

高級華文讀本

ADVANCED CHINESE READER

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Landscape scroll (detail), by Gan Huanwen.
Courtesy of the Art Gallery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

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Lesson 14 The Homecoming Stranger (1)

Zhào Zhènkāi

Zhao Zhenkai (b. 1949) is one of the leading writers of twentieth-century China. He is known both in China and abroad under his pen name Beidao 北岛. The child of a Catholic mother and a democratic father, Zhao's ideas have conflicted with Communism ever since he was a young man. During the Cultural Revolution, Zhao was branded as an anti-Communist and rightist and was sent to Hebei Province 河北省 to be re-educated through manual labor. Disillusioned by the violence during political power struggles, Zhao devoted himself to literary work and democratic movements. He took an active part in the Tiananmen Square Movement of April 1976 and was the editor of an underground literary magazine *Today* 今天.

Some of Zhao's stories, collected in *Waves* 波动 (including "The Homecoming Stranger" selected in this book), have been translated into many languages and have attracted international attention.

In 1987, England's Durham University invited Zhao to do research in contemporary English poetry. He has traveled widely and has given poetry readings in Europe, where he still resides with his wife and daughter.

Required new characters:

寓 yù	户 hù	粒 lì	烈 liè
厦 xià	肤 fū	蚊 wén	扇 shàn
沙 shā	购 gòu	虫 chóng	飘 piāo
枱 tái	梯 tī	泡 pào	咳 ké
姨 yí	锋 fēng	躲 duǒ	勉 miǎn
鞭 biān	扑 pū	眠 mián	染 rǎn
摊 tān	厨 chú	委 wěi	珠 zhū
微 wēi	射 shè	祸 huò	漠 mò
窗 chuāng	寂 jì	膀 bǎng	巴 bā
玻 bō	惨 cǎn	斗 dòu	毁 huǐ
璃 lì	唤 huàn	惧 jù	刷 shuā
锁 suǒ	爆 bào	咽 yàn	滴 dī

归来的陌生人(上)

赵振开

爸爸回来了。

整整二十年的劳动改造，从东北到北西，又从山西到甘肃，他就象个被浪头捲进海里的水手，在漂泊中无望地挣扎着，又奇迹般地被另一个浪头抛回到原来的甲板上。

结论是：纯属错案，予以彻底平反。那天，剧协的头头们光临寒舍，宣布这一决

* 归来	guīlái	to return, come back (归, same as 歸)
* 陌生人	mòshēngrén	stranger
劳动改造	láodònggǎizào	reform (of criminals) through labor
* 甘肃	Gānsù	Gansu Province (肃, same as 肅)
浪头	làngtóu	wave
捲进	juǎnjìn	to be swept (by a wave)
水手	shuǐshǒu	sailor
* 漂泊	piāopò	to drift
无望地	wúwàngde	hopelessly
* 挣扎	zhēngzhá	to struggle (挣, same as 掙)
* 奇迹般地	qíjībānde	miraculously (迹, same as 蹟)
……般地	……bānde	just like...
* 抛回	pāohuí	to toss back
* 甲板	jiǎbǎn	deck
* 纯属错案	chúnshǔcuò'àn	it is entirely a mishandled case (属, same as 屬)
* 予以彻底平反	yǔyǐchèdǐpíngfǎn	to be granted complete rehabilitation (彻, same as 徹)
予以……FV	yuyi……FV	to grant... FV
* 剧协	Jùxié	The Theatre Association (same as 劇協)
头头们	tóutoumen	leaders
光临	guānglín	to come to (as a guest; 临, same as 臨)
寒舍	hánshè	(our) humble home
差点	chàdiǎn	almost (same as 差一點兒)

定时，我差点跳起来：什么时候你们变得聪明起来了？宣布他是人民的罪人，不也出自你们这些人之口吗？是妈妈的目光，那平静而又痛苦的目光制止了我。

接着就是一场节日大演习：我们从小小的鸽子笼搬进了三间一套的公寓大厦；沙发、书柜、写字枱和电镀折椅魔术般地出现了（我总是半开玩笑地对妈妈说，这些都是剧协的道具）；亲友们整天出出进进，把那个沾着漆点的门把手磨得锃亮，连那些多年不露面的叔叔阿姨们也跑来祝贺……。好了，你们欢呼吧，歌唱吧，可这一切和我

罪人	zuìren	offender, guilty person
不也……吗	bùyě……ma	didn't that...?
出自……之口	chūzì……zhikǒu	out of ...'s mouth
目光	mùguāng	eyes, vision
制止	zhìzhǐ	to stop
* 节日	jiérì	a day of celebration, festival
演习	yǎnxí	dress rehearsal; drill
* 鸽子笼	gēzilóng	pigeon-loft (笼, same as 籠)
三间一套	sānjiānyítào	a three-bedroom flat
公寓大厦	gōngyùdàxià	apartment building (厦, same as 廈)
寓	yù	residence
厦	xià	tall building
沙发	shāfā	sofa
沙	shā	sand (here used as transliteration)
书柜	shūguì	bookcase (柜, same as 櫃)
写字枱	xiězìtái	desk (枱, same as 檯)
枱	tái	desk, table
* 电镀折椅	diàndùzhéyǐ	chrome folding chair
魔术	móshù	magic
道具	dàojù	troupe's props
* 沾着	zhānzhe	to be stained with
漆点	qīdiǎn	paint drops
门把手	ménbàshǒu	doorknob
* 磨得	móde	to be rubbed
* 锃亮	zèngliàng	to be shiny
* 露面	lùmiàn	to show up
阿姨	āyí	aunt
姨	yí	aunt (mother's sister)
祝贺	zhùhè	to offer congratulation
欢呼	huānhū	to cheer

有什么关系？我爸爸早死了，二十年前，当一个四、五岁的女孩正需要父爱的时候，他就死了——这是妈妈、学校、善心的人们和与生俱来的全部社会教养告诉我的。岂止如此，你们还要我恨他、骂他，可能的话，还会给我根鞭子，让我狠狠抽打他！现在倒好，你们又换了副面孔。让我怎么办呢？哭，还是笑？

昨天晚上吃饭的时候，妈妈变得更加体贴了，不停地往我碗里夹菜。饭后，她毫无表情地从抽屉里取出封电报递给我。

「他？」

「明天到，下午四点五十分。」

我捏着电报，直盯着妈妈的眼睛。

「去接吧，兰兰。」她避开我的目光。

「我明天下午有课。」

「找人代一下吧。」

我转向自己的房间，「我不去。」

「兰兰，」妈妈提高了声调，「他毕竟是你的父亲呵！」

善心	shànxīn	kind-hearted
* 与生俱来	yúshēngjùlái	to start at birth
社会教养	shèhuìjiàoyǎng	social upbringing (养, same as 養)
岂止如此	qǐzhǐrúcǐ	not only this (岂, same as 豈)
鞭子	biānzi	whip
抽打	chōudǎ	to lash
现在倒好	xiànzài dàohǎo	now it's the other way around
换了副面孔	huànle fù miànkǒng	to be wearing a different face
* 更加体贴	gèngjiā tǐtiē	to be even more considerate
夹菜	jiācài	to fill someone's bowl with food (夹, same as 夾)
* 毫无表情地	háowú biǎoqíngde	without slightest sign of emotion
* 抽屉	chōuti	drawer (屨, same as 屨)
* 递给	dìgěi	to hand it to (递, same as 遞)
* 捏	niē	to hold between the fingers (捏, same as 捏)
* 直盯着	zhídīngzhe	to stare nimbly
毕竟	bìjìng	after all

「父亲？」我猛地转过身，喃喃自语，仿佛被这个词的含义吓坏了。随着一阵不规则的心跳，我明白，是旧日伤口上的肠线一一绷断了。

我合上摊在面前的作文本：五年级二班，张小霞。那个泼辣的女孩子，脑袋总爱微微偏斜，神气多象小时候的我。哎，童年。我们的生活都是从这淡蓝色的封皮后面开始的，是从那些橡皮涂脏的字句和标点开始的，说得确切点，也就是从某种程度的受骗开始的。老师们为生活勾出的光轮，又有哪一道没变成烟圈或铁箍呢？

猛地	měngde	abruptly
* 喃喃自语	nánnányǔ	to mutter
* 仿佛	fǎngfú	as if (same as 彷彿)
* 含义	hányì	meaning, implication
吓坏了	xiàhuàile	to be overcome with fear (吓, same as 嚇)
不规则	bùguīzé	to be irregular
伤口	shāngkǒu	wound
* 肠线	chángxiàn	stiches (肠, same as 腸)
* 绷断	bēngduàn	to split open
摊	tān	to spread (same as 攤)
作文本	zuòwénběn	composition book
二班	èrbān	Second Class
* 张小霞	Zhāng Xiǎoxiá	(name of a girl)
* 泼辣	pōlà	to be rude and unreasonable
脑袋	nǎodai	head
微微	wēiwēi	slightly
* 偏斜	piānxié	to be inclined to one side
* 哎	āi	Oh!
* 童年	tóngnián	childhood
封皮	fēngpí	front and back cover of a book
* 橡皮	xiàngpí	eraser
* 涂脏	túzāng	to smudge (same as 塗髒)
标点	biāodiǎn	punctuation marks (标, same as 標)
确切	quèqiè	to be precise (确, same as 確)
……点	……diǎn	to be more (same as ……yidiǎn)
* 勾出	gōuchū	to delineate
光轮	guānglún	haloes
道	dào	(here used as a measure for ray)
烟圈	yānquān	smoke ring
* 铁箍	tiěgū	iron hoop

暗影，从老式的长窗流进来，翳暗桌上玻璃板明亮的部分，整个教研室沉浸在朦胧的宁静之中。我叹了口气，收拾好东西，锁上门，穿过清冷的校园，朝家走去。

灯光闪闪的大厦宛如巨大的电视屏幕，那些闭灯的窗户组成了一幅捉摸不透的影象。一会儿工夫，有的窗户亮了，有的窗户又暗下来。而七层楼的那三个窗户一直保持着原状：一明两暗。我在堆着白灰和杉篙的空场上徘徊了很久。一块歪斜的破木牌上写着：注意安全。

奇怪，为什么世界上所有的语言，在这个特定含义上都发出同样的声音：爸爸。

窗	chuāng	window
* 翳暗	yàn	to dull
玻璃板	bōlibǎn	glass desk-top
玻璃	bōli	glass
教研室	jiàoyánshì	teaching and research section
* 沉浸	chénjìn	to immerse, steep
* 朦胧	ménglóng	to be drowsy, dim (same as 朦朧)
* 宁静	níngjìng	tranquility; to be peaceful (same as 寧靜)
锁上	suǒshàng	to lock
锁	suǒ	to lock; a lock
* 灯光闪闪	dēngguāngshǎnshǎn	with glittering lights
* 宛如	wǎnrú	to be like
* 屏幕	píngmù	screen
闭灯	bìdēng	to unlit
窗户	chuānghu	window
户	hù	door
* 幅	fù	(a measure for scrolls, pictures, maps, etc.)
捉摸不透	zhuōmōbútòu	to be elusive, unpredictable
* 原状	yuánzhuàng	previous condition, original state (状, same as 狀)
白灰	báihuī	white lime
* 杉篙	shāgāo	fir pole
* 徘徊	páihuí	to pace up and down
* 歪斜	wāixié	to be crooked
破木牌	pò mù pái	broken signboard
特定	tèdìng	particular

那些不同肤色、性情和身分的父亲们都从这声音中得到同样的满足。可我却叫不出口。关于他，我又知道些什么呢？除了几张倖存的旧照片保留了一个儿时的梦（也许每个小姑娘都会有这样的梦吧！）：他头上缠着白布，象阿拉伯酋长似的坐在大象上，象背铺着华丽的毡毯，金色的流苏垂到地上……再就是几个轰动一时的剧本和一部厚厚的戏剧理论，这些书我还是偶然在废品收购站见到的。还有什么？对了，加上那些倒霉的信件，和钟表一样准时而乏味，装在那些带红框框的牛皮纸信封里，简直就象死亡通知书，压得人透不过气。我从不回信，后来连看也不看就交给火了。只有一次，雪白的信封上印着只可爱的小鸭子，可拆开一看，扫兴极了，我气得诅咒起所

肤色	fū sè	color of skin (肤, same as 膚)
肤	fū	skin
身分	shēn fèn	status
* 倖存	xìng cún	surviving
* 缠着	chán zhe	wound around (缠, same as 纏)
* 酋长	qiú zhǎng	chief (of a tribe)
华丽	huá lì	to be resplendent (same as 華麗)
* 毡毯	zhān tǎn	blanket
流苏	liú sū	tassel
轰动一时	hōng dòng yí shí	once created a sensation
剧本	jù běn	a play, a script
部	bù	(here used as a measure for a thick book)
戏剧	xì jù	drama
废品收购站	fèi pǐn- shōu gòu zhàn	waste material salvage station (废, same as 廢; 购, same as 購)
购	gòu	purchase
* 倒霉	dǎo méi	to be unlucky
准时	zhǔn shí	to be punctual
* 乏味	fá wèi	to be drab
* 红框框	hóng kuāng kuāng	red frame
牛皮纸	niú pí zhǐ	brown paper, kraft paper
压得人透不过气	yā de rén tòu bù guò qì	to be suffocating (压, same as 壓)
* 鸭子	yā zi	duck
* 拆开	chāi kāi	to tear it open
扫兴	sǎo xìng	to be disappointed
* 诅咒起……来	zǔ zhòu qǐ…… lái	to curse...

有的丑小鸭来，并且历数它们的恶癖：贪嘴、苟安、吊儿郎当……因为没给我带来好运气。可我又配有什么好运气呢？

电梯开放时间已过，只好一级一级往上爬。到了家门口，我停下来，屏息倾听着。屋里传来电视整流器的嗡嗡声和一部老片子的陈词滥调。给我勇气吧，老天爷！

我刚打开门，就听见弟弟的粗嗓门：「是姐回来了。」他象打冲锋似地扑过来，帮我脱去外套。快二十的小伙子了，对我却充满了孩子般的依恋，大概是由于我分担了那些年对妈妈来说显得过于沉重的母爱吧。

* 丑小鸭	chǒuxiǎoyā	ugly duckling (丑, same as 醜)
历数	lìshǔ	to enumerate, count
* 恶癖	èpì	vice
* 贪嘴	tānzǔi	to be greedy (for food)
* 苟安	gǒuān	to be content with temporary ease and comfort
* 吊儿郎当	diàorǎngāng	to be careless, slovenly
配	pèi	to deserve
电梯	diàntī	elevator
梯	tī	ladder; stairs
开放时间已过	kāifàng shíjiān yǐguò	closed for the day (开放时间, hours to open for the public)
* 屏息倾听	bǐngxīqīngtīng	to listen with bated breath
整流器	zhěngliúqì	rectifier
* 嗡嗡声	wēngwēngshēng	hum
* 陈词滥调	chéncílàndiào	cliches
老天爷	lǎotiānyé	Heavens! (爷, same as 爺)
* 粗嗓门	cūsǎngmén	gruff voice
象打冲锋似地	xiàng dǎchōngfēng shìde	as if making an assault on the enemy (冲, same as 衝)
锋	fēng	sharp point of a sword
扑过来	pūguolai	to throw up (扑, same as 撲)
扑	pū	to throw oneself on
外套	wàitào	overcoat
* 小伙子	xiǎohuǒzi	youngster, lad
依恋	yīliàn	attachment (恋, same as 戀)
* 沉重	chénzhòng	to be heavy

过道很暗，厨房里射出的灯光把黑暗劈成两半。他，站在对面房间的门口，站在另一半黑暗之中，旁边是妈妈。在他们肩后，电视屏幕的反光一闪一闪的。

死一般的寂静。

终于，他跨过这道光河走过来。灯光，白惨惨的灯光，迅速地在他满是折皱和斑痕的脖颈和脸上滑过。我愣住了：这个干瘪的小老头就是他吗？父亲。我无力地倚在门上。

他迟疑了一下，伸过手来，我的小手完全消失在他那僵硬的大骨节的手之中。这双手和他的身材是多么不相称。

「兰兰，」他的声音很低，有点颤。

沉默。

过道	guòdào	corridor, hallway
* 厨房	chúfáng	kitchen (厨, same as 廚)
厨	chú	kitchen
射出	shèchū	to send out (light), to project
* 劈成两半	pīchéng liǎngbàn	to split into two
寂静	jìjìng	to be silent
寂	jì	silent
* 跨过	kuàguò	to stride over
白惨惨	báicǎncǎn	deathly-white (惨, same as 慘)
惨	cǎn	to be miserable, tragic
* 迅速地	xùnsùde	swiftly
* 折皱	zhézòu	wrinkles (same as 褶皺)
* 斑痕	bānhéng	spots
* 脖颈	bójǐng	neck (颈, same as 頸)
* 愣住了	lèngzhule	to be struck dumb
* 干瘪	gānbǐě	to be dry and shrivelled (瘪, same as 癟)
* 倚	yǐ	to lean against
迟疑	chíyí	to hesitate (迟, same as 遲)
* 僵硬	jiāngyìng	to be stiff
* 大骨节	dàgǔjié	big joint
相称	xiāngchēng	to match, suit
* 颤	chàn	to tremble
* 沉默	chénmò	silence

「兰兰，」他又说，声音变得肯定些了，似乎急切地等待着什么。

可我又能说些什么呢？

「这么晚才回来，吃过饭了吗？」妈妈说。

「嗯。」我的声音那么微弱。

「都站着干什么？进屋吧。」妈妈说。

他牵着我的手。我顺从地跟着。妈妈拉开灯，啪地关上电视机。我们在长沙发上坐下来。他依然紧攥着我的手，呆呆地盯着我。我避开了，目光落在窗台上的那个吹气的塑料洋娃娃身上。

令人难堪的沉寂。

「兰兰，」他又一次呼唤着。

我真担心那个洋娃娃会爆炸，红红绿绿的碎片满屋飞舞。

「吃过饭了？」

我用力点点头。

肯定	kěndìng	to be positive
* 嗯	ng	(interjection expressing assent)
微弱	wēiruò	to be weak
牵	qiān	to hold (same as 牽)
顺从地	shùncóngde	obediently
* 啪地	pāde	with a click (啪, indicates the sound)
* 紧攥着	jǐnzhuànzhe	to hold tight
* 呆呆地	dāidāide	blankly (呆, same as 默)
窗台	chuāngtái	window-sill
吹气	chuīqì	to blow-up
* 塑料	sùliào	plastic
* 洋娃娃	yángwáwa	doll
* 令人难堪	lìngrénnánkān	to be unbearable
呼唤	hūhuàn	to call
唤	huàn	to call
担心	dānxīn	to worry (担, same as 擔 and 耽)
爆炸	bàozhà	to explode
爆	bào	to explode
碎片	suìpiàn	fragments
飞舞	fēiwǔ	to fly, flutter, dance in the air

「外面冷吗？」

「不。」一切都很正常，洋娃娃不会破的。也许她会突然象只氢气球似地飞起来，飞出窗口，在那些装满人声、灯光和体温的房屋之上飞翔，去寻找星星和月亮。

「兰兰。」他的声音中充满了哀怜和乞求。

突然，刚刚建立起来的信心迅速崩溃了。我感到一阵心慌。血液砰砰地涌向头顶。我猛地抽回手，冲出门去，拐进自己的房间，一头扑在床上。我真想痛哭一场。

门轻轻推开了，是妈妈。她走到床边，在黑暗中坐下来，抚摸着我的头发、脖颈和肩头。不知为什么，我浑身怕冷似地颤抖起来。

「别哭，兰兰。」

哭？妈妈，如果我还会哭的话，泪水准是红的，是血！

她拍了拍我的背。「睡一会吧，兰兰，一切都会过去的。」

妈妈走了。

一切都会过去的。哼，说得倒轻松，难道这二十年就一笔勾销了？人不是芦苇，

* 氢气球	qīngqìqiú	hydrogen ballon (氢, same as 氢)
体温	tǐwēn	(body) temperature
* 飞翔	fēixiáng	to fly
哀怜	āilián	compassion, pity (怜, same as 憐)
* 乞求	qǐqiú	pleading; to beg for
* 崩溃	bēngkuì	to collapse
心慌	xīnhuāng	to be nervous, alarmed
* 血液	xuèyè	blood
* 砰砰地	pēngpēngde	repeatedly and vigorously (砰, the sound of pounding)
* 涌向	yǒngxiàng	to surge toward
抽回	chōuhuí	to pull back
* 拐进	guǎijìn	to turn into
痛哭一场	tòngkūyìchǎng	to have a good cry
* 抚摸	fǔmō	to stroke (抚, same as 撫)
* 浑身	húnshēn	the whole body
颤抖	chàndǒu	to tremble
准是	zhǔnshì	surely to be
* 哼	hēng	huh!
说得倒轻松	shuōde dào qīngsōng	it is so easily said (轻松, same as 輕鬆)
* 一笔勾销	yībígōuxiāo	to write off at one stroke
* 芦苇	lúwěi	reeds (same as 蘆葦)

不是水蛭，而是珍珠蚌，记忆的沙粒会随着时间的流动变成体内的一部分，一颗颗永不干涸的泪水。

……地下室。蚊虫扑打着刺眼的灯泡。一个遍体鳞伤的老头被绑在木马上，垂着头，嘶哑地呻吟着。我躲在角落里抽泣。膝头被碎玻璃扎烂了，血和泥浆混在一起……

那时我才十一、二岁。有一天夜里，妈妈失眠了，她忽然搂住我说，爸爸是个好

* 水蛭	shuǐzhì	leaches
* 珍珠蚌	zhēnzhūbàng	pearl oyster
沙粒	shāli	sand
粒	li	grain (a measure for sand)
体内	tǐnèi	in the body
* 颗	kē	(a measure for pearl)
* 干涸	gānhé	to dry up
* 地下室	dìxiashì	basement
蚊虫	wénchóng	mosquitoes (虫, same as 蟲)
蚊	wén	mosquitoes
虫	chóng	insect, worm
刺眼	cìyǎn	to be dazzling, offending to the eyes
灯泡	dēngpào	light bulb
泡	pào	bulb
* 遍体鳞伤	biàntǐlínshāng	to be covered with bruises or injuries
木马	mùmǎ	pommel horse
垂着头	chuízhētóu	head bowed
* 嘶哑地	sīyǎde	hoarsely (哑, same as 啞)
* 呻吟	shēnyín	to moan
躲	duǒ	to hide (oneself)
角落	jiǎoluò	corner
* 抽泣	chōuqì	to sob
* 膝头	xītóu	knees
* 扎烂	zhálan	to mash
* 泥浆	níjiāng	mud (浆, same as 漿)
混在一起	hùnzaiyìqǐ	to mix together
失眠	shīmíán	to suffer from insomnia
眠	mián	sleep
* 搂住	lǒuzhu	to hug (搂, same as 摟)

人，是被别人冤枉的。这话在一个孩子的心里燃起了希望：她头一次可能和别的孩子享受同样的权利了。于是我跑遍了学校、剧协、居委会和红卫兵总部，去向他们证明爸爸的无罪。大祸临头了，那些家伙气势汹汹地带着我到家里追查。妈妈不知道是怎么回事，当着女儿的面，她把所有的话都推翻了，全部罪名都落在我那小小的肩膀上。妈妈后悔了，哀求着，情愿自己去死，可有什么用？我被游斗，干重活，在碎玻璃上罚跪。

……老头抬起血肉模糊的脸：「给我口水喝吧，水，水呀！」我睁着恐惧的眼睛，忘掉了疼痛，紧紧蜷缩在角落里。黎明时分，老头咽气了，我也吓昏了过去。血，在

* 冤枉	yuānwàng	to charge someone unjustly
* 燃起了	ránqǐle	to flame up
居委会	jūwēihui	Neighborhood Committee
委	wěi	appoint
红卫兵总部	hóngwèibīng zǒngbù	Red Guard Headquarter
大祸临头	dàhuò líntóu	disaster is imminent (祸, same as 祸)
祸	huò	disaster
* 家伙	jiāhuo	guy, scoundrel
* 气势汹汹地	qìshìxiōngxiōngde	fiercely
追查	zhuīchá	to investigate
肩膀	jiānbǎng	shoulder
膀	bǎng	arm
哀求	āiqiú	to entreat, implore
游斗	yóudòu	to parade and struggle against (游, same as 遊)
斗	dòu	to struggle against
干重活	gànzhòngghuó	to do heavy labor
* 罚跪	fáguì	to punish (someone) by making him kneel
* 血肉模糊	xuèròumóhú	to be bloody
恐惧	kǒngjù	to be frightened (惧, same as 懼)
惧	jù	fear
疼痛	téngtòng	pain
* 蜷缩	quánsuō	to huddle
* 黎明时分	lí míng shí fēn	when daybreak
咽气	yànqì	to breathe one's last, die
咽	yàn	to swallow
吓昏了过去	xiàhūnle-guòqu	fainted with fright

膝头凝固了……

这又能怪妈妈吗？

二

天空太蓝了，蓝得耀眼，强烈的反光映在大地上。我扎着蝴蝶结，拎着空空的小竹篮，站在齐腰深的草丛中。忽然，对面的丛林里出现了一头大象，背上毡毯的流苏垂到地上，爸爸头上缠着白布，神气地坐在上面。大象的长鼻子甩来甩去，呼地一下把我捲起来，安放在爸爸身前。我们向前行进着，穿过阳光跳窜的椰林，穿过泉水淙淙的山涧。我忽然扭过头，惊叫起来。背后坐的原来是个小老头，血肉模糊的脸，穿

* 凝固	níngù	to congeal
* 耀眼	yàoyǎn	to be dazzling
强烈	qiángliè	to be intense, strong, violent
烈	liè	intense
反光	fǎnguāng	reflection
* 扎	zā	to tie, bind (扎, same as 紮)
* 蝴蝶结	húdiějié	bow (蝴蝶, butterfly)
* 拎	līng	to hold
齐腰深	qíyāoshēn	waist-high
* 草丛	cǎocóng	dense grass (丛, same as 叢)
* 丛林	cónglín	jungle
* 鼻子	bízi	trunk (of an elephant); nose
* 甩来甩去	shuǎiláishuǎiqù	to swing to and fro
* 呼地一下	hūdeyíxià	with a snort (呼, sound of a snorting)
安放	ānfàng	to put
* 阳光跳窜	yángguāng-tiàocuàn	leaping sunlight (窜, same as 竄)
* 椰林	yēlín	coconut grove
* 泉水淙淙	quánshuǐcóngcóng	gurgling springs (淙淙, the sound of a spring)
* 山涧	shānjiàn	mountain stream, gully
* 扭过头	niǔguòtóu	to turn (one's) head

着囚衣，胸前印着「劳改」二字。他嘶哑地呻吟着「给我口水喝吧，水，水呀！」……

我吓醒了。

五点钟了，窗外还是一片黑暗。我顺手拉开床头柜的抽屉，摸出香烟，点燃了一支。我狠狠地吸了一口，感到轻松多了。白色的烟雾在黑暗中扩散，最后顺着那扇打开的小窗飘走了。香烟的火光一明一暗，我竭力想看清自己的内心深处，可除了无所不在的寂静，香烟带来的轻松和恶梦之后恍惚的空虚外，再没有什么了。

我拧亮台灯，穿好衣服，轻轻拉开门。厨房里亮着灯，传来一阵窸窣窣的声响。谁起得这么早？谁？

灯光下，他穿着件黑布棉坎肩，背身蹲在垃圾箱旁，仔细翻动着什么，旁边堆放

* 囚衣	qiúyī	convict clothes
印着	yìnzhè	to be printed with
劳改	láoǎi	to reform through labor
顺手	shùnrshǒu	handily, simultaneously
床头柜	chuángtóuguì	bedside cupboard
* 点燃	diǎnrán	to lit
* 烟雾	yānwù	cloud, smoke
扩散	kuòsàn	to spread, diffuse (扩, same as 擴)
顺着	shùnzhè	through
扇	shàn	(a measure for door and window); fan; to fan
飘	piāo	to float
一明一暗	yīmíngyīàn	to brighten and dim alternately
* 竭力	jiélì	to try one's best
无所不在	wúsuǒbúzài	ubiquitous
* 恍惚	huǎnghū	vaguely
* 空虚	kōngxū	emptiness
* 拧亮	nǐngliàng	to switch on (a light; 拧, same as 擰)
* 窸窣窣	xīxūsū	rustle
* 棉坎肩	miánkǎnjiān	cotton padded vest
背身	bèishēn	with one's back toward me
* 蹲在	dūnzài	to crouch over
* 垃圾箱	lājīxiāng	garbage can (垃圾, garbage and trash)
* 仔细	zìxì	to be careful

着菜叶、鱼头之类的脏玩意儿。

我咳了一声。

他腾地扭过头，脸色煞白，恐惧地望着我。

日光灯发出嗡嗡的响声。

他缓缓地站起来，手背在身后，勉强地笑了笑。「兰兰，把你吵醒了。」

「你在干什么？」

「哦，没什么，没什么。」他慌了，用另一只空闲的手不停地在裤子上揉搓着。

我伸出手。「让我看看。」

他犹豫了一下，把东西递过来。原来是个普普通通的烟盒，除了一角被染脏外，什么也没有。

我抬起头，疑惑地望着他。

「噢，兰兰，他半秃的头顶上沁出汗珠，「昨天我扔了这个烟盒，忘记检查一下

脏玩意儿	zāngwányìr	dirty stuff
咳	ké	to cough
* 腾地	téngde	abruptly
* 煞白	shàbái	deathly pale
日光灯	rìguāngdēng	fluorecent light
背在身后	bèizai shēnhòu	behind one's back
勉强地	miánqiǎngde	making an effort, reluctantly
勉	mián	strive
吵醒	chǎoxǐng	to wake someone with noise
* 哦	ào	oh!
空闲	kōngxián	to be free, idle
* 揉搓	róucuō	to rub
* 犹豫	yóuyù	to hesitate (犹, same as 猶)
* 烟盒	yānhé	cigarette packet
染脏	rǎnzāng	to be soiled
染	rǎn	to soil; to catch (a disease)
* 噢	ào	oh!
* 半秃	bàntū	to be almost bald
* 沁出	qìnchū	to ooze, seep
汗珠	hànzhū	beads of sweat
珠	zhū	bead; pearl

了，万一上面记着什么，让队长看见可不得了。」

「队长？」我更莫名其妙了，「队长是谁？」

「管理我们这些犯人的都叫队长。」他摸出手帕，擦了擦头上的汗，「当然，我知道，鞭长莫及，还是找到好，免得……」

我的头嗡嗡响起来。「算了，别说了。」

他紧紧闭住嘴巴，好象连舌头一起咬下来似的。真没想到，我们的对话竟是这样开始的。我头一次仔细打量他。他比昨晚显得更苍老了，凹陷的两腮长满短短的灰白胡茬，刀刻般的皱纹簇拥着无神的眼睛，右耳上端长了个难看的肉瘤。怜悯之情不禁油然而生。

队长	duìzhǎng	team leader
可不得了	kě bùdéliǎo	it is disastrous
* 莫名其妙	mòmíngqímiào	to be baffled
* 犯人	fànren	prisoner
擦	cā	to wipe
* 鞭长莫及	biānchángmòjí	to be beyond one's reach
闭住嘴巴	bìzhū zuǐba	to close one's mouth
* 舌头	shétou	tongue
打量	dǎliang	to look carefully
* 苍老	cānglǎo	to be old and pale
* 凹陷	āoxiàn	to be sunken, hollow
* 腮	sāi	cheeks
长满	zhǎngmǎn	to be covered with
灰白	huībái	grey
* 胡茬	dúchá	stubble (胡, same as 鬍)
刀刻般	dāokèbān	seems to have been carved by a knife
* 皱纹	zòuwén	wrinkles
* 簇拥着	cúyǒngzhe	to cluster round (拥, same as 擁)
无神	wúshén	to be lacklustre
上端	shàngduān	tip
难看	nánkàn	to be ugly
* 肉瘤	ròuliú	sarcoma
* 怜悯之情	liánmǐnzhīqíng	the feeling of pity
* 不禁	bùjìn	cannot help (doing something)
油然而生	yóurán'érshēng	to well up in one's heart

「那里很苦吧？」

「还好，习惯了。」

习惯了！我打了个冷战。尊严、铁丝网、机枪、纷沓的脚步、沉闷的队伍、死亡：我揉了揉烟盒，抛进垃圾箱。「再去睡会儿吧，时间还早。」

「睡够了，五点半吹起床号。」他转身去收拾摊开的垃圾。

我回到屋里，把脸贴在冰凉的墙壁上。真受不了，就这样开始，往后该怎么办呢？他过去不是一个很有骨气的人吗？时间之手呵，你如此残酷冷漠，把人象泥巴似地捏来捏去，你在一个女儿没有记清父亲的真实面目之前就把他毁了！……我终于冷静下来，把东西塞进提包，穿上外套。

经过厨房，我站住了。他正在水池旁，用小刷子在刷洗那双大手，绿色的肥皂沫

打了个冷战	dǎle ge lěngzhàn	to shiver with cold
* 尊严	zūnyán	dignity
机枪	jīqiāng	machine gun
* 纷沓	fēntà	hurried
脚步	jiǎobù	footsteps
* 沉闷	chénmèn	to be depressing
吹起床号	chuī qǐchuánghào	to sound reveille
* 贴	tiē	to press against; to paste
墙壁	qiángbì	wall
往后	wǎnghòu	from now on
* 有骨气	yǒugǔqì	to be of integrity
* 残酷	cánkù	to be cruel
冷漠	lěngmò	to be indifferent
漠	mò	indifferent; desert
泥巴	níbā	mud, putty
巴	bā	(as in 泥巴)
面目	miànmu	face
毁	huǐ	to destroy
冷静	lěngjìng	to be calm
* 塞进	sāijìn	to squeeze in, fill in
提包	tíbāo	bag
刷子	shuāzi	a brush
刷	shuā	to brush; scrub
* 肥皂沫	féizàomò	soap froth

象树汁似地滴落着。

「我去上班。」

「这么早？」他那么专心，连头也没抬。

「习惯了。」

我没有开灯，沿着黑暗，沿着一级级楼梯走下去。

* 树汁	shùzhī	sap
滴落	dīluò	to drip
滴	dī	to drip; a drop
专心	zhuānxīn	to be absorbed, concentrate one's attention
一级级	yíjījī	each flight (of stairs)
楼梯	lóutī	stairs