

Captivated by Lianyungang

留连忘返

By Elaine E. Fotu/安娜·福图 著



辽海传播出版社
China Intercontinental Press

H319.4:I

34

Captivated by Lianyungang

留连忘返

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章

by Elaine L. Fotu/安娜·福图 著

泓传播出版社
China Intercontinental Press

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

留连忘返: 汉英对照/(澳)福图著; 滕友启, 赵鸣译 ——北京: 五洲传播出版社, 2007. 5

书名原文: Captivated by Lianyungang

ISBN 978-7-5085-1107-8

I. 留… II. ①福…②滕…③赵… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物②随笔-作品集-澳大利亚-现代 IV. H319.4:1

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2007)第061847号

书 名 留连忘返

作 者 安娜·福图/Elaine E. Fotu

责任编辑 初立忠 黄金敏

出版发行 五洲传播出版社

地 址 北京市海淀区莲花池东路北小马厂6号华天大厦

邮 编:100038

印 刷 连云港市赣中印刷有限公司

开 本 32开 850×1168毫米

印 张 8.5

字 数 22万字

版 次 2007年5月第1版 2007年5月第一次印刷

印 数 3000册

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5085-1107-8

定 价 20.00元

Opening	(1)
1. Teaching in China	(3)
2. Come cycling with me for a day.....	(8)
3. Monkey King ride to Nanjing.....	(14)
4. My time in hospital.....	(22)
5. My birthday 2003.....	(33)
6. Christmas pudding.....	(36)
7. My little church in Xinpu.....	(39)
8. How humble can you feel?.....	(42)
9. An ordinary day in my life.....	(45)
10.Documentary on Anna.....	(56)
11.Fish dead or alive?.....	(63)
12.Springtime on weekend.....	(66)
13.Farmer's sports day.....	(70)
14.Harvest time from two wheels.....	(74)
15.Lei Feng honour.....	(77)
16.Monkey King ride from Sydney to Canberra 2005	(80)
17.My awards.....	(91)
18.Friends through food.....	(95)
19.Xinhai Senior Middle School and the FEC program	(100)
20.A ride with my students.....	(108)
21.Norma's wedding.....	(111)
22.LYG's best kept secret.....	(120)
23.Liandao Island.....	(125)
24.The home of Monkey King.....	(130)
25.Looking at history.....	(135)
26.Witness to the amazing growth of LYG.....	(140)
<i>An overall impression by translator</i>	(145)
To traveler that conquered half the world.....	(147)

目录/Contents

留连忘返 Captivated by Lianyungang

开篇.....	(149)
1、 到中国任教.....	(151)
2、 相伴骑游.....	(156)
3、 南京“申吉”骑行.....	(161)
4、 住院经历.....	(168)
5、 生日 2003.....	(177)
6、 圣诞布丁.....	(179)
7、 小教堂.....	(182)
8、 心灵的触动.....	(185)
9、 我的日常生活.....	(187)
10、 纪录“安娜”.....	(196)
11、 烹鱼趣事.....	(201)
12、 春日周末.....	(204)
13、 农民运动会	(207)
14、 走马看“丰”景.....	(211)
15、 雷锋车.....	(214)
16、 澳洲“申吉”2005.....	(217)
17、 愧领殊荣.....	(226)
18、 吃出来的朋友.....	(229)
19、 新中与“中新班”.....	(233)
20、 与学生骑游.....	(239)
21、 诺玛的婚礼.....	(242)
22、 港城藏珠.....	(249)
23、 情迷连岛.....	(253)
24、 大圣故里.....	(257)
25、 触摸历史.....	(261)
26、 港城见证.....	(265)
切己的体会——代序后记.....	(269)
致征服半个世界的旅者.....	(270)

Opening

The questions that I am asked the most are ‘How did you come to live in Lianyungang (LYG)?’ and ‘Why did you choose Lianyungang to come and teach?’ I would like to start off by telling you how I came to live and teach in LYG.

One of my best friends came to live in Guangzhou for a three-year posting and I wanted to come and visit her. In 2001 I came with some other friends and toured around China for six weeks visiting many of the country’s scenic and world famous sights. We visited Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Guilin, Yangshou, Shenzhen, Xi’an, Beijing and of course Guangzhou. While I was in Yangshou I saw a notice asking for foreigners to come and teach English.

My life in Australia needed a change and I thought teaching English in China would be a wonderful idea and a great way to meet the people and get to know them and their way of life. Over the next year I made arrangements to come to China and said goodbye to my family and friends. The company in Yangshou had told me I could work in a school in Guilin but when I arrived they told me there was no position there but I could choose a school from a list of five other cities in China. Most of the cities were large, such as Guangzhou, Chengdu and Beijing, but I wanted a small town or city to work in. On the list was LYG. As I had not heard of LYG I looked it up on a map. I found it was on the coast and had a rail link. I had not seen the coast of China at all and the rail linking to other places would help me get around, so I thought I would give it a go.

LYG has proved to be a ‘God Send’ to me as I have made it my home and have made many friends here. When I say a ‘God Send’ I mean someone was looking after me as the people took me straight to their hearts and treated me like their friend. I started living and working in Xugou, which is a seaside town, hemmed in by a mountain range. I felt the town was small but with a large population. I lived amongst the people in an apartment building in

the middle of town, just around the corner from the school I worked in. I got to know almost all the people living and working in the street where I lived and they seemed to look after me, I felt safe and secure living there.

I started off teaching adult classes at night time and most of my students became my life long friends. Before I came to China I decided I would make my students my friends and ask them to take me places on the weekends. We would stay back after class and talk together and when I asked if they would take me around on the weekend they said they would be more than happy to do so. That is how my life in LYG started and I haven't looked back since.

I was first captivated by the warmth and friendliness of the people. My wonderful friends took me to their hearts, their homes and many places of interest. We played games in the park, we walked mountains, we rode our bikes places and felt the breeze in our hair as we rode down the mountain side yelling to the people in the fields, we laughed over jokes while we sat eating in restaurants, and it just went on and on. How could I not be captivated by these wonderful people? The countryside and beaches were different to what I was used to in Australia. Seeing places on your own or in a tour is nice, but being taken places by locals who are friends, puts a whole new aspect on things. My friends love their hometown and they could tell me many stories of when their family and friends would take them places in years gone by. They love showing their country off to someone new. We walked where we could, we rode further a field and we took buses and trains to places too far to either walk or ride. I couldn't help but be captivated by the people and area of LYG. LYG became my second home and I became comfortable here with my new friends, my new family.

Teaching in China

I came to China to try something different and take it easy for 12 months as well as travel around and see this beautiful ancient country, and ended up working harder than I had for a long time. I love being here and doing what I am doing but I find I have to live up to a reputation, their expectations and the students' dreams. They put me on a pedestal and now I have to deliver.

When I said I would come to China I was told I would only be doing conversation English and my qualifications were fine. I was told I could teach in a secondary school in Guilin but then I was sent to a new school in Xugou, a coastal district of Lianyungang, in the east of China.

After arrival, they put me teaching both adult classes and kindergarten students. I was given no materials at all to work from. It was lucky that I brought materials from Australia with me; I then had materials to work with for the adults. I had to plan all the lessons for the kindergarten students and was asked to sit down and make a 4-month plan for teaching and then stick to it. The plan was hard to do as I had only 1 day to plan it all out, so I sat at it till I had finished, then at the end of that term I made up the teaching plan for the next 5 months. This plan would bring them up to a position so they would be ready to start learning from a book that we were using for the primary students on the weekends.

I loved teaching the kiddy children and primary students, but it was hard and I needed a Chinese assistant to help me as these students could not speak any English at all. I didn't even know when they were asking to go to the toilet. Some children were easy to teach and quick to learn and others were almost impossible. I believe the first thing you must do is give children/people confidence and then they will learn. If they feel they are learning/achieving then they will, but if they don't believe they are learning then they won't. If a child is not learning he/she will not concentrate on the lesson and will muck up and disturb other children around him/her.

I had one little boy who didn't have confidence in himself and was finding it hard, so each week he would make himself sick and leave the class. I started paying more attention to him and praised him for knowing the work. It only took 2 weeks before he started to learn well and, what do you know, he didn't get sick again.

I was teaching a young class of boys aged from 10 to 14 and it was a test of my ability. Most of the class could not speak English and the others just a little, and I taught on my own without a translator. The boys mucked up with each other every lesson. They were not learning much at all. One boy called Joe could not speak a word of English not even the alphabet. I had fun with these boys in the Spring Holiday and in just 15 lessons Joe, and the other boys, could say the alphabet, count to 15, say the days of the week, yesterday, today, tomorrow, greetings and his name and age, actions, body parts and tell the time and more than that, Joe even wanted to learn. He was doing things on his own and even going around the room writing things down so he could learn. I felt I got through to most of these boys and we all had fun and at the same time they learnt to speak English. I felt I achieved a lot with that class.

The day Lance learnt. I had taught for 18 hours and he was learning a bit and trying, not trying hard but trying. One day I was teaching and the whole class just clicked. We were doing body parts so they not only wrote it down and spoke in English but they could put an English name to something they could touch. Suddenly Lance's eyes opened wide and he started touching his head and saying eyes, ears, nose etc. He was so delighted with himself that I almost cried. In fact the whole class started to learn. They were so good the next day I brought them all in Australian animal name tag stickers for their books. They kept learning from then on. Lance wanted to stand up in front of the others and show them what he had learnt and they all wanted to show off how they had learnt too.

In China the students study, study, study in order to go to good schools. There are more children than schools and if you don't have high marks you don't get far. In China you can tell how

cleaver someone is by the school they attended. Universities have only so many positions and if you don't make the mark you will not get in and then you and your parents will not be happy. 'The survival of the Studied'.

I was then sent back to Australia for fear of SARS. Two months later I returned and took up a contract with the Lianyungang Foreign Language School for more than one year. This is a middle school with good teachers and good students. Most of the students want to learn English and they are easy to teach but the students who are too shy to speak or join in on the lesson end up hurting themselves and make it hard for me to teach. I had to spend many hours of my free time trying to search the Internet looking for ways to get them to join in and speak. I talked to the other teachers and was given help with different ways to approach these classes.

The younger students, that is the first year of high school, Junior I, were the best to teach as they were not shy and had so much enthusiasm that it made you want to teach them more. In fact at times I forgot they were still learning and would talk normally until someone would say 'Miss Anna I don't understand' and then I would have to slow down and speak simply to them. They were affectionate to me and were eager to help with anything, carry my bag, clean the board or even just pass me a tissue when I needed one, and they wanted to improve their English so they could speak more often to me. They wanted to learn for their own sake.

The final year students, Senior III, were good to teach too. I had no textbook to teach from but because it was their last year before they went off to college or university I thought it better to treat them as adults and get them to talk naturally. We had lots of fun with role-plays and debates, learning to use their voice to show what they mean and also singing songs and other games of life. They were good students to teach, as they knew English would be important to them in their future. I got to recognize their different personalities in the things that we do and I looked forward to their classes.

All the classes in between were different again. Some classes were

great and other classes were hard to get through to. Some classes I felt I taught nothing and was a waste of time for me and for them, as they would not speak at all. The students were usually cheerful and co-operative but then as a class they were too shy and would not join in and learn.

The students were usually very glad to see me each lesson and would say Good morning/afternoon to me at the top of their voices. They usually made sure the desk was clear and the blackboard was clean so I had an uninterrupted lesson. If I needed audio aids the students were more than happy to set it up for me. Many a time we laughed and had a good time while learning. They did get a shock when I introduced push-ups for students who spoke Chinese during my lesson. I believe the more they speak the English words they know, the quicker they will learn to speak fluently, so if I heard a student speak Chinese in the lesson I would make them do ten pushups. It soon made them think before they spoke and I believe they improved their English.

I love my students whether they are the kindergarten, primary or middle school students or my adult students that I have taught over the years I have lived and worked in China. Many of my adult students have become my friends and many will remain my friends for life. There were times when I didn't know what way to turn or where to go next and my friends helped me. When I needed help they were there, that is true friendship.

The friendship from my younger students is different. They are so loving and caring and during the special times when I missed my family such as Christmas and my Grand daughter's birthday they would said things to me or give me a card or just a touch of their hand or a smile that made me feel I have an extended family here with my students. Lunch times you will find me eating my lunch with the students in their lunchroom. Most are happy when I say 'Can I sit and have lunch with you?' Some are shy but they still say yes. Whenever I am around the school either in the corridors or in the playground they will always come up to me and talk. If I meet them in the street they will always say 'Hello' and introduce

me to who ever they are with whether it is their friends or family. I must say it is nice to be recognized in the street, it make you feel you belong.

I have been given gifts from rice and corn bread to sweets, from books and music of China to slipper inserts to keep me warm in winter. I believe I am a lucky person to have been in contact with the delightful students of my schools. Students and children are wonderful everywhere but when you are away from home and missing your family it is nice to have students come up to you and ask if you are having a nice day.

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all my students, every one of you and all the teachers that I have worked with. You have all made my stay in China enjoyable and I believe I am a better person for knowing you.

Come cycling with me for a day

I would like to invite you to come cycling with me for a day.

I live in a coastal area of China, halfway between Beijing and Shanghai, a location that China vividly describes as ‘the naval of mainland China’. The area is called Lianyungang with a population of around 4.7 million. The main city is Xinpū. I am going off on my favorite ride around Kongwangshan and the countryside around Xinpū. I hope you enjoy the trip.

It will not take us long to ride out of the urban area of Xinpū so just hold on tightly while we battle against the other riders, motor bikes and sometimes the cars that travel in the cycle lane. The cycle lanes can be quite worrying as the riders do not ride in a straight line nor do they ride over to the right of the lane. They seem to be in a world of their own and are oblivious to other users.

We now have to go around the roundabout at the end of Xinfu Road and turn left and head to Haizhou. We first have to go around to the right and then cross the traffic, get onto the bike lane again and turn left, cross the road again and then we can stay in the bike lane for a long way. That wasn't too bad at all as there is not too much traffic at this time of day. It's a nice ride along here even though it is all factories and business; there is not too much pollution as they seem to be light factories and warehouses.

Now it will get bustling as we approach Haizhou. Haizhou is an old historical town. This part of it is full of markets. Large areas of cheap goods. A lot of people come here to shop so there are people everywhere and they will not look out for you just because you are in a cycle lane. It is ‘everyone for themselves’ here. You will be OK if you just look around and hang on tightly. I will let you know if I am going to stop. To the left you will see some covered buildings. They are the markets. The markets stretch for the whole length of the block but are hidden behind the shops.

When we turn the corner it will be less congested and you will feel

much safer again but as we turn look to the left and you will see the old city gates. They are well preserved and look rather inviting, but Haizhou is not our destination today so we will continue on.

It is nice now that we are out of the shopping area of Haizhou and if you look to your left and down the lanes you will see the old town. It is very beautiful with the old architecture of the homes. They are all built next to each other and the lanes are not very wide. The doors to the homes are right on the street and you often see the elderly people sitting in the doorways, talking to passersby. I will take you for a walk through Haizhou one day and tell you all about their homes and the history of the area. I will even take you walking on the old wall and you can look down onto the original city of Haizhou.

We can ride quickly now that we are out of the built-up area. You can start to see the small plots of gardens in front or beside the homes along the road. The garden plots are well set out in a very orderly fashion. Some homes have small plots of veggies while others have larger and/or longer plots. You can see the water channel used to irrigate the plots. Well, later in the trip you will see large canals of water for the larger gardens. Most of these gardens here are for their own use or a small amount to sell, but later you will see large market gardens. Most of the homes along this road are made of stone or bricks, as are the walls around their homes. In fact it reminds me a lot of the stone walls and homes in Ireland. The colour of the stones and bricks in this area are mostly a dirty grey/brown and do not add colour to the area at all. I believe it's because there is not much red clay in the soil around here so the bricks are not as red as you find in most areas. It's a shame as it is a dreary colour in winter when the trees have lost their leaves. But it's now spring and the trees have a green tinge to them as the leaves are about to burst open and flood the trees with green. If you look over to the right you will see four hens scratching around in the dirt looking for worms. I like to see chooks around homes because it makes the place look homely and warm.

Hang on, there is a bus in front of us and I think he is going to pull

out just as we approach. There he goes, straight out into the line of traffic. He is big and knows everyone behind will look out for him. Look over to the right again, you can see flowers in the garden in front of that house and some more chooks scratching around. It makes me feel good when I see sights like that and then to your left you will see lots of little plots of veggies and behind that is Jingpinshan. This side of the mountain is being mined away and does not look too good but I must admit the colour of the stone is nice and white with streaks of pink and grey.

At the foot of the mountain we will turn right and ride down this country road. We have to peddle hard, as we have a long way to go. It's a nice relaxing ride so just look around at the little farms and the occasional group of farm houses. Now we are approaching a small township that I know well. We have to turn down this street to find the heart of the town. Now we are approaching the middle of the little town. By the looks that we are getting from the locals, I think we are perhaps the first foreigners to come into the centre of this little town. I will turn down here and look for some strawberries. When I came to visit my friend Wei Ting last Sunday, her father had just bought strawberries from here and they were just wonderful and so flavoursome that I would like to buy some to take home. I have not come into the town centre before and they are all looking at us as if they think we are lost or just wondering why we are here. There are some strawberries in a basket, but let's see if there are any others for sale further along the street. Look at all the pots and pans outside this shop. Do I need anything for my flat? I like to buy from little towns like this so they get money from outside their own town.

Well that is the end of the street so we will turn around. You might like to walk with me back down the street. As they are the only strawberries in the town, let's buy them. Some of them don't look too good but they have to sell them and I want strawberries from this town so I will still get them. The man is very helpful in picking out the best ones for us. Hey it is hot, so let's buy half a pineapple each and we can eat it along the way home. The sellers cut the

pineapple in half, then peel and cut the nodules off. Finally they will push a stick up the middle so you can eat it while you walk, or in our case while riding along.

My, the pineapple is sweet and juicy. The juice is running down my arm but who cares on a day like today. I feel good as I am on my bike in this wonderful countryside. Finish up your pineapple as soon as you can for shortly we will come across the unsealed part of our trip. It will be very bumpy and dusty for a while. We will not be able to talk much on this section as the dust gets bad but I will stop if I think there is something that you should see.

I have to stop here and take in the scenery. This area is beautiful with many large market gardens. There are gardens for miles with lovely fresh veggies and some seedlings just planted that will be picked in the future. Some plots are covered with knee-high plastic domes while other bigger plots have covering well over one metre high, high enough for people to walk under while looking after their crops. Look over there to the right, there is a lady and a man in their large open garden. It looks like they have been picking the cabbages to sell in the market tomorrow. Their bike trailer is full of fresh cabbages and the lady is covering the load to keep the dust off while they take them home. The man is still in the garden gathering up all the leaves and piling them up. I guess they will be used for compost. The people seem happy but maybe happy is not the correct word, maybe satisfied, satisfied that they have done a good day's work and are well set up for an easier day of selling tomorrow.

Look over to the other side of the road. You can see another row of smaller plots of veggies backing up to the houses. I guess these gardens belong to the homes, as there seems to be a gate into the homes, leading off from the gardens. The houses here, and in most of the countryside, are only one storey, all looking identical and all in a line. It seems a simple life in the country with not much happening except the people working in the gardens and the hens scratching around for food. You often see a dog or two walking around or lying in the sun. There are a lot of dogs in China with

half of them used as security for the homes while the people are out working, but some dogs are kept as pets.

We are almost back in Xinpu and you can see across to the right the long, wide canal that is taking water to the market gardens. We are coming up to lots of barges moored side by side along the bank of the canal. These are the canal barges that take sand and cement and other cargo up the river to other small towns to use in building homes, shops and businesses. I have seen these barges loaded up so high that the barges are actually under water. You can see in the middle of the boat where the cargo is loaded, the hull, there is a foot height wall around the cargo hull, well that stops the water actually going into the hull and sinking the boat. It's amazing to see them slowly moving along the canal with most of the deck underwater and the barges do not sink. The barges are also used as living quarters for their owners. I would love to go up the canal on a barge one day but the canal does not look clean enough to swim in and the barges do not look too safe to me. So if I get the chance to go for a trip on a barge I will think twice about it.

As we approach Xinpu you'll see Kongwangshan, where Confucius came to visit and look out to the ocean. He came here two thousand years ago and being a wonderful poet and prophet the people of the area named a mountain after him. 'Kong' is for Confucius, 'Wang' means to see and 'Shan' is mountain in Chinese hence we have Kongwangshan. On the other side of the mountain there is a walkway and steps to the top for people to trace the steps of Confucius. When you reach the top you can look in the direction of the ocean not far away just as Confucius did. You won't be able to see the ocean as the geography of the land has changed remarkably over centuries, but you can see for miles around at the farms, the hills and the city sprawled below. It is very quiet on the top of the hill and you can almost feel the tranquility that Confucius must have felt while sitting here, doing some of his writings, all those thousands of years ago.

There's only one more long block before the turn off to my street and we are back home. It's nice riding along this section with the