



# 西瓜女

*Watermelon Girl*

杨永青 / 图 张菱儿 / 文 龚燕灵 于心越 / 译

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西瓜老爹是有名的种瓜能手，给地主王财迷种了几十年西瓜。他种出来的西瓜个儿大、皮儿薄、味儿甜，乡亲们都爱吃。



Grandpa Watermelon was well-known for his expertise in growing watermelons. For many years, he had worked for a rich landlord known for his lust for money, hence the nickname — Miser Wang. Everyone loved the watermelons he grew as they were all big with a thin rind and a heavenly taste.

这一年刚入夏，  
西瓜老爹病倒了。王  
财迷不但不给他看  
病，还嫌他老了不能  
干活儿了，把他赶出  
了家门。



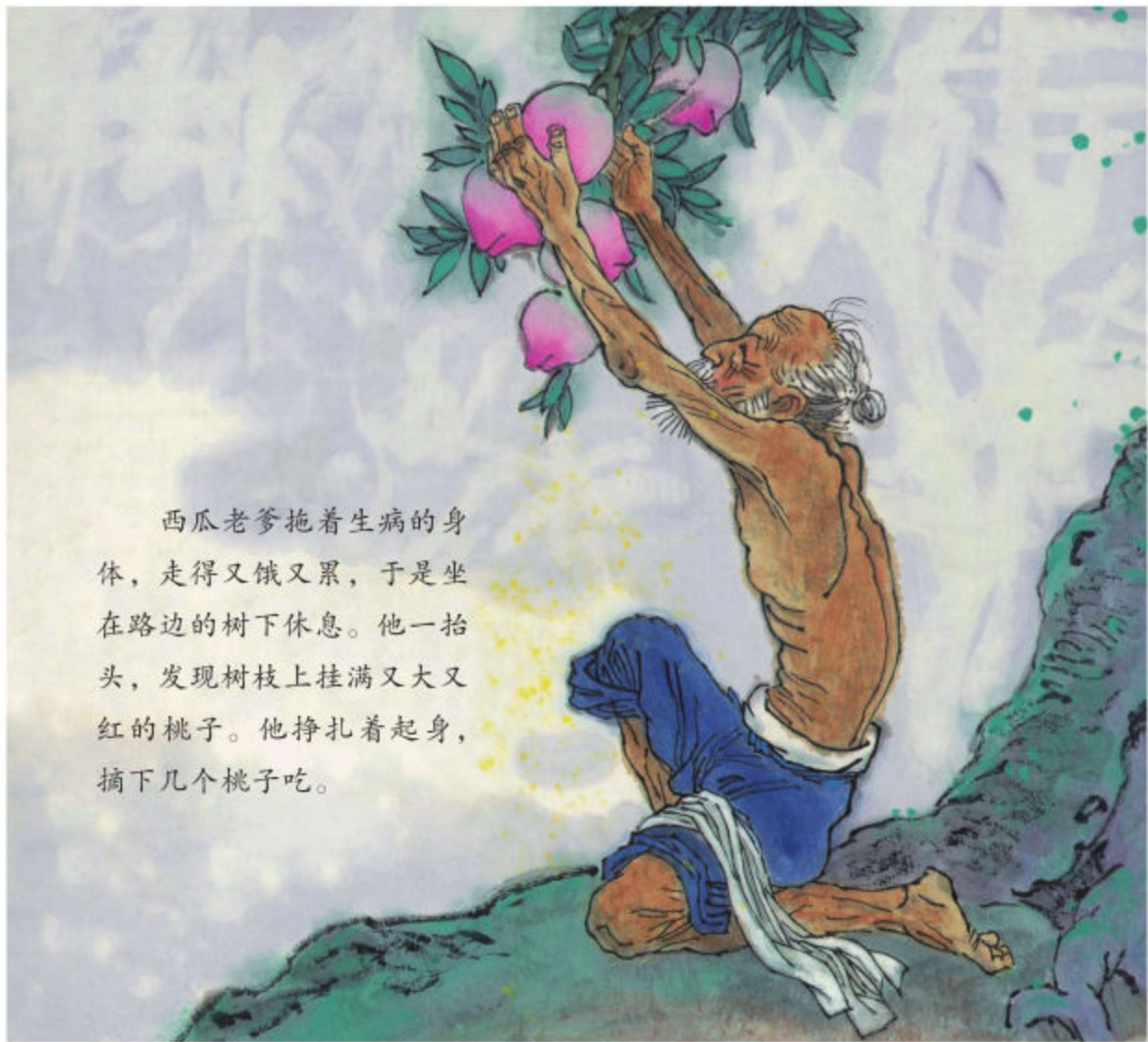
One year, Grandpa Watermelon fell ill as summer came. Miser Wang didn't send for a doctor. He thought Grandpa Watermelon was now too old to work for him, so he threw Grandpa Watermelon out.



西瓜老爹给王财迷种了一辈子西瓜，没有成家，也没儿没女。他一边咳嗽，一边艰难地穿过一片树林。他不知道自己该去哪儿。

Grandpa Watermelon had grown watermelons for Miser Wang for his whole life. He had no children or any other family. He was coughing painfully as he made his way through the forest. He didn't know where to go or what to do.

西瓜老爹拖着生病的身体，走得又饿又累，于是坐在路边的树下休息。他一抬头，发现树枝上挂满又大又红的桃子。他挣扎着起身，摘下几个桃子吃。



Grandpa Watermelon became really exhausted as he walked on, feeling sick and hungry, so he sat down under a tree to rest. When he looked up, he saw many big, red, juicy peaches hanging low on the branches. Grandpa Watermelon struggled up, and picked a few to eat.

说也奇怪，吃完桃子，他立刻感觉有了精神 and 力气，病似乎也好了。



To his surprise, when he finished eating the peaches, he immediately felt strong again. His spirits also lifted and his illness seemed to be gone.

西瓜老爹站起来，朝四周看看，想分辨一下方向，却在树下的杂草间意外地发现了几棵西瓜秧。瓜秧被茂密的杂草簇拥着，耷拉着黄黄的叶子。



Grandpa Watermelon stood up and looked around, trying to find out where he was. Quite by accident, he discovered a few watermelon seedlings among the dense weeds under the tree, with their sickly yellow leaves drooping sadly.

西瓜老爹立刻动手  
拔杂草，还为瓜秧松土、  
浇水……



Grandpa Watermelon immediately began to weed the patch around the seedlings, loosening the soil and watering it.

得到照管的瓜秧似乎有意要回报西瓜老爹，它们见风就长，过了两天就变得绿油油，伸出了藤蔓；又过了两天，一棵瓜秧的藤蔓上竟然开出一朵大黄花。



The seedlings seemed to know what Grandpa Watermelon was trying to do for them. They returned his favor by growing very fast — so fast it seemed they grew a bit with every gust of wind. Two days later, the plant was a nice shade of green; another two days and a big bright yellow flower popped out on one of the vines.



花儿谢了以后，瓜秧上结出一个小西瓜。神奇的是，小西瓜像被气吹的一样，眼看着就长，三天后，竟然长得比车轱辘还要大。西瓜老爹侍弄了一辈子西瓜，这么大的瓜还是第一次见到。

After the flower faded, a tiny watermelon began to grow. It was almost magical! The watermelon grew like a balloon — it became bigger than a chariot wheel in less than three days!



Grandpa Watermelon had grown watermelons all his life, but even he had never seen a watermelon this big.



又过了三天，西瓜熟了。西瓜老爹揪断瓜秧，吃力地把瓜滚到田边。西瓜这么大，自己不可能吃完。天气这么热，瓜容易烂，附近又没有别人，这可怎么办呢？西瓜老爹正在发愁，耳边传来鸟儿的叫声。他想：就让林子里的鸟兽和我一起吃吧。

西瓜老爹费了好大的劲儿，才把西瓜划开一条缝。西瓜刚一裂开，“嗖”的一下从里面跳出来一个小娃娃。随后，“吧嗒”，西瓜又自动合上了。

Three days later, the watermelon was ripe. Grandpa Watermelon cut the stem of the melon and slowly rolled it out of the patch. He couldn't possibly finish a watermelon this size all by himself. The weather was hot, and watermelons rot easily in such conditions. But there was nobody around to share the melon with. What should he do?



While Grandpa Watermelon was wondering about this, he heard birds chirping. He thought, "I'll just share it with the birds and animals in this forest."

After much effort, Grandpa Watermelon managed to make a small crack on the watermelon. Just as the watermelon cracked open, a little girl jumped out. Then the crack mended itself automatically.



小娃娃也是见风就长：她伸一伸腰，个子就长高一截；活动一下胳膊腿，胳膊腿就长长一些。没多大工夫，她就长成一位漂亮的大姑娘，黑亮的头发，白嫩的皮肤，忽闪着一双乌溜溜的大眼睛。

The little girl also grew with the wind just like the watermelon. Every time she stretched, she grew a bit taller; when she moved her arms and legs around, her arms and legs also grew a bit longer. It didn't take long till she grew into a beautiful young girl with black hair, fair skin and big shining eyes.



西瓜老爹惊讶得说不出话来。西瓜姑娘拉着他的胳膊说：“谢谢爹爹把我救活，又照顾我长大。”

Seeing this, Grandpa Watermelon was left speechless. Watermelon Girl went up to him and held his arm, "Thank you, Daddy, for your rescue and care."



她的话音刚落，西瓜就“咔嚓”一声裂开，从里面飞出来一座小房子。小房子一落地，就变成了一座青砖大瓦房。

The moment she stopped singing, the watermelon went "Crack!" and out flew a tiny house. The moment it landed, it grew into a brick house big enough for them to live in comfortably.