

宋明平话选

SELECTED CHINESE STORIES
OF THE SONG AND
MING DYNASTIES

崔待诏生死冤家

绍兴年间，行在有个关西延州延安府人，本身是三镇节度使咸安郡王。当时怕春归去，将带着许多钧眷游春。至晚回家，来到钱塘门里，车桥前面，钧眷轿子过了，后面是郡王轿子到来。则听得桥下裱糊铺里一个人叫道：“我儿出来看郡王！”当时郡王在轿里看见，叫帮窗虞候道：“我从前要寻这个人，今日却在这里。只在你身上，明日要这个人入府中来。”当时虞候声诺，来寻这个看郡王的人，是甚色目人？只见车桥下一个人家，门前出着一面招牌，写着：“璩家装裱古今书画。”铺里一个老儿，引着一个女儿，生得如何？

云鬓轻笼蝉翼，蛾眉淡拂春山；
朱唇缀一颗樱桃，皓齿排两行碎玉。
莲步半折小弓弓，莺啭一声娇滴滴。

THE JADE WORKER

During the Shao Xing period (1131-1162) there lived in Hangzhou, the southern capital, a certain Prince of Xian'an, who was a native of Yan'an and the military governor of three garrison areas. One day, seeing that spring was nearly over, he took some of his womenfolk out to enjoy the scenery. On their way back in the evening, they had passed through Qiantang Gate and the women's sedan-chairs had just crossed Carriage Bridge when the prince, whose chair brought up the rear, heard someone call from a shop by the bridge:

"Come out, lass, and look at the prince."

A girl came out, at sight of whom the prince exclaimed to his bodyguard: "This is just the girl I have been looking for! See that you bring her to the palace tomorrow."

The bodyguard assented, and immediately set about carrying out the prince's orders. There was a house beside the bridge with a signboard on which was written: The House of Qu, Ancient and Modern Paintings Mounted. And it was out of this shop that an old man had come, leading a girl.

What was she like, this girl?

*Her cloudlike hair was lighter than cicada's wing;
Her mothlike eyebrows fairer than hills in spring;
Her lips were cherry-red, her teeth like jade,
And sweeter than an oriole she could sing.*

便是出来看郡王轿子的人。虞候即时来他家对门一个茶坊里坐定。婆婆把茶点来。虞候道：“后请婆婆，过对门裱糊铺里请璩大夫来说话。”婆婆便去请到来。两个相揖了就坐。璩待诏问：“府干有何见谕？”虞候道：“无甚事，闲问则个。适来叫出来看郡王轿子的人是令爱么？”待诏道：“正是拙女，止有三口。”虞候又问：“小娘子贵庚？”待诏应道：“一十八岁。”再问：“小娘子如今要嫁人，却是趋奉官员？”待诏道：“老拙家寒，那讨钱来嫁人。将来也只是献与官员府第。”虞候道：“小娘子有甚本事？”待诏说出女孩儿一件本事来，有词寄《眼儿媚》为证。

深闺小院日初长，娇女绮罗裳；
不做东君造化，金针刺绣群芳。
斜枝嫩叶包开蕊，唯只欠馨香；

Such was the girl who had come out to see the prince's sedan-chair.

The bodyguard sat down in a tea-house opposite, and when an old woman brought him tea he said: "May I trouble you to ask Mr. Qu from the mounting shop across the street to step over to have a word with me?"

The woman fetched Old Qu; and after the men had exchanged greetings they sat down.

"What can I do for you?" asked Old Qu.

"It is nothing — just an idle question. Is the girl you called out to watch the prince's sedan-chair your daughter?"

"She is. We have only the one child."

"How old is she?"

"Eighteen."

"Do you intend to marry her to someone or to present her to some official?"

"I'm a poor man. Where would I get the money to marry her off? I shall have to send her to serve in some official's house."

"What accomplishments has your daughter?"

Then Old Qu told him, in the words of the song:

*As days grow longer, in her quiet room
The girl embroiders many a flower in bloom,
And rivals Nature with her needle now
To stitch bright blossoms on a slanting bough,
With tender leaves, soft buds and tendrils rife,
In all but scent completely true to life;*

曾向园林深处，引教蝶乱蜂狂。

原来这女儿会绣作。虞候道：“适来郡王在轿里，看见令爱身上系着一条绣裹肚。府中正要寻一个绣作的人，老丈何不献与郡王。”璩公归去，与婆婆说了。到明日写一纸献状，献来府中。郡王给与身价，因此取名秀秀养娘。

不则一日，朝廷赐下一领团花绣战袍。当时秀秀依样绣出一件来。郡王看了欢喜道：“主上赐与我团花战袍，却寻甚么奇巧的物事献与官家？”去府库里寻出一块透明的羊脂美玉来，即时叫将门下碾玉待诏，问：“这块玉堪做甚么？”内中一个道：“好做一副劝杯。”郡王道：“可惜恁般一块玉，如何将来只做得一副劝杯！”又一个道：“这块玉上尖下圆，好做一个摩侯罗儿。”郡王道：“摩侯罗儿，只是七月七日乞巧使得。寻常间又无用处。”数中一个后生，年纪二十

*So many a roving butterfly and bee
Fly in to light on her embroidery.*

“Just now, ” said the bodyguard, “the prince noticed from his sedan-chair the embroidered apron your daughter is wearing. We are looking for a girl to do embroidery in the palace. Why don't you present your daughter to the prince?”

The old man went home and talked it over with his wife; and the next day he drew up a petition and took the girl to the palace. The prince paid for the girl, and gave her the name Xiuxiu.

Some time later, when the emperor presented the prince with a flower-embroidered battle dress, Xiuxiu immediately made another exactly like it. The prince was pleased, and said: “His Majesty has given me this embroidered battle dress. What rare gift can I give him in return?”

He found a piece of fine, translucent white jade in his treasury, and calling for his jade workers asked them: “What can you make out of this piece of jade?”

“A set of wine cups, ” said one.

“That would be a pity, ” said the prince. “How can we use such a fine piece of jade to make wine cups!”

“This piece is pointed on top and round at the bottom, ” said another. “It can be made into the kind of doll women use when they pray for children.”

“That type of figurine is only used on the seventh of the seventh month, ” objected the prince. “It would be useless at other times.”

There was a young craftsman in the group whose name was

五岁,姓崔,名宁,趋事郡王数年,是升州建康府人。当时叉手向前,对着郡王道:“告恩王,这块玉上尖下圆,甚是不好,只好碾一个南海观音。”郡王道:“好,正合我意。”就叫崔宁下手。不过两个月,碾成了这个玉观音。郡王即时写表进上御前,龙颜大喜。崔宁就本府增添请给,遭遇郡王。

不则一日,时遇春天,崔待诏游春回来,入得钱塘门,在一个酒肆,与三四个相知,方才吃得数杯。则听得街上闹吵吵,连忙推开楼窗看时,见乱烘烘道:“井亭桥有遗漏。”吃不得这酒成,慌忙下酒楼看时,只见:

初如萤火,次若灯光,千条蜡烛焰难当,万座糝盆敌不住。六丁神推倒宝天炉,八力士放起焚山火。骊山会上,料应褒姒逞娇容,赤壁矶头,想是周郎施妙策。五通神牵住火葫芦,宋无忌赶番赤骡子。又不曾泻烛浇油,直恁的烟飞火猛!

Cui Ning, a native of Jiankang in Shengzhou. He was twenty-five years old and had served the prince for several years. Now he stepped forward with clasped hands and said: "Your Highness, this pear shape is no good. All it can be carved into is a Guan yin."

"Good!" exclaimed the prince. "The very thing!" He ordered Cui to start on the job.

In less than two months, the jade Guanyin was finished; and when the prince sent it with a petition to the imperial palace, the emperor was delighted with it. Cui's pay was increased, and he continued to serve the prince.

Time passed, until it was spring again. One day, on his way back from a pleasure trip, Cui went with three or four friends into a wineshop just inside Qiantang Gate. They had drunk a few cups only when he heard a great hubbub in the street, and throwing open the window to look out he heard people shouting: "There's a fire at Jingting Bridge!"

Not stopping to finish his wine, he and his companions ran downstairs and out into the street, where they saw a great fire:

*First smouldering like glowworm's light,
It soon flared up like torches bright,
Outshone a thousand candles' glare
And made a blaze that filled the air,
As if whole mountains had been burned,
Or Heaven's furnace overturned!*

So fierce was the fire!

崔待诏望见了,急忙道:“在我本府前不远。”奔到府中看时,已搬挈得罄尽,静悄悄地无一个人。崔待诏既不见人,且循着左手廊下人去,火光照得如向白日。去那左廊下,一个妇女,摇摇摆摆,从府堂里出来。自言自语,与崔宁打个胸厮撞。崔宁认得是秀秀养娘,倒退两步,低身唱个喏。原来郡王当日,尝对崔宁许道:“待秀秀满日,把来嫁与你。”这些众人,都撺掇道:“好对夫妻!”崔宁拜谢了,不则一番。崔宁是个单身,却也痴心。秀秀见恁地个后生,却也指望。当日有这遗漏,秀秀手中提着一帕子金珠富贵,从左廊下出来。撞见崔宁便道:“崔大夫,我出来得迟了。府中养娘各自四散,管顾不得,你如今没奈何只得将我去躲避则个。”当下崔宁和秀秀出府门,沿着河,走到石灰桥。秀秀道:“崔大夫,我脚疼了走不得。”崔宁指着前面道:“更行几步,那里便是崔宁住处,小娘子到家中歇脚,却也不妨。”到得家中坐定。秀秀道:“我肚里饥,崔大夫与我买些点心来吃!我受了些惊,得

"That 's not far from our palace!" exclaimed Cui.

He ran back to the palace, only to find that everything had been moved out and the whole place was deserted. Unable to find a soul, he was heading down the left corridor in the bright glare of the fire, when a woman reeled out from the hall, muttering to herself, and collided with him. Recognizing Xiuxiu, Cui stepped back and murmured an apology.

The prince had formerly promised Cui: "When Xiuxiu has served her term, I shall marry her to you." The attendants had urged him on several times, saying: "You will make a fine couple!" And Cui had thanked them for their encouragement. He was a bachelor and had taken a fancy to the girl, while he was such a fine young man that Xiuxiu wanted him for her husband too.

Now, during this confusion, here was Xiuxiu coming down the left corridor with a handkerchief full of gold and jewels in her hand. When she bumped into Cui, she said: "Master Cui, I've been left behind! All the maids have run off, so there is no one to look after me. You must find me some place to stay."

Cui accompanied her out of the palace, and they walked along the river bank until they came to Lime Bridge. Then the girl said: "Oh, Master Cui, my feet do hurt so! I can't go any further."

Cui pointed to a nearby house and said: "My home is only a few steps from here. You can rest there." So they went into his house and sat down.

"I am ever so hungry," said Xiuxiu again. "Do buy me some cakes to eat. And, after the fright I've had, a little wine would

杯酒吃更好。’当时崔宁买将酒来,三杯两盏,正是：

三杯竹叶穿心过，
两朵桃花上脸来。

道不得个“春为花博士，酒是色媒人”。秀秀道：“你记得当时在月台上赏月，把我许你，你兀自拜谢。你记得也不记得？”崔宁叉着手，只应得“喏”。秀秀道：“当日众人都替你喝采，‘好对夫妻！’，你怎地倒忘了？”崔宁又则应得“喏”。秀秀道：“比似只管等待，何不今夜我和你先做夫妻？不知你意下何如？”崔宁道：“岂敢。”秀秀道：“你知不知道！我叫将起来，教坏了你，你却如何将我到家中？我明日府里去说。”崔宁道：“告小娘子，要和崔宁做夫妻，不妨只一件，这里住不得了，要好趁这个遗漏人乱时，今夜就走开去，方才使得。”秀秀道：“我既和你做夫妻，凭你

do me a world of good."

Cui thereupon bought some wine, and they drank a few cups together. And:

*After the girl three cups of wine had drained,
Her downy cheeks two crimson blossoms stained.*

As the proverb says: Spring is the time for flowers, and wine is the handmaid of love!

Xiuxiu asked Cui: "Do you remember that day when we were watching the moon on the tower, when the prince promised to marry me to you, and you thanked him. Do you remember that?"

Cui put his hands together respectfully and muttered: "Yes."

"That day, " said Xiuxiu, "everybody cheered you and said what a fine couple we would make. How could you have forgotten?"

Once more, Cui simply mumbled: "Yes."

"Why should we go on waiting? Why not become husband and wife tonight? What do you think?"

"I dare not."

"If you refuse, " she threatened, "I shall call out and get you into trouble. What did you bring me to your house for, anyway? I shall go and tell them at the palace tomorrow."

"Very well, miss, " said Cui. "We can be husband and wife if you like. But on one condition: we must go away. We can take advantage of this fire and confusion to slip away tonight."

"Since I am your wife now, " said Xiuxiu, "I'll do as you thi-

行。”

当夜做了夫妻。四更已后，各带着随身金银物件出门。离不得饥餐渴饮，夜住晓行，迤迤来到衢州。崔宁道：“这里是五路总头，是打那条路去好？不若取信州路上去，我是碾玉作，信州有几个相识，怕那里安得身。”即时取路到信州。住了几日，崔宁道：“信州常有客人到行在往来，若说道我等在此，郡王必然使人来追捉，不当稳便。不若离了信州，再往别处去。”两个又起身上路，径取潭州。不则一日，到了潭州。却是走得远了。就潭州市里讨间房屋，出面招牌，写着‘行在崔待诏碾玉生活’。崔宁便对秀秀道：“这里离行在有二千余里了，料得无事，你我安心，好做长久夫妻。”潭州也有几个寄居官员，见崔宁是行在待诏，日逐也有生活得做。崔宁密使人打探行在本府中事。有曾到都下的，得知府中当夜失火，不见了一个养

nk best."

That night they became husband and wife; and before dawn they left, carrying their money and possessions with them. Stopping for meals on the way, resting at night and travelling by day, they finally came to Quzhou.

"There are five highways out of this town, " said Cui. "Which way shall we take? Suppose we go to Xinzhou? I am a jade worker and I have friends in that city, so we may be able to settle down there." Accordingly they took the road to Xinzhou.

After they had been a few days in Xinzhou, however, Cui said: "Many people travel to and fro between here and the capital, and if anyone tells the prince that we are here, he will certainly send men to arrest us. We aren't safe here. We had better go somewhere else." Then they set out again for Tanzhou.

After some time they reached Tanzhou, which was a long way from the capital. They rented a house in the marketplace, and put up a signboard on which was written: Cui, the Jade Worker from the Capital.

"We are nearly a thousand miles from the capital now, " Cui told Xiuxiu. "I think we should be all right. We can set our minds at ease and live the rest of our lives as husband and wife."

There were some officials in Tanzhou, and, when they found that Cui was a skilled worker from the capital, they gave him work from time to time.

Cui made secret inquiries about the Prince of Xian'an, and learned from someone who had been to the capital that during the fire that night a maid had disappeared from the palace; a re-

娘,出赏钱寻了几日不知下落。也不知道崔宁将他走了,见在潭州住。

时光似箭,日月如梭,也有一年之上。忽一日方早开门,见两个着皂衫的,一似虞候府干打扮。入来铺里坐地,问道:“本官听得说有个行在崔待诏,教请过来做生活。”崔宁分付了家中,随这两个人到湘潭县路上来。便将崔宁到宅里相见官人,承揽了玉作生活,回路归家。正行间,只见一个汉子头上带个竹丝笠儿,穿着一领白段子两上领布衫,青白行缠找着裤子口,着一双多耳麻鞋,挑着一个高肩担儿,正面来,把崔宁看了一看,崔宁却不见这汉面貌,这个人却见崔宁,从后大踏步尾着崔宁来。正是:

谁家稚子鸣榔板,

惊起鸳鸯两处飞。

这汉子毕竟是何人?且听下回分解。

ward had been offered for her discovery and a search had been made for several days, but she had never been found. No one knew that Cui had gone off with her, nor that they were living in Tanzhou.

Time sped as swiftly as an arrow, until more than a year had passed.

One morning when Cui opened his shop, two men in footmen's black liveries came in, sat down and told him: "Our master has heard that there is a worker named Cui here from the capital, and he wants you to come to do some work for him."

Telling his wife where he was going, Cui left with the two men for Xiangtan County. They took him to a house where he met the official, agreed to undertake the work and then started home again. On his way home he passed a traveller. This man was wearing a bamboo fibre hat, a cloth jacket with a white collar, black and white puttees and sandals, and he was carrying two bundles hanging from a long shoulder pole. When they came face to face, the traveller looked closely at Cui. Cui paid no attention to him, but this stranger had recognized the jade worker and he proceeded to walk briskly after him.

Well might we say:

*What mischievous boy sounds the clapper today,
To make the love-birds fly away?*