

ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC CHINESE TALES
Fable Stories

PREFERRING THE CASE TO THE PEARL

· 买椟还珠 ·



中华传统经典故事绘本
附中文拼音



CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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A long time ago, there was a jeweller who had precious stones, pearls, paintings, calligraphy works and antiques at his shop.





One day, he came upon a rare pearl, which was bigger than a pigeon's egg and shone brilliantly in the sunlight. "Oh, oh," everyone who saw it marvelled.

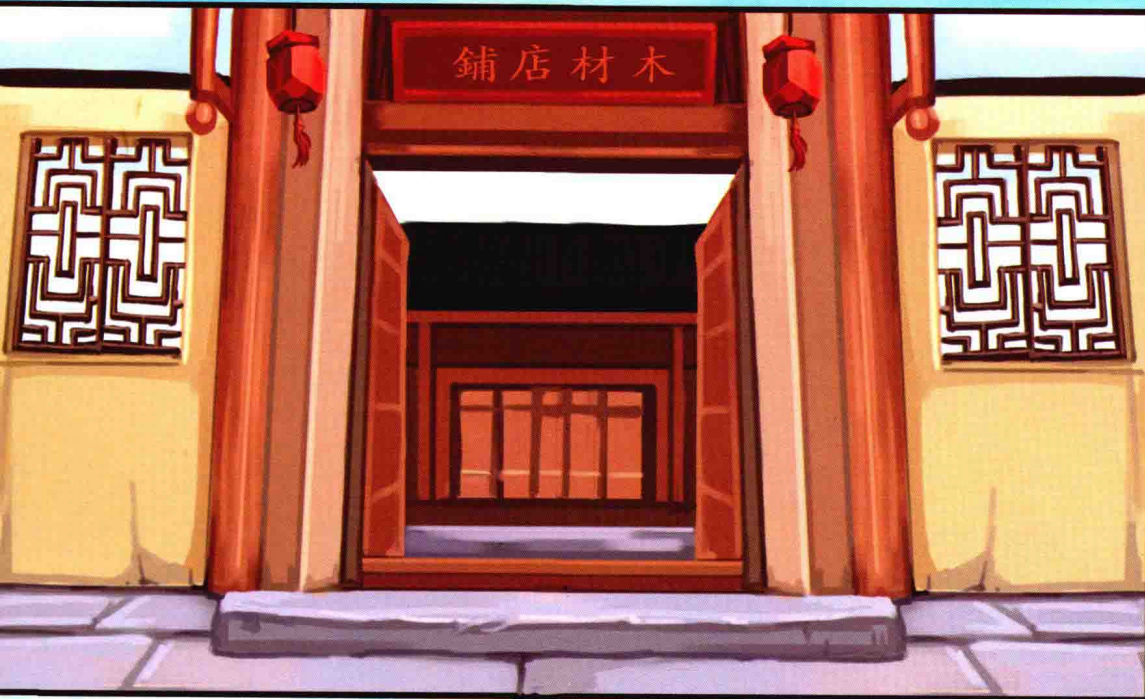
An illustration of a man with a beard, wearing a yellow robe and a yellow cap, sitting on a wooden floor. He is looking down at a large, pink, flower-shaped object with a white center. The background shows a scroll on the wall and a window with a lattice pattern.

“This is a crown jewel worthy of an entire city,” said the jeweller as he examined the rare find. “I must think of a way to sell it at a good price.”

But how could he achieve this?

The jeweller considered many options before settling on an idea. He decided to make an exquisite and expensive case for the pearl.





He searched far and wide, and finally chanced upon a superb piece of magnolia wood. He asked an excellent carpenter to turn it into a jewel case.

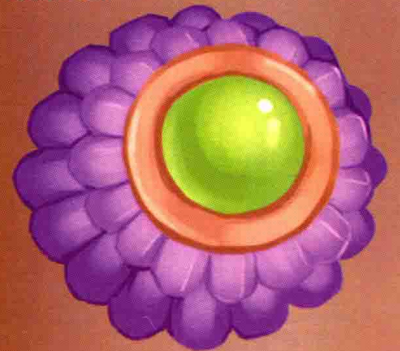


After the case was finished, he found a famous craftsman to carve roses and other intricate patterns on it.

To give the case an enchanting aroma, he bought high-quality cinnamon and other spices and had the case smoked for three days and nights.



As well, he decorated the case with precious stones of varying sizes and hues. With the plumes of a kingfisher and a large red ruby, he made an eye-catching ornament on the front of the case.





The minute he put the pearl in
the fine case, it looked priceless.



The jeweller
took the case to
the market. A
huge crowd soon
gathered.

“Oh, what an amazing case!” exclaimed a young lady. “This looks so much better than my jewelry box.”





The onlookers were enthralled. Some asked about the material the box was made of, while some sang the praises of the decorations and others inquired about its contents. The jeweller revelled in his success.



A very rich man made his way through the crowd. He was immediately enraptured by the case. Without any hesitation he paid the full price and carried it away, smiling broadly.