

Catherine Diamond (戴雅雯)©2015

The Snakes 蛇姐妹

Act I 第一幕

Characters in order of appearance:

角色依出場順序排列

Grandfather, 爺爺

Yun, 雲

Snake dancers, 蛇跳舞者

Suzhen, 素貞

Xiao Qing, 小青

Boatman, 船夫

Liang Xuxian, 梁許仙

Mayor Xia, 夏鎮長

Liang Suling, 梁蘇菱

Mrs. Ma, 馬夫人

Monk Fahai, 法海

Xiao Chan, 小陳

Midwife, 穩婆

Shadow Puppeteers, 演著皮影戲

Mrs. Gao, 高夫人

Servant, 僕人

Miss Lai, 賴小姐

Miss Fu, 符小姐

Miss Jin, 金小姐

Prologue 序幕

(A bare mountain top. Grandfather and Yun have been searching all day.)

(爺爺和雲正在光禿禿的山頂找一整天了)

Grandfather

I'm tired, let's go back.

我累了，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.
我實在不該告訴你的。

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.
但我絕不是要你白費力氣地探究它，我要把這個秘密帶進棺材裡。

Yun

Oh, oh, look! (she runs off stage and comes back) Just another white root. They fool me each time. (*goes off*)
噢！噢！你看！（雲跑下舞台又跑回來）又是一條白色的根莖而已，我每次都會上當。（下台）

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*) Yun, where are you? Come back now. Yun? Yun!
別跑太遠呀！天快黑了。（自言自語）她太著迷了，我想我當年第一次聽到那倆蛇姐妹的故事時也是這樣。兩條蛇，一條潔白如雲，一條蒼翠如竹…
（驚恐地抬頭呼喚道）雲？你在哪？趕緊回來！雲？雲！

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

(雷聲轟隆，兩條有著中國舞獅風格的傀儡蛇跳起舞來)

Scene I At the lakeside

第 1 場 湖畔

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.

新長出來的手指刺痛著，充滿了生命力和精力但我的舌頭在嘴裡卻像塊僵死的疙瘩全身的肌肉遲鈍不已，彷彿剛從長眠中甦醒。

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.

你看！新長出來的手腳好長啊！但我們再也不能在洞裡滑行或在樹上爬了我們成了笨拙的畜牲！

Suzhen

I suppose we're delicate...for humans.

我想我們現在算溫室裡的花朵...對人類來說的話。

Qing

Well, let's go find out what they think of us!

好吧，那去看看人類是怎麼看我們的吧！

Suzhen

No...it's too dangerous.

不，這樣很危險。

Qing

What was the point of meditating so long if we aren't going to take this final test?

如果不進行最後的試煉，那修煉這麼久有什麼意義？

Suzhen

You know we only look human.

你知道我們只是「看起來」像人而已吧？

Qing

If they're so vicious why did we even want to become human?

如果人類那麼邪惡，那為什麼我們要變成人類？

Suzhen

Now that I am one I forget...

現在我變成人了，但我卻忘了為什麼要變人。

Qing

We wanted to understand why they hate us.

因為我們想了解人類為什麼恨蛇類。

Suzhen

(interrupts) We wanted to be human because it was the highest form of mortal existence.

(打斷) 我們想成為人類，是因為這是生命的最高境界。

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)*

我從來不相信這個。要找到答案只能混到人群中和他們一起過日子。

對面那小鎮感覺是個展開新生活的好地方，走吧！(她準備跳進去水裡)

Suzhen

(catches Qing by her clothes) You can't just plunge in.

(抓住小青的衣服) 你現在不能直接跳入水裡！

Qing

Oh, right. Damned inconvenient.

好啦！麻煩死了。

Suzhen

(sees a Boatman) Boatman, we want to cross.

船家，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.

你可以先載我們過去再划回來。

Boatman

No!
不行！

Qing

Why you...
你竟敢...

Suzhen

Qing, stop. Oh, it's beginning to rain.
小青！夠了。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.
(對船夫說話)聽著！載我們過去，我們付你雙倍的錢，不然(壓低聲音)...我就勒死你！

Suzhen

Please, it's raining so hard your passenger probably won't come.
拜託你了，雨下這麼大，本來預定的客人很可能不來了。

Boatman

Here he comes now.
他這不就來了。

Xuxian 許仙

(enters) What's wrong?
(進場)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！風雨就要來了。

Boatman

(to Qing) You'll keep your word and pay me double?

(對小青說話) 你會遵守承諾付我兩倍的錢嗎？

Qing

Row, tortoise.

好好划你的船，你這烏龜！

Xuxian

You have no umbrella? (he holds his umbrella over Suzhen).

你忘了帶傘嗎？(把傘遞給素貞)

Suzhen

Thank you.

多謝。

Xuxian

Take the ladies home first.

先載姑娘們回去。

Qing

Where do you live, sir?

請問公子家住何處？

Xuxian

Not far from the Qian Tang Gate.

在錢塘門附近。

Qing

(pretends) We live near there, too.

(故作驚訝) 巧了，我們也住那附近

Xuxian

Really? *(to Suzhen)* Then you must know my pharmacy. My name is Liang Xuxian.

是嗎？(對素貞說話)那兩位一定聽過我的藥鋪，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.

多謝公子讓我們一同搭船。

Xuxian

Take the umbrella with you.

這兩傘你們就拿著吧。

Qing

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

(素貞拒絕許仙的傘，但小青拿了) 我們明天會還你的。

Xuxian

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

好，不了，我還是自己去拿好了。姑娘方才說府上在？

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.....雨聲路的轉角處那裡。(小青對著素貞耳語)那裡一定有一條叫雨聲路的吧？

Black out 黑場

Scene 2 At Xuxian's pharmacy

場景 2 許仙的藥鋪

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，你這懶惰的廢物！跟你說過多少次了，要在破曉前去採藥。

Xuxian

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

(許仙感冒了，邊流鼻涕邊打噴嚏) 好啦，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，我們必須更努力才行，老陳的兒子也回來賣藥了，我們的客人已經開始跑到他那裡了。

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.

別擔心。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.

你和仙女...你是做春夢吧！快去！別讓老陳的手下把整座山都拔光了。

Xuxian

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

(更衣)別擔心！他們不知道哪兒能取到最上等的藥材，只會把藥混在一起，優劣不分。

Suling

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

所以他們才賣比較便宜！除了學他們降價，還能怎麼辦？

Xuxian

Not as long as Dr. Ping still recommends us.

沒事的，平大夫開了藥方後，病人都是來我們舖子抓藥。

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.

平大夫老了，他的病人也老了，長點企圖心吧！

你該去城裡去招攬更多生意，還有，我們應該從醫師世家中給你挑個媳婦。

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.
我代盡了父母的責任養大你，你該聽我的。

Xuxian

I'll think about it. First to the mountain.
我再考慮考慮，我先上山去了。

Black out. 黑場

Scene 3 At the Snake Sisters' house

第3場 蛇姐妹家

Qing

(playing cards) I'm tired of waiting. Perhaps he isn't as eager as he seemed.
(打牌) 等得人煩死了，或許他沒表面上那麼想來。

Suzhen

It was so embarrassing. I'm so used to people running away from me.
太難堪了，我已經很習慣人們都會避開我。

Qing

(knocking) Speak of the human!
(敲門聲) 說許仙許仙到！

Xuxian

Hello, I've just come...
你好，我來...

Qing

To get your umbrella.
來拿你的雨傘。

Suzhen

Why, you're all wet! Come in.
你全身怎麼都濕透了！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(拿出他的麻袋)，這暴風雨真是來得令人措手不及。

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，我和姐姐都十分精於此道。
(許仙把藥草一一攤開，兩姐妹研究起藥草，他看著素貞)

Suzhen

Yes, quite good quality, but there are better higher up...
這些都不錯，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.
我一年只上山頂兩次，因為太危險了，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?
(耳語) 你們倆...可曾婚配？

Qing

No. Are you?
還沒，你呢？

Xuxian

Not yet, but just this morning my elder sister was saying I must marry soon.
我也還沒，今早家姐還催我快成親呢！

Qing

And what did you tell her?
那你怎麼說？

Xuxian

That I would make my own choice.
我希望能自己做選擇

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.
是啊，小妹，你看穿我了，我思慕你美麗的姐姐。但我只是一個窮藥師，怎麼配得上她呢？一個無名小卒不能這樣突然出現，還期待著她是外貌協會。

Qing

Your face is not bad.
你長的還過得去。

Xuxian

Hers is the loveliest I've ever seen. And she moves with some otherworldly grace, I can't quite explain.
她的臉是我見過最美的，一舉一動優雅得不似塵世中人，我無法用言語形容。

Qing

Then it's best not to try.
那你最好還是別說了。

Suzhen

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

(進場) 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...
我們梁家賣藥已經賣四百多年了，但我怕生意不再興旺，最近幾番波折讓我感覺...

Qing

A lobster in a boiling pot?

像沸水裡的龍蝦？

Xuxian

Not exactly.

也不全是這樣。

Qing

But you are turning red.

但你臉都紅了。

Suzhen

Qing, let Mr. Liang speak.

小青，別打斷梁公子說話。

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，有名醫平大夫支持我，他可救過鎮長的命呢！

但我不能永遠靠他幫助，還是得自尋出路。

Qing

What are you going to do?

那你有何打算？

Xuxian

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

我不知道，現在人們總是為誤導人的仿單和掛羊頭賣狗肉的藥物所騙。

Xuxian

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

我們的傳統藥物蔚為風潮，但隨著人們愈發富有，他們也愈發對特殊的療法感興趣。

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....

(笑著搖搖頭) 是因為人們的腦袋就是這樣。一聽到有新的疾病開始傳播，他們突然也就得了這病。人們模仿富人的一舉一動，連「生病」都不放過。甚至掀起以珍稀動物為藥材的狂熱風氣，這個的利潤非常高，像是熊膽、虎骨、魚翅、犀牛角、蛇血…

Suzhen

(shivers) How barbaric!

(顫抖) 實在是太野蠻了！

Qing

What do you do?

那你能怎麼辦？

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，這些生意都違法，還很殘忍，但他們根本不聽我的。他們說犀牛的角或鯊魚的鰭被割掉後還會再長出來，就像指甲或頭髮那樣！唉，你們也知道人們怎麼想的。

Qing

We do?
是嗎？

Suzhen

Tell us.
願聞其詳。

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.
愈稀有的動物，價格愈昂貴，而價格愈昂貴，被殘殺的動物就越多。
這是貪婪的奸商們所造成的惡性循環，我的競爭對手小陳就是其中之一。

Qing

(whispers) Truly, our minds are not human.
(耳語)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.
這已經完全無關健康了，而是地位之爭！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.
假藥的交易越來越多，我的生計可能都要有困難了。

Suzhen

Mr. Liang, my sister didn't mean to offend.
梁公子，舍妹並非有意冒犯。

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*)

無妨，家姐也是這麼想的。我該走了，我本無意因為我的事情打擾你們(出場)

Suzhen

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

為了自尊而危及生活的人比珍貴的犀牛還來得少。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?

他不是忘了，我想我們得把這清高的藥師從他傲慢的自我中拯救出來。

姐姐，我們當人類的日子才沒幾天，你真的準備將自己的命運和這男人綁在一起嗎？

Suzhen

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

遇上他也許是天意，但不代表我已經愛上他了。

Black out 黑場

Scene 4 In Xuxian's pharmacy

第4場 許仙的藥鋪

Xuxian

No, Mayor Xia, it will not help you.

別這樣，夏鎮長，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，我要討新姨太太的歡心。

Xuxian

It's now very expensive.

犀牛角現在非常昂貴的！

Xia

I have the money
老子富得流油！

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.
但我這兒剩下一點點了，而這些是預備退燒用的。很抱歉讓您失望了，但我不得不說，犀牛角並非壯 A-phro-di-si-ac。

Xia

A what?
並非什麼？

Xuxian

Uh, sex aid for men.
呃，就是能幫男人一展雄風的東西。

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.
別語焉不詳的，從我小時候開始，我祖母就帶我來這買藥了，但你要是不賣我，我就去小陳那買！

Suling

(*enter*) What did he want?
(進場) 他想要什麼？

Xuxian

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

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？他可是鎮長啊你這個白痴！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.
價格只會繼續上漲，我們可以從中獲利。

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，犀牛角從前是只有帝王才有的貢品，現在居然人人都想分一杯羹！

Suling

Noble beast! You might as well be a vet.
胡說什麼高貴的動物，怎麼不去當獸醫呢？

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，過去只有犀牛角可用時，我們用得可謹慎了，但現在當它快要消耗殆盡時，我們卻把它當作萬靈丹！

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. 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.
人們記得先人是這麼用的，而他們生病時也想遵循古法。許仙，你是一個好人，但你不懂做生意，也不懂別人的心思。所以別人能靠著說謊發財，我們卻抱著真相自尋死路。弟弟啊！有時正直只是無謂的高傲。

Xuxian

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

(看著鏡子裡的自己) 我需要維護家族的名譽，我絕對不會違背自己所知。

Suling

I know you think I'm old fashioned and small minded...

我知道你覺得我古板又固執己見。

Xuxian

No, no....

不，我沒有...

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，我也一樣關心家族的名聲，但你不覺得我們應該跟上時代嗎？

Xuxian

Well, what do you suggest?

好吧，那你有什麼建議？

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，順便找個媳婦。

Black out. 黑場

Scene 5 Snake Sisters' house

第5場 蛇姐妹的家

Qing

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

(許仙敲門)早啊鄰居！看到你真令人愉快。

Xuxian

Is your sister at home?

令姐在家嗎？

Suzhen

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

(進場)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.

你好像覺得我很老派。

Suzhen

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

噢！希望你別多心...

Xuxian

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

也不是不對，我這一去城裡就是好幾個月，所以我想在出發前跟你談談...

Qing

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

(打斷)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腳上的水泡？

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?
還是問為何姐姐做的芝麻糕像強心針一樣，讓我聽得到你的心跳聲？

Xuxian

No, I... (*realizes*) oh, ah, yes, they are delicious.
不是，我...(突然反應過來) 喔！沒錯，確實美味！

Suzhen

(*to Qing*) Hush! How can you be so vulgar?
(對小青說話) 安靜！怎麼如此無禮？

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，但前提是這無禮的小妹妹也要一塊兒。

Qing

What! As your second wife?
什麼！要我當你的小妾？

Xuxian

(*laughing*) No, no, as my...little sister.
(笑)不是，我是說作為我的親妹妹，我們一起生活。

Qing

Aye, what a businessman! Suzhen, can you love such a man?
真會算啊！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，但我相信只要你在我的身邊，我能克服所有的阻礙。自從我們相遇，我就知道你是我的.....命中注定，不知我是否有同感...

Suzhen

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

我有，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.

嗯，是的，但我的意思是...對我自己。

Xuxian

Then you will marry me?

所以你願意嫁我為妻？

Suzhen

You don't know who you are marrying.

但你對我幾乎一無所知。

Qing

(aside) Indeed!

(在一旁)沒錯！

Xuxian

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

Suzhen

Yes, and without it, we die.
是的，人因信念而活。

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，我愛你！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 黑場

Scene 6 At Xuxian's pharmacy

場景 6 許仙的藥鋪

Suling

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

(搥了許仙一巴掌) 你好大的膽子！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.

不要因為我沒經你同意而生氣，你會了解我做這個決定可以幫助到我們家。

Suling

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

我絕不會見她！也不會跟她說一個字！

Xuxian

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

你要對她以禮相待，我要去接她和她妹妹了。(出場)

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.

(在他身後咆哮) 妹妹？你沒跟我說過什麼妹妹？

(自言自語) 這房子裡以後會住著三個女人和一個蠢男人，沒有比這更糟的了。老陳的兒子看著我時，眼神總是別有意圖，如果許仙的「仙女」有意搶走這間藥鋪，至少小陳給了其他機會。對啊，那女的算什麼？我花了一輩子養了這個廢物男人，現在他還要娶一個廢物女人。

Xuxian

Sister, meet Bai Suzhen and her sister, Xiao Qing. (*they kneel 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。(兩人對姐姐行禮) 她們帶了絲綢、金錢和珍稀藥草作為見面禮。

Suzhen

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

敬愛的姐姐，謝謝你願意讓我們加入你們的家庭。儘管能力微薄，但我們將竭誠幫助你。

Qing

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

敬愛的姐姐，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.

(因她們的謙卑而有所軟化) 好吧，弟弟，去市集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，請讓我們來做飯。

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 (坐下用飯) 這是什麼？鴨肉？真香啊！這個呢？這魚煮得恰到好處。

Xuxian

(whispers) My sister loves a good meal.

(耳語)我姐姐最受不了有好吃的！

Suzhen

(smiles) Who doesn't?

(微笑)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.

我想在藥鋪後種一些藥草。

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，看吧，你以後不用自己去採藥了。

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，我不是廚子，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.

我絕不會編造疾病或是給人虛假的希望，那太沒良心了。

Suzhen

But there's nothing wrong with doing a little experimentation.

試試無妨。

Suling

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

正是如此！（嘆氣）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和可靠既然我是有家室的男子，保有清譽比什麼都來得重要。

Act II 第 2 幕

Scene 1 On the Mountain near Fahai's hermitage

第 1 場 法海庵堂附近的山上

Suling

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

(採集藥草) 這樣就夠了！永遠都要摘最新鮮的葉子。

還有記住絕對不要往那邊走，那裡是法海大師隱居的庵堂。

Qing

Who?

你說誰？

Suling

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

他是個令人崇敬的人，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，我們鎮上就會永保安樂。別摘那片葉子，邊緣都黃了。你動作比許仙快，他總是拖拖拉拉。

我還以為他永遠不會走了呢！來吧！我們的葉子夠了。

Qing

He wasn't eager to go.

他根本不想走。

Suling

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

可不是嗎！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.

他們很幸福。

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*)

幸福過頭了，不如以往清醒。我看在雨季開始之前，他沒什麼時間能待在城裡了。雨季時路就會變得泥濘難走。(進入藥鋪)

Scene Two At Xuxian's pharmacy

第 2 場 許仙的藥鋪

Suzhen

(*to Qing and Suling*) Good morning, give me the herbs. I'll dry them while you eat.

早，把藥草給我吧！我趁你吃飯時把它們弄乾。

Suling

(*Mrs. Ma enters*) Hello Mrs. Ma, have you eaten?

(馬夫人進場) 馬夫人好，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出現的疾病。

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!

(大笑) 馬夫人真會說笑！

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 he. So, 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.

我兒子昨天發起高燒，他不停嚷嚷，說關節痛得像著火一樣。

Suling

Oh dear! It's too early for dengue. Any rash?

喔，可憐的孩子！這季節得登革熱未免太早了些，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，有時我想他是裝病要我去照顧他，但我該如何是好？

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.

你說的對！最好還是別冒險。我拿些銀翹散給你，一定要煮兩個時辰，而且確定他有喝完。

Ma

Even he knows the worse it tastes the better it works.

連這孩子都知道良藥苦口的道理。

Suling

(laughs) Ah, your sense of humor never gets sick!

(笑) 馬夫人說笑的功夫倒一直都健康得很！

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.

(邊出場邊喊話) 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，並敷在令郎的額頭和胸口上，相信這樣在藥熬好前他會舒服點。

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。(馬夫人出場，小青進場)

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. 我很高興我們在這裡待得很好，我本來擔心許仙走後他姐姐會找我們麻煩，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在嫌棄我。

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，這不是我們、應該說不是我修煉千年想要的。你是找到了你要的，但我可還沒。

Suzhen

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

Qing

Already? You don't seem very nervous.
什麼？你懷孕了？但你看起來一點都不緊張。

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的。

Qing

Hasn't it occurred to you that you might give birth to a snake...or worse?
你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，我相信孩子肖父，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！（聳肩）不過別擔心，我會照顧你，雖然我很想待在山上。

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!
你想到處晃晃當然沒有問題，不過記得天黑前回來，不然大姑會以為你找男人去了呢！

(Black out) 黑場

Scene 3 At Fahai's hermitage

第3場 法海的庵堂

Fahai

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

(小青在山上採藥，無意間驚擾了法海，法海從打坐中驚醒，抬頭) 你在這兒做什麼？

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，我在採藥草，不是有意打擾，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動物，牠們看起來又害怕又困惑。我看到兔子、折翅的麻雀、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.

人們因為慶祝佛祖誕辰而將牠們放生，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.

但放生肯定不是上策，這些動物多數都會餓死，活下來的也會危害到原生的那些動物。我聽說你一直在保護這座山，你可以說服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.

不用自以為是地教導我責任，人們需要藉此展現慈悲和憐憫。

Qing

Acts of charity and compassion should be informed and thoughtful.

憐憫和慈悲應該是明智和經過深思熟慮的。

Fahai

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

少自以為地解讀佛經給我聽，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.

不要以為你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！（出場）

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.

我已在山中活了寧靜的二十年，但現在她突然出現，擾亂了我的心。（他以接觸大地之姿坐下，擺出手印閉上眼睛）儘管我閉上眼，她的臉還是深深烙印在我腦海裡。她批評了我，但若我因此公開反對放生，那她一定會認為我是為了她

如此。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，理想的相就是無相。凡人才需要相，只有像我一樣已臻化境，才會知道如何在暗中展現慈悲和憐憫，而不為此沾沾自喜。

Black out. 黑場

Scene 4 In Xuxian's pharmacy

第 4 場 許仙的藥鋪

Chan 小陳

(enters) Good morning, Miss Liang!

(進場) 梁姑娘，早！

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！無事不登三寶殿！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.

(笑)當然不是，但如果是的話，我一定會來這裡…這裡什麼都沒變呢。

Suling

Why, of course.

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。(嗅) 好香！我一直聽大家說你的藥有多棒，而好奇心戰勝了我，所以我來了。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！你神奇地治好了老趙的痛風、傅夫人每年此時的關節炎毛病也消失了，還有馬夫人整天炫耀兒子變得強壯起來。

你確實了解怎麼取悅病人，但你的藥架上沒有任何魚翅或燕窩，那些裝蟬殼跟海馬的罐子也快空了，看來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.

嘴真甜啊小陳，但我年紀比你大，你應該放尊重一點。

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，我猜你是把長生不老藥藏起來了吧！

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，長年在惡劣的天裡採藥讓我老得很快。

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?

現在你有點忘形了，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。(倒茶)

Chan

We have been in unfriendly competition recently.
我們最近好像在惡性競爭。

Suling

Ever since you came back with so many new ideas, you've sparked everyone's desire to be up-to-date.
自從你帶回這麼多新的想法後，就激發了人們與與時俱進的渴望。

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.
許仙不也如此？但我很多想法根本無法實行，家父日漸老去，想法也越發固執，他根本不了解怎麼用新的方式做生意。

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合作，我們就能獨佔所有的生意。既然有這麼好的擴張機會，我們還這麼拼命，只為勉強糊口，實在是太愚蠢了。

Suling

(sighs) How many nights I've lain awake thinking the same. I've tried to persuade Xuxian.

(嘆氣)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... (聽到身後有窸窣作響然後退開的聲音)

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?

(帶著點心入場)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，令尊近來可好？

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，一定覺得很艱難吧？(吃東西)

Suzhen

Of course I miss him. But we're kept busy.

我確實很思念他，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*)

我得走了，他不在的時候，如果有任何需要我幫忙的地方，請不要客氣，告辭了。(出場)

Suzhen

That was very decent of him.

他看來是正人君子。

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。他知道許仙不賣任何動物器官，甚至包括海馬時，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.

他告訴過我這些動物即將消失殆盡，我很高興在這之後他就不做了。若一對海馬中有一隻死去，另一隻就會孤老終身，這樣的忠貞值得寫詩來讚揚。

Suling

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

男人都喜歡吃海馬來展現雄風，所以永遠供不應求。

Suzhen

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

(疑惑)可是孵卵生子的都是公海馬。

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？(一起笑了)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。(出場)

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！這甜美又害羞的小食蟻獸。我把牠從陷阱裡救出來，那些盜獵者在整座山設滿陷阱。

Suzhen

But why?

為什麼要如此？

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，就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，不會吃藥草的。不過不要告訴大姑，她絕對會要你把穿山甲給煮了。

Black out 黑場

Scene 5 In Xuxian's pharmacy

第 5 場 許仙的藥鋪

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.

(拿著信) 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盂蘭節了。

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！爹以前也像他一樣，是個受人愛戴的大夫，不收費替人診治。但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遭人嘲笑。

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。請告訴我盂蘭節該做些什麼吧！

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誦盂蘭盆經。你一定要讓他對你有好印象。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.

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！（出場）

Qing

(enters) The town is buzzing. What's going on?

(進場) 鎮裡好熱鬧！大家在幹什麼？

Suzhen

Ghost Month and preparation for Mulian's festival.

是鬼月啊，大家忙著準備盂蘭節！

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?

啊，我有看過那些醜陋的餓鬼四處遊蕩，他們的脖子又長又細，肚子圓圓的，看起來就像...就像剛吃了老鼠的蛇！（咯咯笑）但他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捐給僧侶的錢而墮入地獄，他得救她出來。
由於她的貪欲，目蓮不得不供養那些餓鬼，然後說服佛陀允許她再次轉世為人。母親貪婪，兒子卻很孝順。

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！大姑沒準會包個超大紅包，好讓自己得以繼續貪心下去。

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)*

有更好的法子，我會缺席的。我要去山上的女媧廟，現在根本沒人要到那了。人類認為蛇族天性殘忍，但卻舉辦一堆儀式掩飾自己的暴虐，人類都只是群偽君子。(出場)

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.

(在家族祭壇前上香) 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。我將奉獻渺小的一生來盡服侍之責。.

Black out 黑場

Scene 6 In Xuxian's pharmacy

第 6 場 許仙的藥鋪

Suling

(Suzhen is chopping vegetables) Fahai should be coming soon. *(looks out)* Amitofo!
(素貞在切菜) 法海就快到了！(往外看) 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。(法海帶著僧侶進宅，女子們行禮)

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.
謝謝大師的祝禱，我們僅能治癒卑賤的身體，您卻能渡人魂靈，但我們同樣奉獻己身為人消除此生的苦難。

Fahai

I know your brother is the best pharmacist in town, but this year reports of his cures have been...astonishing. Where is he?
我知道你弟弟是鎮裡最好的藥師，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.
舍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，我懷念我們的對話和棋局，但我會祈禱他的平安歸來。（素貞感激地抬頭，法海看見她）這女人是誰？

Suling

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

那是我不成材弟弟的妻子。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凡的知識人們剛開始可能會為此感到欣悅，但要是出了差錯，他們的疑心和憤怒可是沒有分寸的。

Suling

I have often said the same thing, but my foolish brother is always eager to keep up with new fashions. *(gives him a red envelope)*

我也是這樣想，但我那蠢弟弟一直想趕流行。（給他紅包）

Suzhen

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

（端上食物）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. *(goes)*

（無視她）告訴令弟，我很期待聽他的旅途見聞，也許會比我們預期的都早。（出場）

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，躺著吧！我也餓暈了。(出場)

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.
(獨自一人) 噢許仙！那和尚看透我了。天啊，他知道，他肯定知道我是誰！接下來該怎麼辦才好？或許他在孩子出生前不會再下山，那我就沒事了。若有了孩子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 黑場

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

第7場 許仙的藥鋪，眾人坐在飯桌前

Xuxian

(laughing) I walked so fast Dr. Ping could barely keep up with me, but the journey seemed endless.
(笑) 我走太快了，平大夫根本跟不上我。但這趟旅程就像看不到盡頭似的。

Suling

The city! Tell us about the city. What medicines? What diseases?
城裡怎麼樣？快告訴我們發生了什麼。有什麼新藥或是新病？

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，愛滋病卻沒人敢講。

Suling

We're lucky not to have that ugly business here.
幸好我們這裡沒有人有愛滋病。

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.
(他知道其實有) 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.
為什麼？那些少爺千金什麼都是用最好的啊！

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.
確實，但他們全都被寵壞了。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把頭髮染黑，結果她孫子都不認得她也不讓她抱。(笑)

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，要讓雇主有好印象才能有工作。

Suling

To get the money....

為了賺錢...

Suzhen

To get the girl.
為了美人在懷。

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.
我聽到最慘的是個極度絕望的年輕人，他動手術把腿切開，然後在骨頭裡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，青菜蘿蔔各有所好。

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.
我會晚回來是因為平大夫跟我想合作新的藥草品牌。這種好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?
(給他們看藥盒和藥瓶) 覺得設計怎麼樣？

Suzhen

It's beautiful. Look Qing, it's our mountain!

這真美！小青，你快看！這上面是我們居住的那座山呢！

Xuxian

(aside to Suling) I don't want Suzhen to work so much.

(坐到蘇菱旁邊) 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，這是應該的。(她看起來神色沮喪)

Xuxian

I know it's hard for you.

你別因為這樣難過。

Suling

I've already called in the midwife to make the pregnancy food.

我已經請穩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.

(midwife enters)

不需要，素貞還是會想自己做飯，她知道自己的狀況。(穩婆進場)

Suling

But here she is.

但人家已經來了。

Midwife

(to Suling) Much too thin. *(to Qing)* Much too pale, almost greenish. *(to Suzhen)*

Don't rub your stomach, it makes for a spoiled child.

(對蘇菱說話) 太瘦了。(對小青說話) 臉色好蒼白，都發青了。(對素貞說話) 不要搓肚子，會寵壞孩子的。

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.
胡說九道！

Midwife

No meat for you till after its born.
生產前不要再吃葷食了。

Xuxian

Most nonsense!
胡說十道！

Midwife

Do you forget? Tofu, mushrooms, carrots and lettuce for a male child; pickles, meat and fish for a female.
你不記得嗎？豆腐、蘑菇、胡蘿蔔和萵苣能生男。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.
都是迷信！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。

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

第8場 小陳的藥房上演著皮影戲

Xiao Chan 小陳

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.

傅先生，您閱讀還是有困難嗎？點了很多燈也不行？我能給您最上等的藥。我怎麼知道這是好藥？您聽聽看我的說法。什麼動物視力最好？是貓頭鷹對吧？您很幸運，我正好買了隻稀有的橫斑林鴉。跟藥草一起煎，把肉跟湯全部吃下去。這些柔軟的內層羽毛也留著，敷在身上可以讓皮膚柔軟又有彈性，當作給您媳婦的禮物。

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.

啊，小高，你的背上有個好醜的癩子。你說是因為背太多東西了是吧？來，把這獾皮敷在身上。對，就是南邊那些胖胖的小傢伙。牠們的脂肪跟皮膚可有效了！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，兩位公子，看你們笑成這副德性我就知道你們要什麼。但是你們還太年輕了用不上這些。什麼？你們要春藥又要強身的補藥？這些便宜又有效。我可不是在侮辱你們，我自己當兵的時候也是是用狗的那話兒。你們還想要海參？那太貴了！而且用在年輕人身上是浪費了。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，您看著很有精神呢！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！您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)*

老金啊！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。這裡有條上等的蝮蛇…(皮影戲劇結束)

Suling

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

(在小陳家偷聽，邊看傀儡劇，看到小青嚇了一跳)

Qing

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

小陳是在實驗甚麼新藥方嗎？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.

不僅限於男性。蛇會蛻下舊皮，換上新皮，蛇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！你皮膚很好了。你有什麼養顏秘訣嗎？

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！沉睡的美人，別再犯蠢了。

Act III 第三幕

Scene 1 At Xuxian's pharmacy

第 1 場 許仙的藥鋪

Xuxian

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

很高興看到你恢復笑容，氣色也變好了。你之前臉色好蒼白，我簡直嚇壞了

Suzhen

So many things could have...happened...

可能有很多事會發生…

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.

沒關係，我們的新藥賣得很好，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，他在哪？

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。

爹娘還在的時候，她曾訂了一門親事。但那人死於一場意外中。

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她開心。

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。

Xuxian

(Ma enters shop) Good morning, Mrs. Ma, what is...?

(馬夫人走進藥舖) 早，馬夫人！有什麼...？

Ma

Come quickly. My boy has been vomiting for two days.

快上我家看看！我兒子都吐兩天了！

Xuxian

Why didn't you come earlier?

你怎麼不早點來？

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.

他整天抱怨這裡那裡不舒服，所以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.

一定又是怕吃我的藥。

Ma

He coughs, has trouble breathing.

他咳個不停，呼吸困難。

Xuxian

(calls out) Suling! *(whispers to her)* I'm going to go see him, but I'll be back soon.

(大叫) 蘇菱！(許仙對蘇菱耳語) 我要去看看馬夫人的兒子，很快就回來。

Suzhen

Here comes Mayor Xia. He looks worried, too.

夏鎮長來了！他看起來很緊張。

Suling

Mayor Xia, I hope your family is....

夏鎮長，希望你們家...

Xia

My father is unwell. Where is Xuxian?

我父親狀況很糟，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，這裡是藥方。

Suling

Ah, then I can prepare it for you. (*whispers*) Suzhen, is there anything I should add?
啊，那我可以幫你抓藥。(耳語) 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，高夫人。我們今天早上客人很多呢！

Gao 高夫人

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。前陣子他到夏鎮長家和老夏打牌，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，但現在不想抽了。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。(出場)

Black out 黑場

Scene 2 At Xuxian's pharmacy

第2場 許仙的藥鋪

Suzhen

(Xuxian enters) You look exhausted...again.

(許仙進場) 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。

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。今天我已經向夏鎮長回報了。他說只是「季節性傳染」然後就把我打發走。

我發現他也準備就這樣向官府回報，因為講真話會讓他丟了烏紗帽。

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。(往外看)

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.
她跟夏鎮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!
告訴鎮長我馬上到。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，鎮民開始恐慌了。

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)*

你不用管我。只有你能照顧寶寶，素貞，其他人不行。這種新的瘟疫很容易傳染，如果有人尚未染病，讓他們吃板藍根增強免疫力。然後給他們紗布。(出場)

Suling

Give?

白送給他們？

Suzhen

I'll sew it into masks and then you can sell them.

我會把藥草縫到口罩裡，你就可以賣給大家。

Suling

(Qing enters) Good idea. Qing, take over the shop for a while. *(goes)*

(小青進場) 好主意，小青，幫忙顧一下店。(出場)

Suzhen

Oh dear, what's she up to now?

天啊，她要做什麼？

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.

(笑) 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.

我不知道有什麼好笑的。如果她的初衷沒有問題，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?

(看見一群憤怒的女人走來) 素貞，你進去。姑娘們，我能幫你們什麼嗎？

Lai

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。

Lai

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！（許仙進場，小青進到裡面）

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指引。
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毒的藥。

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。(人們離開)

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，他們認為你和鎮長都有所隱瞞。

Xuxian

That's the problem with saying an honest, 'I don't know.'
我有說實話，但他們不相信我。

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。(叫喚)素貞，孩子在哪？

Suzhen

(*off stage*) Sleeping peacefully in Qing's arms.
(下台) 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！(小青進場)

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.

你可以開始做玉屏風散，還好只有我們有完整藥方。我想小陳囤積動物器官的行為要反噬了。

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.

大家發現病原是從南方的動物市集來的，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.

我不懂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庸醫，宣稱一定要用動物入藥。

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 that 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.

信任！人們害怕時第一時間就是想有心靈寄託，法海是唯一一個所有人信任的人，我要去請他來。

Servant

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

(跑進場) 夏鎮長的父親死了！

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！鎮長下令病人都要被隔離。他封鎖了鎮子，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.

但我家沒人生病，而且我必須去治病！

Servant

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

鎮長說不必了！他還說…(欲言又止)

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！你為了你的生意故意把瘟疫從城裡帶進來！
你的異族夫人和她妹妹也狼狽為奸！鎮長父親的死是你害的！

Suling

(cries) It's not true.

(大叫) 一派胡言！

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，告訴鎮長我非常遺憾，請他小心注意不要也生病。(僕人出場)

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.

(從房間裡面呼喚) 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。(獨自一人) 從前天花蔓延時，大家總想要我往孩子們的鼻孔裡吹「魔粉」來保護他們。但這些父母發現魔粉是天花結痂的粉末時，可氣得想殺了我呢！但現在的我卻一籌莫展，沒有魔法，也沒有科學。

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.
素貞，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.
至少我們衣食無缺。

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，我們有些新藥是劣質品。

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。然後我自己檢查了盒子，看起來像是我們鋪子賣的藥沒錯，但這仿單有問題。

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，我們會找到方法的，但不是在今晚。

Xuxian

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

你說的對，到了早上會好一點的。(在長椅上睡覺)

Black out. 黑場

Scene 3 At Xuxian's pharmacy

第3場 許仙的藥鋪

(knocking in the dark)

(黑暗中有人敲門)

Xuxian

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

什麼！又有人病死了嗎？(點亮蠟燭) 法海！你知道我們鎮被隔離了嗎？

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.
沒有。

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，我不知道怎麼控制疫情，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，這樣很傷身體裡的氣，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連結。

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，其他人都開始怪罪我！

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.
你知道最極端的緊急狀況下我才會來。我來的目的不是要拯救鎮子，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頭殼壞掉。我妻子素貞才剛生下健康的小男孩。蛇可做不了這種事。

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，你的婚姻不只危及你自己，這不道德的行為也導致了瘟疫。

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。每當男人厭倦了愛侶，想用最方便的方式甩掉她們時，就會編故事說女人跟蛇一樣惡毒。素貞是我兒子的娘，也沒幹過壞事。

老友，我懷疑你是嫉妒，你看到她如此善良美麗就覺得我們的友誼會受影響。

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，她也知道我知情。別只聽我的一面之詞，自己看吧。(遞給他一個瓶子)

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!

(笑) 這樣我就會跟你一樣產生幻想嗎？天要下紅雨啦，太陽打西邊升啦！

家貓會變老虎，而我的愛妻張開嘴，分岔的舌頭在裡頭蠕動。不，我不會拿你的藥水，也不會聽信你的謊言。我現在就叫她出來讓你跟她說！素貞！

Suzhen

(calls) Xuxian, are you hungry?

(呼喚) 許仙？你餓了嗎？

Xuxian

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

來啊和尚！跟我們一起吃飯。吃你誣告的那位所煮的飯。

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，我沒料到你太固執了，根本不講理。

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？你提出什麼證據？你就說喝個藥吧？你想證明我愛的是一條蛇……那不要用藥水啊！有件事你忘了，和尚，我是藥師！我知道哪些藥對心智會有影響！

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)*

不管怎樣，我們的友誼到此為止！滾！（獨自一人）他想讓我疑心素貞，因為她太完美了，她醫治過這麼多人。法海一定是也生病了，竟然把錯怪到外地人頭上！我該打碎這個瓶子。不行，我要證明他是錯的！就算素貞是蛇我還是愛她！（加熱藥水）

Suzhen

(*enters*) I've never been so cold.
(進場) 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，吾愛。

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，我甜美溫柔的…妻子。噢！我的頭感覺著火了，一切都在旋轉。素貞！你醒著嗎？(黑暗中，舉著蠟燭) 不，她睡著了。她伸展了下身軀，伸出手臂…不，那不是條手臂。她的腳也伸出來了…不，那不是腳，是條長著鱗片的尾巴。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真身，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.
她不會！她愛我！

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，她的人性是短暫偽裝出來的。你必須讓她離開你才能安全。

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，來我庵裡好好想想。(許仙衝出門)

Black out. 黑場

Scene 4 At Xuxian's pharmacy

第4場 許仙的藥鋪

Suling

There've been no 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例了，也不用隔離了。許仙是去城裡搶救我們的產線嗎？

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*)

所以我認為他一定在想辦法對付他們。他想讓整件事情越安靜越好。我們沒有穿心蓮了，我再去採一點來。(出場)

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，我必須去庵裡找許仙。

Qing

No, wait. Xuxian won't stay away. His son is still here.
別輕舉妄動，許仙不會真的離開，他的兒子還在這呢。

Black out. 黑場

Scene 5 At Fahai's hermitage

第5場 法海的庵堂

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.
感謝你讓我進來，即使我這麼不公正，這真的是我一生中最糟糕的時候了。
我靜過心打坐...還有祈禱，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.
你沒辦法，你想念你的妻子，完全沒有意識到蛇有多惡毒。

Xuxian

I have faith in her loving nature.
我相信她有愛人的本性。

Fahai

It is precisely her nature that is not loving.
她的本性恰恰不是愛。

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.

邪靈就是這樣玩弄我們的弱點。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 will do anything to save him.

事實上我會魔法不讓你離開，回去你的房間吧。(許仙在違背自己意志的狀態下離開，法海坐下開始寫信) 我會寫封信給那條蛇，因為她丈夫在我手上。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. 黑場

Scene 6 At Fahai's hermitage.

(Qing enters, interrupting Fahai's meditation.)

(小青進場，打斷法海的打坐)

Fahai

What are you doing here?

你來這做什麼？

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.
而我知道你的真面目。

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，我與姐姐修煉千年才被賜福成人，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，她就是最好的妻子，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.
就算你揭開姐姐的真面目，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，鎮民們是不會容許這種事發生的。即使是他的誠實和她的善良也會傷害到他們。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吧！一旦被鎮民發現，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?

然後吃掉我們的血肉？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。擠成一團的籠子和滿滿的殺戮，血和穢物混雜在一起，根本就是細菌和病毒的惡臭溫床。

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!

那你告訴鎮民不要再打獵跟吃野味了，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.

我懂了。打老婆、因為重男輕女把小女嬰殺掉，這些事情持續在發生，你卻不置一詞，與世無爭的愛侶反而是你的眼中釘。你曾經最好的朋友娶了個美麗的妻子，然後你的美好世界突然就崩潰了。

Fahai

(grabs her) How dare you?

(抓住她) 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.

哈，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辦法逃避他們的命運。

Qing

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

一個脫離人性來評判人性的人類也不比蛇族好到哪裡去。

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.

雖然你罵我，但你明白我是對的。我並不懼怕或痛恨蛇，牠們會來找我，蜷曲在我的腳邊。我認同你的善行和能力，但你必須明白這段關係是禁忌的。

Qing

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

我們經歷苦行才成為人類，我們應該有和人類交流的權利，不論在任何方面都是。

Fahai

In every way?

任何方面都是嗎？

Qing

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

(支支吾吾) 就像我姐姐那樣與人類相戀。

Fahai

But not you?

那你會嗎？

Qing

I've not been so moved.
我比較鐵石心腸。

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 Kwan Yin's mercy give you inspiration. (*leaves*)
願觀音菩薩保佑你找到解決之道。 (出場)

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，告誡男人防備那些很會勾引人的女人。
但現在，我也中了毒蛇獠牙上甜蜜的毒。(他閉上眼睛試圖打坐)
我的眼中只容得下她的面容，我念著經，卻無法揮去她甜美的嗓音。

Black out 黑場

Scene 7 At Fahai's hermitage

第7場 法海的庵堂

Suzhen

(enters with child) Xuxian, I got your message and came as fast as I could.
(帶著孩子進場) 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.
我沒有寄信給你。在法海來之前快走，他想毀了你。

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.
我很愛你。

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，但我還是深愛著你。雖然我一時軟弱逃走了，但既然你可以忍，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，法海會讓全鎮都與你為敵。你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。法海得先拆散我們。(她走向許仙，想吻他，但他突然顫抖著後退

了一步)

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.

(跳過來抓住她) 哈，被我抓到了吧！你這條蛇！許仙嘴上說著還愛你，但他的身體卻明明白白地拒絕了你。許仙，帶著孩子就離開吧！

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。(出場)

Suzhen

But not stronger than mine! *(Fahai takes her inside)*

但我的愛卻可以勝過他！(法海把她帶到裡面)

Black out 黑場

Scene 8 At Fahai's hermitage

第8場 法海的庵堂

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！你這假仁假義的禿驢！

Fahai

Leave, while you're still free to do so.
趁你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，這座小鎮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，人們就會把你生吞活剝。

Qing

Keep your head bowed, monk. You can't threaten me; I'm no ordinary woman.
收斂點吧禿驢，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，一旦你遇到挑戰或攻擊，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。如果想要救你姐姐的話，你可得多和她學著點。溫柔的雙唇比暴戾的眼神有用多了。控制你的暴戾脾氣和冷血的本性，學著像你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，我們的力量更為契合。

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.
禿驢居然口出甜言蜜語？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，禿驢。

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，你才陷入了自我矛盾中。當你變成人類之時，就陷入了女人既定的命運。

Qing

I'm still an ancient deity that has never submitted to your cult.
我還算是個古老的神靈，我從未屈從過你這種邪教。

Fahai

Submit now, and within three years, I'll release your sister.
乖乖屈服吧！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，永遠不會有人找到她。

Qing

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

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。(召喚風暴和閃電)

Black out 黑場

Epilogue 尾聲

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

(雲站在那裡，一條活蛇纏在她身上，祖父走進來，驚愕不已。)

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!

(嚇壞了) 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.

牠會咬傷你的，甚至會勒死你。

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。但我們最後還是找到了彼

此。(雲跪下來讓蛇溜走) 現在她要回她的世界，我也一樣。

Grandfather

I should never have told you the story.

我實在不該告訴你這個故事。

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*)

你無能為力，我遲早都會知道。很久很久以前，有兩條蛇，一條潔白如雲，一條蒼翠如竹，她們修煉千年，最終如願幻化成人。(雷聲轟隆，兩條有著中國舞獅風格的傀儡蛇跳起舞來)

The End 結束