

HSU YU

THE ELOPEMENT

AND OTHER STORIES

Translated By

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私
奔



私 奔
THE ELOPEMENT

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私 奔
THE ELOPEMENT

一

在楓楊村，人們大都姓楊，我不姓楊，但我母親姓楊，所以也有機會在那裏長大。我一直在外祖母的家裏。

人們在那面是這樣的親切，不論貧富，一切的稱呼都是伯伯叔叔，公公婆婆，哥哥弟弟，村裏貧窮的人輩分都大，而富有的大概輩分

Most natives of Fengyang-ts'un had the surname Yang. Although I am not a Yang, my mother was, and so it came about that I grew up in that village. There I spent my childhood in the home of my maternal grandmother.

The people of Fengyang-ts'un had always lived in close intimacy; regardless of family condition or station in life, they had called one another Grandpa or Grandma, Uncle or Auntie, Brother or Sister. The poor in the village were mostly of the older generation, while the well-to-do were more often found among the younger adults. This may seem odd but was the result

都小，那似乎很希奇，實則是很平常的，因為有錢人家的孩子結婚都早，貧窮人家的孩子結婚晚，所以有錢人家的成人，有時要對貧窮人家的小孩叫公公與叔叔。但是年代久遠的家族關係，有時候也很難弄清楚，那時候大概爲着客氣與禮貌，大概都根據年齡便加隨一個稱呼。

我是外姓人，不知開始爲大家對我外祖母客氣呢，還是別的，大家都叫我小弟弟。不論老幼貧富大小，以及遠處來的客人，熟識的小販，甚至外村的過客，後來也都叫我小弟弟。

據說我的小時候的確是很討人喜歡的，我現在回想起來也是，好像楓楊村的人，沒有一

of an understandable development: the offspring of the rich married early, while the children of the poorer families generally married late. Thus it happened that sometimes adults in a rich family would call the children of their poor relations Uncle or even Grandpa. However, family and clan relationships that went back a long ways are sometimes hard to unravel; in such cases people would address each other by any polite title, usually according to age.

Though I did not belong to the Yang clan, perhaps out of respect for my grandmother, everybody called me Little Brother—really everybody, old and young, rich and poor, even visitors from afar and peddlers making their daily rounds.

They say that when I was young I was quite a winsome lad, and as I remember those years it does seem that the villagers of Fengyang-ts'un treated me with great affection. And on the two or three occasions I left Fengyang-ts'un

個不是對我很好。兩三次暑假寒假我離開楓楊村到上海去住，我還是想念那裏的生活，那時我姊姊她們都要學鋼琴坐汽車，而我獨想到外祖母家閒蕩，所以我父親認為我是一個最沒有出息的孩子。

去上海，我們的房子很小，但不是太壞；可是我不喜歡那狹小的弄堂，夏天傍晚時候，擠滿了不認識的孩子，騎車，溜冰、打球，噪鬧！在楓楊村，出大門就是曠野稻場，我們玩得是多麼痛快。在上海家裏的人都在歌頌自來水浴室，可是我總覺得沒有楓楊村的溪河好玩，洗澡游泳都比上海好；上海要游泳，那時候

to visit Shanghai during our summer or winter vacations, I kept hankering to return to the village life. My elder sisters had their hearts set on such urban joys as taking piano lessons or going for motor rides, but I just wanted to go back to Granny's place and loaf. That may be why my father regarded me as a boy with no ambition.

Our house in Shanghai was liveable though it was small, but I didn't like the narrow lane it was on, where, on summer evenings, throngs of strange boys gathered noisily to ride their cycles, to rollerskate and play ball. Back in Fengyang-ts'un there were grainfields right outside our door and we had space in which to roam and play to our hearts' content. Everybody in our home in Shanghai sang the praises of the bathrooms which had running water. I felt that they were not as much fun as the brooks and streams of Fengyang-ts'un, where we had much better bathing and swimming than in Shanghai.

必須加入青年會，同游的人都不認識，大家穿着花花的游泳衣，好像都不很自然；但是姊姊總要說這是文明，鄉村游水是野蠻，不知道她是什麼地方聽來的話我總覺得這話是不對的。

我自然也不喜歡上海人，甚至我的姊姊——在鄉下，我們叫一切住在上海的人都是上海人，姊姊當然也是上海人，他們好像都有點看我不起，老是叫我鄉下人。

是的，我是鄉下人，我喜歡楓楊村裏的人的，正如他們喜歡我一樣。在楓楊村，同我姊姊年齡相做的姑娘們很多，似乎個個都比姊姊可愛；她們裏面，我頂喜歡是翠玲姊。翠玲姊

For in Shanghai one had to join the Y.M.C.A. to swim, and mixing with a lot of strangers in their multicolored swim suits seemed unnatural. But my sisters insisted this way very civilized and that the way we swam in the country was barbarous. I wondered where on earth they had picked up such ideas and felt somehow that they were wrong.

I didn't like the people of Shanghai either—not even my sisters. In the country we called them “Shanghailanders”. My sisters, of course, were also “Shanghailanders”; and like the rest they seemed to look down on me, calling me a country bumpkin.

In truth I was a country boy; I liked the villagers of Fengyang-ts'un just as much as they liked me. There were a number of girls in Fengyang-ts'un similar in age to my sisters, and everyone of them seemed more lovable than they. Of these girls, I liked Sister Tsui-ling best.

也不姓楊，也不是在楓楊村長大的，她到楓楊村來是很晚的事，說是父母過世，她來依隨她外祖母的，她的外祖母，我叫她惠莊婆，是在望叔家裏做活的，她住在望叔家裏，翠玲姊也住在一起，有時候幫她外祖母做點零碎的事情。

似乎村裏的姑娘們都比翠玲姊有錢，穿得也講究，可是奇怪，翠玲姊總比她們好看，她隨便穿一件布衣布褲，總顯得她是與衆不同；那時候村裏姑娘的打扮是長長的辮子，兩條或者一條，記得上襖的袖子是倒大的，衣襟長長的垂到臀部，兩側支開着，下面是長長的褲子，褲腳時新很大；但是翠玲姊的褲腳大得很恰

Sister Tsui-ling was also not surnamed Yang, nor had she been raised in the village. She had come to Fengyang-ts'un fairly recently, because, it was said, her parents had died and she had had to come to live with her maternal grandmother. This old lady, known as Grandma Hui-chuang, worked as a seamstress in Uncle Wang's household, and there Sister Tsui-ling lived with her, occasionally helping with odd jobs.

The other village girls all seemed to have more money than Sister Tsui-ling, and wore more expensive clothes. Nonetheless, she was the prettiest. She might be dressed in homespun clothing but she always stood out from the rest. At the time, the fashion among the village girls was to wear their hair in one or two long braids. The sleeves of their blouses, I remember, were like trumpets, wide at the cuffs; and the blouses themselves were hip-length and slit on both sides, revealing a pair of long trousers the bottoms of which were also modishly wide. On Sister Tsui-

當，衣襟外支着，也不像別人一樣，像多出來似的，這想是她身材勻稱關係。我知道她的衣裳都是她自己做的。她有二根烏黑的長辮，鵝蛋臉，大眼睛，小巧的嘴，笑起來從不露她的牙齒，而我知道她有極其美麗的牙齒的；她的手臂豐腴而不顯胖，似乎特別柔軟，碰到它，真像是碰到了牡丹花的花蕾。我說她可愛，不希奇，村中的人個個都喜歡她，望孀更是當她自己的女兒般的，把衣裳胭脂香粉都送給她，但是她似乎不愛穿花衣裳，也不愛用脂粉，我從來沒有見她同別人一樣花花綠綠的打扮過。

離楓楊村附近，有一個張姓的義莊辦的小