓鬼
他們長長的脖子和圓圓的肚子
看起來就像剛吃了老鼠的蛇！
但祂們現在為什麼會出現呢？

Suzhen

Remember Mulian had to rescue his mother from Hell after she kept the money he had given her to donate to the monks. Because of her greed, he had to make food offerings to appease her Hungry Ghost and then persuade The Buddha to allow her a human rebirth. Greedy mother, dutiful son.

傳說目蓮的母親私吞供養僧侶的錢
死後墮落地獄
為了讓母親得以轉世重生脫離苦海
目蓮必須準備食物給地獄的惡鬼們
貪婪的母親與孝順的孩子！

Qing

More like greedy monks! I bet Sister-in-law is making a fat red envelope so she can be greedy the rest of the year.

更像貪婪的和尚吧！
蘇菱沒準會包個超大紅包
好讓自己得以繼續貪心

Suzhen

Shush! She's right to worry about you not controlling your tongue when Fahai comes. 小聲點！

難怪蘇菱擔心法海來時你會冒犯他

Qing

Oh, so he's visiting us too?
所以他也要來？

Suzhen

Be good, do you hear!
乖一點，聽見沒！

Qing

Even better, I'll be absent. I'll go to the Nu Wa shrine on top of the mountain. Nobody goes up there anymore. People think we snakes are cruel, but they set up ceremonies to hide their cruelty from themselves. Nothing but hypocrisy! (*exit*)

我會消失的！
我要去山上的女媧廟
現在根本沒人要到那了
人類認為蛇族極其凶狠
但卻舉辦一堆儀式掩飾自己的殘暴

人類真是有夠偽善！

Suzhen

(goes to family altar and lights incense) Merciful Kwan Yin, protect my husband from all harm. Lord Buddha, comfort me. Revered mother and father of Xuxian, in all ways, I will serve you till the end of my humble life.

慈悲的觀音啊，請保佑我的丈夫
崇高的佛祖啊，請給我力量
敬愛的許仙爹娘，都請幫助我吧！
我願意奉獻渺小的己身！

(Black out)

Scene 6 In Xuxian's pharmacy (289)

Suling

(Suzhen is chopping vegetables) Fahai should be coming soon. *(looks out)* Amitofo!
法海就快到了！阿彌陀佛！

Suzhen

What?
咦？

Suling

He's here already!
他已經到了！

Suzhen

Calm yourself. Everything is ready. *(Fahai enters with monks, women bow)*
別擔心，全都準備就緒了

Suling

Thank you, holy one, for your blessings. Though we only heal the rude body while you liberate the soul, we both devote ourselves to ease the suffering in this life.

謝謝您的祝禱，我們僅為人治病
你卻能超渡眾生
我們同是奉獻己身為人消除苦難

Fahai

I know your brother is the best pharmacist in town, but this year reports of his cures have been.... astonishing. Where is he?

我知道你弟弟是村裡最好的藥師
但這些年來他調配的藥的藥效……
好得令人吃驚
他在哪裡？

Suling

My foolish brother went to the city with Dr. Ping.
我弟與平大夫一起去城裡了

Fahai

Too bad. I'll miss our chat and game of chess, but I'll chant an extra prayer for his safe return.
(*Suzhen looks up in thanks, he stares at her*) Who is this woman?

真可惜，我懷念我們的對談和棋局
但我會祈禱他的平安歸來
那個女人是誰？

Suling

My foolish brother's wife. I was against the marriage, but she has proved useful in the kitchen and knows herbs.

那是我弟弟的妻子
我一開始反對這樁婚事
但顯然她在廚房和藥房還是有用的

Fahai

Ah, now I understand. That explains the miraculous cures. I advise you not to experiment with supernatural knowledge. People might be happy at first, but if something goes wrong, their suspicions and anger will know no bounds.

喔，我懂了。
這樣那些奇蹟般的藥物就說得通了
我建議您不要嘗試超自然的知識
人們剛開始可能會為此感激
但要是出了差錯，他們會起疑且非常憤怒

Suling

I have often said the same thing, but my foolish brother is always eager to keep up with new fashions.

我也是這樣想
但我那愚蠢的弟弟一直想趕流行

(*Suling gives him a red envelope*)

Suzhen

(*offering food*) Please take some refreshment before you go.

離開前請用些茶點

Fahai

(*ignores her*) Tell your brother that I look forward to hearing about his travels the next time I come. Perhaps it will be sooner than we expect. (*Fahai goes*)

告訴你弟我很期待聽他的旅途見聞
也許我很快就會再次來訪

Suling

Well, that didn't go too badly! You look pale.

一切都挺順利的！
你看起來好蒼白

Suzhen

I'm a bit dizzy.

我覺得有點暈

Suling

Well, lie down. I'm starving. (*exit*)

來，坐著吧！我也餓昏了。

Suzhen

(*alone*) Oh Xuxian! That monk looked right through me. Oh, he knows! He knows about me! What's going to happen now? Perhaps he won't come down again until after the child is born. Then I'd feel safe. He could say nothing if you're holding your own son in your arms. But what were his last words—warning me that he might come down sooner? Xuxian, hurry back. Tell me you love me whatever happens.

噢許仙！那和尚看透我了！

天啊他知道，他肯定知道的！

接下來該怎麼辦才好？

或許他在孩子出生前不會再下山

真是這樣就好了！

若有了小孩他肯定也不能說什麼的

等等，他剛最後說了什麼.....

警告我他很快就會再來嗎？

許仙，求求你快點回來，

告訴我無論如何你仍是愛我的.....

Black out

Scene 7 At Xuxian's pharmacy. All sitting around the dining table.(331)

Xuxian

(*laughing*) I walked so fast Dr. Ping could barely keep up with me, but the journey seemed endless.

我走太快了，平大夫根本跟不上我

真是趟看不到盡頭的旅途啊

Suling

The city! Tell us about the city. What medicines? What diseases?

城裡怎麼樣？

快告訴我們有關那裡的事！

有什麼新藥？什麼新病？

Xuxian

Cancer is the big one everyone talks about, and AIDS, the big one no one does.

癌症是最多人感興趣的

愛滋病卻沒人關心

Suling

We're lucky not to have that ugly business here.

幸好我們這裡沒那些噁心的病

Xuxian

(*knowing they do*) Ah, yes. Well, aside from having trouble breathing the polluted air, the old people are in pretty good shape; it's the young people that have me worried.

呃，對呀
 這個嘛，城裡除了空氣髒了點，
 老人的身材都維持得很好
 年輕人才是我最擔心的

Suzhen

Why? All the little princes and princesses have got the best of everything.
 但那些少爺千金要什麼有什麼啊！

Xuxian

Quite. Spoiled all their lives, they think they're not smart enough, rich enough, tall enough, white enough, big-eyed enough. Plastic surgery is the booming business.
 他們全都被寵壞了
 他們覺得自己不夠聰明、不夠有錢
 不夠高、不夠白、眼睛不夠大
 整形手術可是個興盛的行業呢！

Suling

Not much call for that here. Remember Granny Su who wanted to look young and dyed her hair black. When her grandson saw her, he cried and wouldn't let her hold him! (*laughter*)
 這裡整形的人不多
 記得蘇奶奶為了不顯老而染黑頭髮
 結果她孫子都不認得她也不讓她抱

Xuxian

Men are changing their appearance as much as women. They have to impress the employers to get the job...
 男人跟女人一樣開始大改造了
 要讓主子有好印象才能有工作

Suling

To get the money....
 為了得到銀子

Suzhen

To get the girl.
 為了懷抱美人

Qing

To get the son.
 為了結婚生子

Xuxian

The saddest story I heard was of a young man so desperate, he had an operation to break his legs and insert a two-inch segment into the bone.
 我聽到最慘的是個年輕人動了手術
 切開腿骨塞了兩吋的鋼片來增高

Suling

Not so sad if he gets a good job.
 若是他得到一份好工作也算值得

Qing

And as long as he never wants to walk again. Vertical is not always beautiful.
 如果他不介意腿廢了的話啦

又不是要很高才會好看

Xuxian

Now, the reason why I'm so late is that Dr. Ping and I arranged to sell some of our pure mountain herbs under a new label. A premium quality brand that will be sold to a few doctors in the city and then exported abroad.

我會遲歸是因為
平大夫跟我想合作新的藥草品牌
這種優質的藥草會賣給城裡的大夫
再接著賣到國外去

Suling

Oh Brother! Finally you've done something smart.
哇！弟弟，你終於做對了一件事！

Xuxian

(*shows them the boxes and bottles*). What do you think of the design?
你覺得設計怎麼樣？

Suzhen

It's beautiful. Look Qing, it's our mountain!
這真美！小青，妳快看！
這上面是我們美麗的山林呢！

Xuxian

(*aside to Suling*) I don't want Suzhen to work so much.
我不希望素貞太過勞累

Suling

Don't worry, I'll take good care of her. I'm glad the next generation is on the way. That's how it should be. (*she looks downcast*)
別擔心，我會好好照顧她
我很高興你的孩子快要出世了
素貞少做點工作也是當然的

Xuxian

I know it's hard for you.
真是辛苦你了

Suling

I've already called in the midwife to make the pregnancy food.
我已經請產婆準備孕期吃的食物了

Xuxian

That won't be necessary. Suzhen still wants to cook. She knows what she needs.
不需要，素貞還是會想自己煮飯。
她知道自己的狀況
(*midwife enters*)

Suling

But here she is.
但我已經請來了啊

Midwife

(to Suling) Much too thin.

太瘦了

(to Qing) Much too pale, almost greenish.

臉色又蒼白

(to Suzhen) Don't rub your stomach, it makes for a spoiled child.

不要搓肚子，會太寵孩子

Xuxian

Nonsense.

胡說八道！

Midwife

Let me look. Yes, it's a little bit pointed. I'm sure it's a boy.

我看看，肚子有點尖，應該是男孩

Xuxian

More nonsense.

這實在誇張

Midwife

No meat for you till after its born.

生產前不要再吃葷食了

Xuxian

Most nonsense!

這就更是過頭了

Midwife

Do you forget? Tofu, mushrooms, carrots and lettuce for a male child; pickles, meat and fish for a female.

你不知道嗎？

豆腐、蘑菇、胡蘿蔔和高苣能生男

醃黃瓜、肉類和魚類能生女

Xuxian

Superstitious rubbish! Poor peasants had so little meat they had to hope the lack of it would give them a male heir. Our job is to make sure the mother is healthy and comfortable.

(quarrels with Midwife)

都是些迷信的垃圾！

難道窮人沒有肉吃就生不出男孩？

我們只需要確保素貞健康跟舒適

Suzhen

Please don't quarrel. Right now no food appeals to me.

別吵了！

現在我什麼都不想吃

Black out

Scene 8 In Chan's pharmacy, a farce with shadow puppets

Xiao Chan

Mr. Fu, still having trouble reading? Even with more light? I'll give you the best medicine there is. How do I know? Listen, what animal has the best eyesight in the dark? Right, owls. Luckily, I've just purchased this rare barred owl. You boil it with these herbs, eat the flesh and drink the broth. Keep those soft inner feathers. Rubbing them on the skin will make it soft and supple. A special gift for you daughter-in-law.

傅夫人，還是不能好好看書嗎？

點了很多燈也沒辦法嗎？

我能給你上等的藥，我怎麼知道？

猜什麼動物看得最清楚？貓頭鷹！

我正好有些稀有的鷹翅

跟藥草一起煎，全部吃下去

這些羽毛也一起給你

敷在身上對皮膚可好著呢！

當作給你媳婦的禮物

Ah, Little Gao, that's an ugly boil on your back. Too much carrying, you say? Here is a patch of tapir skin to place on it. Tapir, yes that big fat animal from the South. Its fat and skin is very effective. Come back in three days, and I'll put on a new patch.

小高，你的背上有個好醜的膿啊！

很重是吧，把這獾皮敷在身上

對呀！就是南邊那些胖胖的小傢伙

牠們的脂肪跟皮膚可值錢了！

三天後回來我幫你換張皮

All right, you two boys, by your giggling I can guess what you want. But you're too young for that sort of thing. What! Stimulant *and* protection? Here's something effective and cheap. No, I'm not insulting you, I used dog penis myself when I was in the army. What? You want sea cucumber? It's very expensive. And wasted on such strong boys. Well, you're sure to have a good time.

好了你們兩位公子

笑成這副德性我知道你們要什麼

但是你們還太年輕啦！

什麼！你們要春藥又要補藥強身？

哎呀這些便宜又有效啦！

沒開玩笑，我自己是用狗的那話兒

你們還想要海參！那太貴了！

而且用在你們身上是浪費了

好了，你們能好好玩一場了

Mr. Lee, you're looking very hearty. How old are you now? Ninety-three, and still going strong. Tell these good people your secret. Every week a bowl of turtle's blood? You are the living proof of our medicine's effectiveness. .

李老爺，您看著很強壯呢！

您貴庚啊！九十三歲還這麼健康！

告訴大家你的秘訣吧！

每七天喝一碗龜血是吧！

你真的是我們藥鋪的活招牌！

Well, Farmer Jin snake is good...no, not just for sex, but as a general tonic. Snake bile, snake blood, snake pickled in wine are all known for their strengthening properties. Now here is an excellent pit viper .. *(end of puppet show)*

老錦啊！蛇不只有益房事，作為補藥也適合

蛇膽、蛇血、蛇酒都對身體好得很

現在這裡有條上等的蝮蛇.....

Suling

(eavesdropping at Chan's house—watching the puppets—is surprised to see Qing)

Qing

Is Young Chan is experimenting with new recipes? Anything that we might find useful?

小陳是在實驗甚麼新配方嗎？

有什麼有用的嗎？

Suling

He was just recommending snake liquor.

他推薦我們喝蛇酒

Qing

I guess snakes have an obvious appeal for some men....

蛇的確能引起某些男人的興趣呢

Suling

Oh, not just for men. Since they shed the old skin for a clean beautiful new one, the skin is very good for all kinds of skin ailments.

噢！不僅限於男性

蛇會蛻下舊皮，換上新皮，

那皮對任何皮膚疾病都非常好

Qing

I see. If I ate the skin, would it give me a good complexion?

我懂了，所以如果我吃下蛇皮，

我就會擁有美麗的肌膚，是嗎？

Suling

You certainly don't need it. Your skin is perfect. Do you have any secret?

你不需要啦！你皮膚這麼好，
還是你有什麼秘訣嗎？

Qing

Sleep. Lots of sleep.
睡覺啊！大量睡眠！

Suling

Well, come along, Sleeping Beauty, enough of your foolishness.
好，走吧！睡美人，蠢夠了。

Act III

Scene 1 At Xuxian's pharmacy

Xuxian

It's good to see you smiling and the color back in your cheeks. You were so pale, you frightened me.

很高興看到你的笑容跟好氣色
你之前臉色好蒼白讓我很擔心

Suzhen

So many things could have...happened..
最近發生太多事了

Xuxian

I was scared too. But now we've celebrated the boy's first month and he's the healthiest baby I've ever seen. We can relax and be happy.

我也很害怕
不過現在我們的寶寶也滿月了
他真是我看過最健康的寶寶了
這下我們可以放心了

Suzhen

I am, but you spent an awful lot of money on the celebration.

我也很開心
但你花了好大一筆錢在滿月酒上

Xuxian

Our new medicines are doing very well! They passed inspection for export. Last week, our first shipment sold out and new orders are pouring in.

我們的藥賣得很好
他們通過出口檢查了
上禮拜我們第一批貨全賣光了
而且新的訂單也一直來

Suzhen

You sly fellow! Keeping this all secret from me.

你這個討厭鬼
竟然隱瞞我這些好消息

Xuxian

No regrets that you married this shy clumsy boy?
你不後悔嫁給害羞又笨拙的我嗎？

Suzhen

I only hope our son has the same lovable qualities. By the way, where is he?
我只希望我們的兒子也這麼討喜
對了，我們的兒子呢？

Xuxian

With my sister. She seems to have forgotten her own unhappiness. She was once engaged when our parents were still alive, and the boy died in an accident. Everyone took it as an ill omen and no family ever dared to make her another offer.
他和姐姐在一起
她看起來是忘掉了從前的不愉快
在爹娘有生之年她曾有一門親事
但姐姐的未婚夫在意外中死了
大家都說這是個不祥的預兆
後來也沒有人敢幫她提親了

Suzhen

I'm glad the child makes her happy.
我很高興我們的兒子讓他開心

Xuxian

The only one who still seems restless is Qing. We should look for a husband for her.
現在只剩小青了
是時候該為她找個對象

Suzhen

Uh, no. I don't think so.
不好吧，我不這麼認為耶！

Xuxian

(*Ma enters shop*) Good morning, Mrs. Ma, what is...?
早安，馬夫人！有什麼.....

Ma

Come quickly. My boy has been vomiting for two days.
快！我兒子都吐兩天了！

Xuxian

Why didn't you come earlier?
妳怎麼不早點來？

Ma

He complains so much I usually wait to see if it's serious, but this time he tried to hide it from me. He's scared.
他整天抱怨這裡痛那裡病了

但我通常會等等看是否真的很嚴重
但這次他想瞞著我，他非常害怕

Xuxian

Scared of my medicines no doubt.
一定又是怕吃藥啦！

Ma

He coughs, has trouble breathing.
他一直咳嗽，呼吸困難

Xuxian

(calls out) Suling! *(Suling enters and he whispers)* I'm going to go see him, but I'm sure I'll be back soon. *(leaves)*

蘇菱！

我要去看看他，我很快就回來。

Suzhen

Here comes Mayor Xia. He looks worried, too. *(Xia enters)*
村長來了！他看起來很緊張。

Suling

Mayor Xia, I hope your family is....
村長，希望你們家.....

Xia

My father is unwell. Where is Xuxian?
我父親很不好！許仙在哪？

Suling

He just went to Mrs. Ma house. We're entering the cold season now. You have to keep the elderly warm and comfortable. They feel the cold more.

他剛去馬夫人家了

現在越來越冷了

你要多注意老人家的保暖

他們比較怕冷

Xia

I've already given him 'fragrant meat' soup. He's wheezing...like this.

我已經給他熬了香肉湯

但他還是喘得很...像這樣

Suling

Have you consulted Dr. Ping?

你有問過平大夫嗎？

Xia

He says it's pneumonia. Here's the prescription.

他說是肺炎，這裡是處方箋

Suling

Ah, then I can prepare it for you. (*whispers*) Suzhen, is there anything extra I should add?
我幫你準備一下
素貞，有什麼藥是我可以加的嗎？

Suzhen

Well, perhaps a little dryopteris (*guanzhong*) and a gram of Isatis leaf (*daqingye*).
你放一些貫眾跟一克的大青葉

Suling

There you go.
這是你的藥

Suzhen

Make sure those taking care of him wash their hands frequently....
照顧您父親的人要常洗手保持乾淨

Xia

Yes, yes, all right. But do you have any shark's fin? It's still good medicine. No? Then I'll have to go to Chan's. (*exit*)
好好好，你們有魚翅嗎？
這可是好藥呢！
沒有？那我只好去小陳那買了

Suling

We've treated his family for so long and now he has no loyalty.
我們替他家服務這麼久
現在他竟然要到別家去

Suzhen

Shark's fin will do no good for pneumonia.
而且魚翅對肺炎真的沒有幫助

Suling

Good morning, Mrs. Gao. We're having quite a busy morning.
早安，高夫人
我們今天早上客人很多呢！

Gao

My father isn't well. He was over at Mayor Xia's house playing cards with Old Xia, and now both old men are ill.
我父親現在的狀況不太好
前陣子他到夏村長家和老夏打牌
結果現在兩位老人家都病了！

Suling

They're both heavy smokers.
他們菸都抽得很兇

Gao

My father smokes for health, but he doesn't feel like it now. He's short of breath. And has a high fever.
我父親為了健康而抽菸
不過現在他喘不過氣還發高燒

Suling

Fever? The cold months are cruel to the elderly. There you go, Mrs. Gao, for the fever.
發燒？冬天對老人家比較難熬。
這給你，退燒用的。

Gao

I don't know what he'd do if *I* got ill. I'm the only one who has the patience to look after the bad tempered old fellow. (*exits*)
真不知道我要是病了他該怎麼辦
只有我有耐心照顧那臭脾氣老頭

Black out (sounds of many sick people groaning in pain)

Scene 2 At Xuxian's pharmacy

Suzhen

(*Xuxian enters*) You look exhausted....again.
你看起來又是這麼累

Xuxian

I know.
我知道

Suzhen

What's going on?
怎麼了呢？

Xuxian

I don't know.
我也不知道

Suling

This week we're even busier than last.
我們這星期又更忙碌了呢！

Xuxian

Something's wrong. Something new. More and more households have sick members. Today I reported to Mayor Xia, and he said, 'Just a seasonal indisposition,' and dismissed me. Then I find out he's making his report to the county. It can't show anything is wrong or he'll lose his job.

有些事不太對勁，有些新病症
越來越多家庭有病患出現
今天我已經向夏村長回報了
他說只是季節性傳染就把我打發走
我發現他也準備就這樣向宮裡回報
講真話會讓他丟了官

Suling

Everyone will find out sooner or later.
大家早晚都會發現的

Xuxian

I've never seen anything like it. (*looks out*)
我從沒遇過這種事

Servant

Come, Old Xia's nurse has died.
快來！老夏的奴婢死了！

Xuxian

How did it happen?
發生什麼事啦？

Servant

She started coughing and got a fever just like Old Xia. Then she stopped breathing. Now no one will go into the old man's room.
她跟夏村長的父親一樣發燒和咳嗽
然後她就停止呼吸了
現在沒人敢進去老夏的房間

Xuxian

Go tell Mayor Xia I'll be right there. And don't tell anyone what's happened. Do you understand? No one!
告訴村長我馬上到
不要告訴別人發生什麼事
懂嗎！任何人都行！

Suling

Brother, don't go.
弟弟，別去

Xuxian

We've got to get this under control; people are beginning to panic.
我們需要控制疫情
村民開始恐慌了

Suling

It's too dangerous. If you get sick...
這太危險了！
萬一你染上瘟疫

Xuxian

I won't come back here and infect you.
我不會回來傳染給你的

Suzhen

How will we be able to take care of you?
那我們要怎麼照顧你呢？

Xuxian

You won't. No one must get near the baby but you, Suzhen. This new disease is too contagious. If people come who are still healthy, recommend *banlan* root to strengthen the immune system. And give them gauze. (*goes*)
別在意我，素貞
只有你能照顧寶寶，其他人不行

這種瘟疫很容易傳染
如果有人尚未染病
讓他們吃板藍增強免疫力
然後給他們口罩

Suling

Give?
白送給他們?

Suzhen

I'll sew it into masks and then you can sell them. (*Qing enters*)
我會把藥草縫到口罩裡
你就可以賣給大家

Suling

Good idea. Qing, take over the shop for awhile. (*goes*)
好主意，小青，幫忙顧一下店

Suzhen

Oh dear, what's she up to now?
親愛的，她現在要去哪裡呀?

Qing

You don't know? She's been carrying on with Chan's son.
你不知道？她最近在跟小陳約會。

Suzhen

(*laughs*) Ah, that's why she's been looking so content. I thought she was just happy because of the baby. Clearly, she is thinking about her own.
難怪她這陣子看起來那麼開心
我還以為她是因為我的孩子才開心
原來是她有了新歡

Qing

I don't see why you laugh. If her intentions were good, she would have told Xuxian. Xiao Chan thinks he's tricking her to find out our secrets, and she thinks she's tricking him into marrying her.
我不知道你在高興什麼
如果蘇菱真是一片好意
她就會告訴許仙
她自認她在勾引小陳娶她
小陳則是想從她那套出我們的秘密

Qing

(*sees crowd of angry women approach*) Suzhen, go back inside. Ladies, what can I do for you?
素貞，你進去
姑娘們，我能幫你們什麼嗎?

Lao

You can tell us what's going on! Three people have died.
你才該告訴我們發生什麼事！
已經有三個人死了！

Qing

I don't know any more than you. We are cautioning everyone to stay warm, wear masks, and wash your hands...with soap.

我知道的也不比你們多
只能提醒大家多注意保暖
要戴口罩，並用肥皂洗手

Lao

Don't treat us like children.
別把我們當三歲小孩了！

Fu

We want to know how this sickness came. How long it will stay? How do we avoid it?
What's the cure?

我們想知道的是怎麼會出現這種病？
會持續多久？要怎麼預防？怎麼治療？

Qing

Ah, here comes Xuxian now. (*Xuxian enters and Qing disappears inside*)

許仙來了！

Xuxian

Ladies, there's nothing to be worried about. Dr. Ping has just received instructions from the capital. It is best to avoid public places. Stay warm, serve nourishing food, and...

姑娘們，沒什麼好擔心的。
平大夫才剛從城都拿到配方
現在最好遠離公共場所
注意保暖，吃些營養食品，還有

Jin

...wash hands.

……洗手。

Xuxian

Yes, that's very important. The virus can be transferred by dirty hands.

對，這點至關重要
病毒會經過不乾淨的手傳播

Fu

Can't you give us antibiotics?

你不能給我們抗生素嗎？

Xuxian

No, it's a virus. Antibiotics are only good for bacterial infection.

不行啦，這是病毒
抗生素只在細菌感染的時候才有用

Jin

Well, give us something for virus.

那就給我們一些治病的藥

Xuxian

We can sell you a packet of the Jade Screen formula. It's not a guarantee against the virus, but it strengthens the immune system. (*they go*)

我可以給你們玉屏風散
但這不保證能治病
只是能增強免疫力

Suzhen

I'm not sure you reassured them. They think you and all the officials are hiding something.

我不覺得你消除他們的疑慮了
他們認為你和村長都隱瞞著什麼

Xuxian

That's the problem with saying an honest, 'I don't know.'

現在問題就是我也什麼都不知道

Suzhen

They didn't shut the door.

他們沒關門

Xuxian

They're afraid to touch it.

他們怕有病毒

Suzhen

Will many die?

會有很多人死掉嗎？

Xuxian

The weaker ones. The stronger will survive but their lungs might be permanently damaged.

(*calling*) Suzhen, how is the boy?

虛弱的會，強壯的會存活下來。

但他們的肺會一直都有問題

素貞，孩子在哪？

Suzhen

(*off stage*) Sleeping peacefully in Qing's arms.

小青抱著他睡。

Xuxian

Take him away!

快把他抱走！

Suzhen

But....

但是

Xuxian

Who knows who she's come in contact with. Qing, come out now! (*enter Qing*)

誰知道小青接觸過誰？

小青！出來！

Qing

What's wrong? My sister needs some relief.

怎麼回事？姐姐需要休息一下吧！

Xuxian

No one but Suzhen touches the baby, not even me.
只有素貞能帶小孩，連我都不行。

Qing

Is there really nothing we can do?
真的沒什麼我們能幫上忙的嗎？

Xuxian

You can start making up the Jade Screen formula. Fortunately, only we have all the twelve herbs needed for it from Suzhen's garden. I think Xiao Chan's stockpiling of animal parts is going to backfire.

妳可以開始做玉屏風散
還好只有我們有完整藥方
小陳從動物市場買的貨要滯銷了

Suling

Why?
為什麼？

Xuxian

When people learn that the virus started in the southern animal markets they won't want to have anything to do with animals.

大家發現病原是從動物市集來的
他們就不會想跟動物有任何瓜葛

Qing

I've never understood why those horrible markets are so popular.
怎麼這些恐怖的市集會這麼受歡迎

Xuxian

Because quacks like Xiao Chan say they're needed for medicines.
因為就是有小陳那種傢伙
宣稱一定要用動物入藥才有用

Suling

People have short memories. Once the disease is passed, they'll be demanding animals again.
人們都是健忘的
等瘟疫過了，動物市集就會再開了

Qing

At least the sick are being looked after. I've heard in the cities, hospitals have closed their doors; doctors have run away.

至少這些病人都還有人照顧
聽說城裡醫館關門，大夫都跑了

Xuxian

Trust! It's the first thing to go when people are scared. Fahai is the only person everyone trusts. I have to ask him to come.

人們需要的是互相信任！
法海威信很高，我要去請他來。

Servant

(rushes in) Old Xia, the Mayor's father, has died.

夏村長的父親死了！

Xuxian

I'll come immediately.

我立刻到！

Servant

No, the mayor has ordered every house that has a sick person to be quarantined. He's closed the whole town to outsiders. Until the disease has been contained, no one can go in or out. Especially you.

不用！村長下令病人都要被隔離。
他封鎖了村子，除非控制好瘟疫，
否則沒有人可以進出，尤其是你！

Xuxian

But no one is sick here, and I must treat the fever.

這裡沒人生病，而且我必須去治病！

Servant

The Mayor said no. He said... (*hesitates*)

村長說不必了！他說.....

Xuxian

Yes? What?

是？他說什麼？

Servant

That you brought the disease from the city to improve your business. Promote your own brand. You started it, and your foreign wife and her sister helped to spread it. He holds you responsible for his father's death.

這都是你的錯！

你為了好生意故意把瘟疫帶進來！

你的異族夫人和她妹也狼狽為奸！

村長父親的死是你害的！

Suling

(*cries*) It's not true.

不是這樣的！

Xuxian

I don't blame him. Tell Mayor Xia, he has my deepest condolences, and to make sure that he himself avoids all risk of infection. (*servant exits*)

我不怪他，告訴村長我非常遺憾

請他小心注意不要也生病

Suling

We're done for. He'll be our enemy forever.

我們完了，他將永遠與我們為敵

Qing

You mean, for as long as he lives.

你是指在他也病死前吧？

Xuxian

Enough!

夠了！

Suzhen

(calls from inside) Dinner's ready.

晚餐準備好囉！

Xuxian

You go in. *(alone)* When small pox used to attack, everyone wanted me to blow a 'magic powder' up the children's nostrils to protect them. When the parents learned it was actually powdered smallpox scabs, they wanted to kill me. But this time I have no magic and no science.

你們進去吧。

從前天花蔓延時

大家總寄望我能撒下魔粉治好孩子

但他們發現魔粉是天花製的疫苗時

可氣得想殺了我呢

但現在的我卻一點法子都沒有

Suzhen

Here's some soup. You have to keep up your strength.

喝點湯吧！你必須保持體力。

Xuxian

Oh Suzhen, you're my pillar of strength. I don't know what I'd do without you.

你真是我的力量

沒有你我不知道該怎麼辦才好

Suzhen

What are you talking about? We're together forever.

說什麼呢，我們會永遠在一起的

Xuxian

Sorry. My thoughts are morbid because of this disease.

對不起，這場瘟疫讓我胡思亂想

Suzhen

At least our family is well-provided for.

沒關係，我們會一直支持你的

Xuxian

Unfortunately, my dear, Dr. Ping has brought me other bad news. Some of our new products are defective.

可是親愛的，平大夫帶來了壞消息

我們有些新藥有瑕疵

Suzhen

That can't be true.

怎麼可能？

Xuxian

I know. He brought me a sample. It was filled with impurities. Then I inspected the box. It looks like ours but the label printing was slightly defective.

我也覺得，他給我的樣本都是雜質，

然後我自己檢查了箱子

看起來像是我們鋪子賣的藥沒錯

但這標籤有問題

Suzhen

A fake!

這是假藥！

Xuxian

Yes, proof of our success! Only close inspection will reveal the difference between ours and the imitations. And now everyone will suspect us.

對！但也證明我們的藥賣得很好

仔細看才能分辨真偽

所以大家才會質疑我們做假藥

Suzhen

Then the only thing we can do is to shut it down completely.

我們只能把整件事壓下來

Xuxian

Yes, but we'll never be able to regain our credibility. And it's my fault.

但我們再也無法挽回商譽了

這全都是我的錯

Suzhen

Don't blame yourself for others' evil. Go to bed, my love. We'll find a way out, but not tonight.

不要因為別人的惡行責怪自己

先睡吧親愛的

船到橋頭自然直，但不是現在

Xuxian

You're right. The morning may bring a little clarity. (*sleeps on bench*)

Black out

你說的對，到了早上會好一點的

Scene 3 At Xuxian's pharmacy

(*knocking in the dark*)

Xuxian

What! Another death? (*lights a candle*) Fahai! You know the whole town is quarantined?

什麼！又有人病死了嗎？

法海！你知道村子被隔離了嗎？

Fahai

Yes, I smelled death even up on the mountain.

我連在山中都聞到了死亡的氣息

Xuxian

Are you ill?

你生病了嗎？

Fahai

No.

我沒有生病

Xuxian

This is a new threat. I don't know how to control it. I'm glad you've come.
這病對我們是個新威脅
我不知道怎麼對付它
我很高興你來了

Fahai

The sickness might be new, but its cause is old.
瘟疫是新出現的，但成因並不是

Xuxian

People take too many medicines. It weakens the body's *chi*. Dr Ping agrees with me, but Chan will never say anything that might hurt his profits.
人們吃太多藥了，這樣很傷氣。
平大夫也贊同這點
但小陳不會同意危害他利益的言論

Fahai

My business here concerns neither Ping nor Chan.
我一點都不在意平大夫或小陳

Xuxian

The virus started in the wild animal markets and jumped to humans.
這個病毒從動物市集傳到人類身上

Fahai

Indeed, it comes from inappropriate relations with animals.
瘟疫的確起自和動物的不當接觸

Xuxian

I'm glad you agree with me. People were beginning to think I was to blame!
我很高興你站在我身邊
人們都覺得我罪該萬死

Fahai

You are to blame.
你是應該受到責備

Xuxian

You mean, I've helped spread it? I wear a mask and wash my hands every time I enter and leave a house.
你的意思是我助長瘟疫的擴散？
我進出一定都會戴口罩和洗手

Fahai

Your pollution is deeper..
你受到的污染更深

Xuxian

Fahai, we're old friends; be careful what you say.
法海，我們都是老朋友了
你說話最好給我小心點

Fahai

You know only the most extreme emergency would bring me here. I come not to save the town, but you, my friend. You're in mortal danger. The one you've married is not a woman but a snake.

如非必要我是不會下山的
我來的目的不是要拯救村子
我是來救你的
你陷入了致命的危機
你娶的妻子是一條蛇！

Xuxian

Oh Fahai, you must have a bit of the fever yourself. Perhaps being alone up there too long has rattled your brain. My wife Suzhen has just given birth to a healthy human boy. No snake, could do that.

法海，你一定是發燒了
或許孤家寡人太久讓你出問題了
我妻子素貞才剛生下健康的小男孩
不是什麼蛇

Fahai

This isn't the time for jokes. Your union not only endangers you, its immorality has brought this sickness.

現在不是開玩笑的時候
你說我的婚姻造就了這場瘟疫？

Xuxian

Wait a minute—you're saying my marriage caused the disease?

等一下
你說會發生瘟疫是因為我的婚姻？

Fahai

It's my duty to help you. You must cast off the snake.

幫助你是我的責任
你必須遠離這條蛇

Xuxian

I won't. Men made up that 'woman as snake' story when they got tired of their lovers and wanted a convenient way to get rid of them. Suzhen is the mother of my child and innocent of any crime. My old friend, I begin to suspect you're jealous. You saw she was kind and beautiful, and knew our friendship would be affected.

不可能。每當男人想離開妻子時，
總是把女人說得跟蛇蠍一樣壞，
這樣他們才有好藉口擺脫妻子
素貞不是壞人，也是孩子的娘，
我的老朋友，我懷疑你是嫉妒，
你看到她的美麗賢慧就動搖了

Fahai

I saw she wasn't what she pretended to be. And she knew I knew. Don't take my word for it. Find out for yourself. (*hands him bottle*)

我看穿她的偽裝，她知道我知情
別只聽我的一面之詞，自己看吧。

Xuxian

(laughs) Hah! So that I'll hallucinate like you? See trees sprout wings and hear the flowers sing. The house cat becomes a tiger, and my beloved wife opens her mouth and a forked tongue wriggles between her lips. No, I won't take your potion, and I won't swallow your lies. I'll call her out now and you tell her to her face. Suzhen!

所以我應該跟你一樣幻想嗎？

天要下紅雨啦，太陽打西邊升啦！

我的妻子是蛇那家貓也會變老虎！

我不會聽你胡說八道！

我現在就叫她出來讓你跟她說！

素貞！

Suzhen

(calls) Xuxian, are you hungry?

許仙？你餓了嗎？

Xuxian

Come, monk, eat with us. Share the rice of someone you unjustly accuse.

來啊和尚！一起吃飯啊！

看你誣告的那位煮的飯味道如何！

Fahai

No, I'll return to the mountain. I'd hoped to do some good. I didn't realize your stubbornness would close your mind to reason.

不了，我要回到山中。

我希望能做些好事

你的執念之深使你毫不講理

Xuxian

Reason? What proof have you given me? Take a potion, you say. No, you prove my love a snake....without this. You forget, monk, I'm a pharmacist; I know what some herbs can do to the mind.

講理？你有證據嗎？要吃藥嗎？

你的控訴毫無根據！

有件事你忘了，和尚，我是藥師！

我知道哪些藥對大腦會有影響！

Fahai

The Xuxian I knew would never talk to me like this.

我認識的許仙不會這樣和我說話

Xuxian

Whatever happens, from now on, our friendship is at an end. Go! *(alone)* He wants me to be suspicious because Suzhen is too perfect. She's healed so many people. And now this virus plays right into his hands. He can blame her, a stranger. I should break this bottle. No, I'll prove him wrong. I'll love her even if she is a snake. *(heats the liquid)*

我們的友誼到此為止！滾！
 他想讓我疑心素貞太完美了，
 素貞醫治這麼多人！
 法海一定是也生病了
 竟然把錯怪到外地人頭上！
 不行，我要證明他是錯的！
 就算素貞是蛇我還是愛她！

Suzhen

(*enters*) I've never been so cold.
 我從來沒覺得這麼冷過

Xuxian

I've heated some new wine. Here, it'll warm us up.
 我燒了一些酒，喝一喝會暖一些。

Suzhen

Wine? It tastes odd. I feel its heat go all the way through me. Goodnight, my love.
 酒？喝起來好奇怪，
 我覺得有股熱力從頭蔓延到全身
 晚安了我的愛人

Xuxian

Good-night, sweet and gentle....wife. Oh, my head's on fire! Everything's moving. Suzhen, are you awake? (*in the dark, holding candle*) No, asleep. She stretches her body, her arm comes out, no, it's not an arm. Her foot comes out, no, not a foot but a scaly tail. Oh, horror....But is it true? Has Fahai's drug made me hallucinate or has she really changed her shape? I can't tell, is it me or her?
 晚安了，親愛的．．．．．妻子
 天啊！感覺像發燒一樣天旋地轉，
 素貞！你醒著嗎？
 不，繼續睡吧
 她動了一下，伸出手來．．．．．
 不，那不是隻手
 她的腳也伸出來了．．．．．
 不，那是條尾巴
 太可怕了！這會是真的嗎！
 到底是法海的藥害我產生幻覺，
 還是素貞真的變成蛇了？
 我分不出來！哪個才是真的？

Fahai's Voice

First, the tail, and then the head, too, will be a snake's. Will you be able to share a pillow with that?
 先是尾巴，再是頭，慢慢變成蛇
 你願意和這樣的動物共枕嗎？

Xuxian

If she has the power to hide her true form, I have the self control not to ask about it.
 如果她有力量隱藏住自己

我能克制自己不去問她

Fahai's Voice

Too late for that. Not today, maybe not tomorrow, but eventually she'll attack you.
太遲了，也許不是這一兩天，
但她最終會攻擊你的

Xuxian

No! She loves me.

不！她是愛我的！

Fahai's Voice

She must return to her true nature. Her humanity is only a temporary disguise. You must leave her to survive.

她終究掩飾不了本性
她的人性是偽裝出來的
你必須讓牠離開你才能安全

Xuxian

I don't want to survive without her.

沒有她我活不下去

Fahai's Voice

Don't talk nonsense. Come to the hermitage to clear your mind. (*Xuxian rushes out*)
別胡言亂語了，來草庵沉思一下。

Black out.

Scene 4 At Xuxian's pharmacy

Suling

There've been no more new cases for over a week. The quarantine's been lifted. Do you think Xuxian went to the city to save our product line?

已經超過一個星期沒有新的病人了
疫情已經和緩下來了
許仙是去城裡搶救我們的生意嗎？

Suzhen

He would have sent a message.

他也應該要捎個信息回來報平安啊

Suling

The last time you saw him, he...?

上一次你看到他，他.....？

Suzhen

He had just learned about the fakes.

他發現了一些真相

Suling

That's why I think he must be doing something about them. He wants to keep the whole business as quiet as possible. We're out of green chiretta. (*chuanxinlian*) I'm going to get some more. (*exit*)

這一定就是他在忙的事
他想要盡力保住我們的生意

穿心蓮沒了，我再去採一些

Suzhen

She's going to the mountain by herself?
她打算自己一個人去山上？

Qing

She's on her way to Xiao Chan's. You think Xuxian knows?

她是要去找小陳吧！
你覺得許仙發現我們是蛇了嗎？

Suzhen

Yes. I'm certain.

對！我很確定

Qing

How can he?

但是他怎麼可能會發現？

Suzhen

I don't know, but he must. It's the only reason he would disappear without a word.

我不知道，但他一定是發現了
這是唯一他會不吭一聲消失的理由

Qing

He wouldn't desert you.

許仙不會拋下你的

Suzhen

Fahai has frightened him! I must go to the hermitage to find him.

法海想必是嚇到他了
我必須去山上找許仙

Qing

No, wait. Xuxian won't stay away. His son is still here.

Black out

別輕舉妄動，許仙不會真的離開，
他的兒子還在這呢。

Scene 5 At Fahai's hermitage

Xuxian

Thank you for taking me in, even after I was so unjust. This has been the hardest time of my life. I've meditated...and prayed, and now, I must return to my family.

感謝你在我非理性時還是讓我進來
這真的是我一生中最糟糕的時候了
我靜過心祈禱，現在我要回家了。

Fahai

No.

不行

Xuxian

I can bear it. I must return.

我撐得住的，我必須回去

Fahai

No, you miss your woman and don't understand the viciousness of the snake.

你想念你的妻子

完全沒有意識到蛇的危險性

Xuxian

I have faith in her loving nature.

我相信她能愛人的本性

Fahai

It is precisely her *nature* that is not loving.

顯然她的本性並不是愛

Xuxian

Then I can love...even a snake.

就算她是蛇，我還是深愛著她

Fahai

Such spirits play to our weaknesses. Have you never considered how or why she so perfectly matches your needs? Because as a flexible snake, she molds herself to you whichever way you turn. But beware the day she chooses to squeeze, and show her fangs. You'll be as helpless as a mouse.

這就是我們靈魂的弱點啊

你想過她為什麼總是能滿足你嗎？

因為她可是條靈活的蛇

不管你怎麼改變她都能迎合得了你

小心等她決定纏在你身上露出獠牙

到時你會比一隻老鼠還無助

Xuxian

I've considered all the risks and am willing to take them.

我考慮過所有風險，我欣然接受

Fahai

I won't let you.

我不會讓你離開的

Xuxian

It's not your decision, or your right.

這不是你能決定的

Fahai

But it is within my power. Return to your room. (*Xuxian exits against his will. Fahai sits down and writes a letter*) I'll write to the snake that I have her husband. She'll come with the child, using it to persuade him to return. Because she loves him, she would do anything to save him.

事實上我會魔法不讓你離開

回去你的房間！

我會寫封信給那條蛇

她會帶著孩子來勸許仙回去

那隻蛇愛著許仙，

她會想盡辦法營救她丈夫

Black out

Scene 6 At Fahai's hermitage.*(Qing enters, interrupting Fahai's meditation.)*

Fahai

What are you doing here?

妳來這幹嘛？

Qing

You were expecting my sister?

你以為我姐會來？

Fahai

Xuxian requested her to come.

許仙要求她來的

Qing

I know who wrote that letter.

我知道那封信不是許仙寫的

Fahai

And I know what you are.

而我知道妳的真面目

Qing

Yes, we meditated for a thousand years and in return, we've been blessed with our human form and mind. Do you defy The Buddha's blessing?

既然你都知道

我與姐姐修練千年才被賜福成人

難道你想違背佛祖的旨意？

Fahai

Your sister did not maintain her purity. She deceived Xuxian.

你的姐姐並沒有保持她的純真

她欺騙了許仙

Qing

She deceived no one. Her love is as pure as that of the best human wife.

我姐姐沒有騙誰

她就跟凡人的妻子一樣深愛丈夫

Fahai

No, she has bound the man, and will soon bind the son. She won't be satisfied till she's caught them both.

不，她已經纏住了許仙

再來他的兒子也是

她沒抓住他們是不會罷休的

Qing

Even if you reveal her to Xuxian, he'll still love her.

就算你告訴許仙真相

他還是會繼續愛我姐的

Fahai

Their feelings no longer matter; the townspeople won't allow it. Even his honesty and her kindness will turn against them. You should be grateful for my warning.

他們之間的感情並不重要

村民們是不會容許這種事發生的

即使他們誠實仁慈廣為人知也沒用
你應該要謝謝我的警告

Qing

Why?
我為什麼要？

Fahai

To end it before the situation turns violent. Once they find out, the people will kill you.
在情況變得更糟前結束這段關係
一旦被村民發現，他們會殺了你

Qing

And drink our blood? Is that why you told Xiao Chan to start the rumor about the sickness
being a punishment for their marriage?
然後把我們姊妹生吞活剝？
這就是為什麼你讓小陳造謠
說瘟疫是因為許仙跟我姐引起的？

Fahai

Their union *is* the cause.
他們的婚姻關係正是元兇

Qing

Nonsense. The filth in the wild animal markets is. The crowded caging and killing, the mix of
blood and shit, fetid breeding ground of bacteria and virus.

胡說八道！

瘟疫是因為動物市集太不衛生了
這麼多人擠在一起屠宰又血肉混雜
根本就是細菌溫床

Fahai

The filth of animals has indeed transferred to humans. The two should remain apart.
動物的汙穢確實已經傳到人類身上
動物與人類應該保持距離

Qing

Then speak out against the poaching and eating of wild creatures....for health!
那你告訴村民不要再打獵跟吃肉了
為了健康！

Fahai

This is not a health issue but a moral one.
這並不是健康問題而是道德問題

Qing

Precisely. The careless genocide of whole species is immoral, not the marriage. Remember, if
you kill my sister, you kill Xuxian too.
說真的，比起這場婚姻，
濫殺動物造成的傷害才是無可挽回
如果你殺了我姐你等於也殺了許仙

Fahai

I save him.

我是在救他

Qing

Monk, why do rail against them when you're silent about so many real evils?

你這和尚為何獨獨找他們麻煩？

明明這麼多壞事在你眼前發生！

Fahai

It transgresses the natural order; It threatens the human family.

這違反了自然界的秩序

它威脅了正常的人類家庭

Qing

I see. The wife beatings, the killing of baby girls goes on, and yet, you say nothing. But a loving couple who has never done anyone any harm, a man who was once your best friend marries a beautiful woman and suddenly your universe collapses.

原來如此，丈夫在家打妻子，

因為重男輕女把小女嬰殺掉

你都覺得沒差

與世無爭的愛侶反而是你的眼中釘

你最好的朋友娶了個美麗的妻子

你的美好世界就崩潰了

Fahai

(*grabs her*) How dare you?

你好大的膽子？

Qing

Hah! You've touched a woman! Now you'll have to spend the next hundred days purifying yourself. (*recants*) No, no. I'm sorry. I beg you to give me a little time and I'll persuade them to leave.

你碰到女人了！

這下花個一百年把你自己弄乾淨吧！

不，我很抱歉。

請給我一點時間讓我說服他們離開

Fahai

As long as they transgress, they cannot escape.

一旦他們違反禁忌

就沒有離開的機會了

Qing

A man who removes himself from humanity to judge it is worse than a snake.

沒人性的人類也不比蛇族好到哪裡

Fahai

You rail at me but you know I'm right. I don't fear or hate snakes. They visit me here, and coil at my feet. I recognize your beneficence and strength, but you must see this relationship is forbidden.

雖然妳罵我，但妳明白我是對的。

我並不懼怕或痛恨蛇

牠們會來找我，蜷曲在我的腳邊。

我認同妳的善行
但妳必須明白這段關係是被禁止的

Qing

If our austerities allowed us to become human, we should be allowed to interact with humans....in every way.

修行這麼久才好不容易變成人類
我們應該有和人類交流的權利
不論在任何方面

Fahai

In every way?

比如說?

Qing

(faltering) In the way....that my sister has.

就像我姐姐那樣與人類相戀

Fahai

But not you?

那妳會嗎?

Qing

I've not been so moved.

我比較不容易被愛沖昏頭

Fahai

Well, go now.

那，現在走吧。

Qing

You won't say anything? You won't let him go?

你什麼都不打算說?

你也不放許仙走?

Fahai

Come again, tomorrow. Perhaps, I'll have found another way...

明天再來

可能我會找到別的方法

Qing

Let Kwanyin's mercy give you inspiration. *(leaves)*

菩薩保佑你找到解決之道

Fahai

Is this her fault or mine? Is it the tempter or the tempted who sins most? I've laughed at Xuxian's folly and counseled other men against women who have the power to lure the clouds out of the sky. Now I, too, feel the sweet poison of the serpent's tooth. *(he closes his eyes and tries to meditate)*. I see nothing but her face. My chanting cannot silence the sweetness of her voice.

這到底是她的錯還是我的?

是誘惑者還是被誘惑的人有罪?

我曾經嘲笑許仙的愚笨

告誡男人防備那些有魅力的女人

但現在我也中了毒蛇的愛情蠱
 我的眼中只容得下她的面容
 我的法力無法揮去她甜美的嗓音

Black out

Scene 7 At Fahai's hermitage

Suzhen

(enters with child) Xuxian, I got your message and came as fast as I could.
 許仙，我收到你的信就立刻來了

Xuxian

I didn't send any message. Go quickly before Fahai comes. He wants to destroy you.
 我沒有寄信給妳
 在法海來之前快走
 他想毀了妳

Suzhen

I don't care. If you still love me then nothing else matters.
 我一點也不在乎他
 如果你還愛我，其他就都不重要。

Xuxian

I do love you.
 我很愛妳

Suzhen

And you know?
 但你發現我是蛇了？

Xuxian

Yes, and still love you. In a moment of weakness, I ran away. But if you can endure, so can I.
 是的，但我還是深愛著妳
 雖然我一時軟弱逃走了
 但既然妳可以忍，那我也可以。

Suzhen

Then there's nothing Fahai can do.
 那麼法海也拿我們沒辦法了

Xuxian

No, he's turning the town against you. You must leave and take the boy with you.
 不行，法海會讓全村都與妳為敵。
 妳一定要帶著孩子趕快走

Suzhen

No, I won't go. Fahai will have to tear us apart. *(she moves toward Xuxian to kiss him but he suddenly shudders and steps back)*
 不，我不走。
 法海要拆散我們就讓他來

Fahai

(jumps out and catches her) Hah, I have you, snake. His mouth speaks of love, but his body tells a deeper truth and rejects you. Xuxian, take the boy and go.

被我抓到了吧！妳這條蛇！
許仙嘴上說著還愛妳
但他的身體卻明明白白地拒絕了妳
許仙，把孩子帶著就離開吧！

Suzhen

Don't leave me.
不要離開我

Xuxian

I can't help it. This is stronger than me. Stronger than my love. *(exit)*
我沒辦法，這不是我能做主的。
我的愛不足以抵抗他

Suzhen

But not stronger than mine! *(Fahai takes her inside)*
但我的愛卻可以勝過他！

Black out

Scene 8 At Fahai's hermitage

Qing

Fahai, come out. Release my sister.
法海！給我滾出來！把我姐放了！

Fahai

Your stormy looks don't frighten me.
你那猙獰的臉是嚇不了我的

Qing

I'm not afraid of you either, you fake monk.
我也沒在怕你！你這假和尚！

Fahai

Leave, while you're still free to do so.
趁妳還能走的時候快離開吧

Qing

Release Suzhen, or I'll bring such storms as this mountain has never seen. Landslides will wipe away the town forever.
把素貞放了
否則我保證會召喚前所未見的風暴
這座村子會永遠埋在土石之下

Fahai

One word from me and the people will drink your blood.
我只需要說一個字
人們就會把妳生吞活剝

Qing

Keep your head bowed, monk. You can't threaten me; I'm no ordinary woman.
收斂點吧和尚，你威脅不了我！
我可不是普通的女人

Fahai

Precisely. As soon as you're challenged, you devolve back to your snake instincts.

果然如此，一旦妳被挑戰或攻擊，
就會顯露出蛇的本性

Qing

I merely fight a misguided power with a just one.

我不過是用法力來對抗邪門歪道

Fahai

That's not a woman's best weapon. If you wish to save your sister, you should be more like her. Tender lips win more than stormy eyes. Control the tempest, and forego your cold-blooded indifference. Show that self same weakness as your sister...

法力可不是女人最強的武器

如果想要救妳姐姐的話

妳可得多和她學著點

溫柔的言語比嚴厲的眼神有用多了

控制妳的脾氣和冷血的本性

學著像妳姐姐一樣顯露出一點柔弱

Qing

And find myself in her position?

然後最後像她一樣被關起來？

Fahai

I'm not muddle-headed like Xuxian. Our powers are more evenly matched.

我不像許仙那麼笨

我們的力量是更為契合的

Qing

Sweet words from a monk's mouth? Shameless now, and ashamed after, when you'd curse me as an evil spirit sent to tempt you. You cannot have it both ways, monk.

和尚的甜言蜜語？真不要臉啊！

你真該羞愧一輩子！

竟然把我詛咒成來誘惑你的邪靈

你什麼都要不到的，和尚！

Fahai

But I can. It's you who are in conflict with yourself. When you became human, you took on a female's destiny.

我可以，妳才陷入了自我矛盾中

當妳變成人類之時

就陷入了身為女人的命運

Qing

I'm still an ancient deity that has never submitted to your cult.

至少我也還算是個神

我是不會接受你的膜拜的

Fahai

Submit now, and within three years, I'll release your sister.

乖乖接受吧！

三年後我就會釋放你姐姐

Qing

Why three years?

為什麼要三年？

Fahai

Xuxian will have taken a wife and forgotten the snake.

許仙會娶新的妻子然後忘記這條蛇

Qing

No, never! The tempest begins now.

不！想都別想！

我現在就要召喚風暴！

Fahai

She's imprisoned under the temple. The landslides will only bury her deeper. She'll never be found.

她現在被關在這座廟底下

土石只會把她掩埋的更深

她永遠不會被找到的

Qing

It's you, Fahai, who won't know her fate. You are mortal and will die. (*thunder and lightning*)

Black out

是你，法海，

你才無法左右素貞的命運

你也不過是個難逃一死的凡人

Epilogue

(*Yun stands with a live snake wrapped around her. Grandfather enters aghast.*)

Yun

I found her in a clay pot trapped under the temple. She's been waiting for me so long.

我發現她被困在寺廟下的陶甕裡

她一直在等我

Grandfather

(*frightened*) Put it down, now!

立刻放下牠！

Yun

Don't come near, you'll frighten her.

別過來，您會嚇到她的

Grandfather

It'll bite you. It'll strangle you to death.

牠會咬傷妳的，甚至會勒死妳

Yun

No, she knows who I am. We've been separated by many misunderstandings, but we've found each other at last. (*Yun kneels down and lets the snake glide off*) Now, she'll return to her home and I to mine.

才不會，她知道我是誰
我們因為許多誤解而分離
但我們最後還是會找到彼此
現在她要回她的世界，而我也是

Grandfather

I should never have told you the story.

我實在不該告訴妳這個故事

Yun

You couldn't help it. I would have found out anyway. Once there were two snakes, one white as cloud and the other green as bamboo, who meditated for a thousand years and finally achieved their wish to become human. (*crack of thunder, two giant puppet snakes dance*)

我遲早還是會知道這個故事的
很久很久以前，有兩條蛇，
一條白如雲，一條綠如竹，
她們修練千年，最終如願幻化成人。

The End