

XI - 79 - 1. 42 pages of Untitled four act play.

List of Characters

See p. 11  
Jen - Li -  
Chan + etc

<u>Sun Liu Kun</u>	A North China peasant.
<u>Wife</u>	His wife.
<u>Li Mei</u>	Their daughter.
<u>Little Tiger</u>	Their son.
<u>Wang Ta Tang</u>	A dealer in women.
<u>Servant</u>	His servant.
<u>1st and 2nd Neighbors</u>	Flood refugees.
<u>Loafers</u>	Who deals in whatever brings money.
<u>Detective</u>	A member of the Special Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Police.
<u>Anna</u>	A Shanghai Turanian girl.
<u>Boy</u>	The Detective's Chinese servant.
<u>Hu Sing Ta</u>	Friends and revolutionary intellectuals.
<u>Yu Mao</u>	
<u>Shopmaster</u>	Proprietor of a Metal Polishing Works.
<u>1st Officer</u>	A newly enlisted member of the Shanghai Municipal Police, Foreign Branch.
<u>2nd Officer</u>	An old hand in the Shanghai Municipal Police.
<u>1st Worker</u>	Representatives of underground factory unions.
<u>2nd Worker</u>	
<u>1st, 2nd and 3rd Apprentices</u>	Who work in the Metal Polishing Works.
<u>Japanese Inspector</u>	All of the Shanghai Municipal Police.
<u>Japanese Sergeant</u>	
<u>Interpreter</u>	
<u>Clerk</u>	
<u>Chinese Policeman</u>	
<u>Duty Sergeant</u>	

Passer By

A Chinese passer by.

The street population of Shanghai's Main Street, which include,

A Chinese Lady

Daughter

Her daughter.

Sikh

A Policeman in the Indian Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Council.

1st Lady }

2nd Lady }

Two American ladies.

1st Man }

2nd Man }

Two elderly business men.

1st Gangster }

2nd Gangster }

Two members of the Shanghai underworld.

1st Soldier }

2nd Soldier }

Two soldiers of the Shanghai Defence Force.

Girl

A child prostitute.

Dean

An English Cleric.

Faithful Parishoner

His lady friend.

1st Broker }

2nd Broker }

Chinese stock market gamblers.

1st Boy }

2nd Boy }

English School-boys.

1st Tourist }

2nd Tourist }

3rd Tourist }

Globe trotters.

BEFORE THE DAWN

Act 1  
Scene 1.

A row of crude shelters made of bamboo matting, thatch and willow sticks, erected along the embankment of the railway in Kiangsu, the northern part of which province has been inundated by the flooded waters of the Yellow River during the summer. It is autumn, but the farm lands are still submerged, and the peasants are existing on whatever high ground is available.

At the door of one of these huts, stands Sun Liu Kun, a gaunt peasant in his late thirties. His wife, a thin sick looking woman, sits on a wooden stool nearby, killing lice in the head of her daughter, a fifteen year old girl they call Li Mei. Their son, nicknamed Little Tiger, comes towards the hut carrying an armful of sticks and driftwood he has salvaged from the water, as well as some tree bark. He drops his bundle at the entrance with a laugh that is as cheerful as he can make it. He is a year younger than Li Mei, and wears but a shred of old blue cotton trousers.

Sun Liu Kun has as an only garment, a pair of loose trousers of the same material, which are rolled up over the knees. He also has a pair of straw sandals.

Little Tiger Look, father, I have firewood and fuel. I saw neighbors eating this kind of bark, so have brought a little home for us to try.

Sun Liu Kun Good. There are also some roots which can be eaten. These things will help to make our grain go a little further. Today I have caught three small fish, and this morning your mother has finished your clothes for the winter.

✓ Wife (Bitterly) We buried his grandfather naked to take those rags !

Sun Liu Kun Yes, that was hard to do. But from where else could we have got the cloth that was needed ? It is good at times to feel the sun on our backs in the summer, but it is quite certain that without clothes, there is no way to pass the winter. Our first duty is to our ancestors, and who will worship them, if Little Tiger does not live ?

✓ Wife If he were taken, then it would be the end !

Li Mei Of course Little Tiger will live. He is the strongest of us all. Do not be so sad, Mother !

Little Tiger We shall all live. We can think of many ways. When the water goes, we can all pull the plough and plant our seed.

Sun Liu Kun (Staring across the flooded waters) So much water ! Ma Ma Ka Pi Ai, will it never leave dry land ? Yes, son, when the water goes, perhaps we can plough, but to get the seed .... we must think of a way.

Wife

Before we had the little the Officials and the Landlord left us. Twice a day we ate. But now the water takes our all. Our eight characters are bad, and there is no way out for us. (She buries her head in her hands. Li Mei caresses her, and childishly tries to offer comfort.)

Sun Liu Kun

Stop wailing, wife. You have cried these seven days and have made yourself ill. I loved the babies too, but what I did had to be done. There are many men from our village who have had to do likewise. We still have Little Tiger to perform the rites for us when we join our ancestors.

Wife

Should he ever reach manhood. And spring is far off. Before the Officials took you to work on the dykes, and paid you not one copper. They say you will be taken again, but this time they must give some food. Perhaps they will let Little Tiger work with you, but the food will not be enough for you two only. Li Mei and I will starve.

Sun Liu Kun

Most men have women. There will be some way to get a little grain for you.

Little Tiger

Look, father, here comes a great Official! (He and Li Mei scuttle into the hut)

Enter Wang Ts Tang, a dealer in women from Shanghai. He is wearing a furlined long gown, and has on a fur cap. He has descended from a railway trolley, which has brought him from the nearest station. He is followed by a fat servant.

Wang Ts Tang

(To Sun Liu Kun) How are you, countryman, and what is your name?

Sun Liu Kun

I am named Sun. And where do you come from, your honour?

Wang Ts Tang

From Shanghai. (Looking around him) So this is where you must live? How sad! How sad!

Sun Liu Kun

I have heard that Shanghai is a great rich city, and that men live easily there. Is that so?

Wang Ts Tang

You have heard rightly, friend. There people eat fine food, and live in wares houses, the like of which you countrymen here have never seen. Many are thirty floors high!

Sun Liu Kun

Thirty floors? Houses as high as that?

Wife

He says that in Shanghai there are houses which are thirty floors high! I do not believe it. The pawn shop in our Heien City is very high and that has two floors.

Little Tiger

(coming out from behind his father, and followed by Li Mei) Ai Yah! They must be as high as heaven!

Li Mei

Thirty floors!

Wang Ta Tang

(Looking at Li Mei with interest, and now becoming more oily than before) My poor people! I have come to have a word with you, for it makes me very sad to see you suffer so.

Servant

Mr Wang is a man with a kind heart. Listen to him, countrymen.

Wang Ta Tang

But what can be done? (he pretends to think for a minute) I have it! There is your fine little girl. Now suppose she went to Shanghai with me, she could easily enter a rich household as servant, and so have good food and clothing - fine white rice, and as much as she could eat.

Sun Liu Kun

(Suspiciously) These are bad times, sir, ~~unhappy~~ but even here so big a girl is still worth money.

Wife

Come away from him, husband. He tries but to deceive us!  
(She clutches Li Mei)

Servant

Ah, but how ignorant these silly country women are!

Wang Ta Tang

It is difficult to help such people as these.

Servant

They do not know anything! Their brains are slow, like the brains of the water buffaloes they used to own, but now have eaten. (He laughs)

Wang Ta Tang

My good friends! I am a compassionate man, and would willingly give you some silver, so that you could support yourselves till spring. (He takes out five great silver dollars, and holds them so that the refugees can see them) Just look at this pile of silver! With it you can pass the winter.

Sun Liu Kun

I could buy seed for the spring.

Servant

(Slapping Sun Liu Kun on the back) Now there's brains! Of course, good fellow, you could buy seed for the spring. My master is indeed a worthy man.

Wang Ta Tang

(Modestly) In Shanghai there is such of such silver. I should really have brought more with me, so as to be able to help more of such people as these. It is easy for men like myself to do these good deeds.

Wife

(wild eyed, and clutching her daughter) Do not listen to him, husband! His words sound like those of the Landlord's ~~agent~~ <sup>agent</sup>, whose heart is crooked while his lips are sweet. Or like those of the pawnbroker, who lives on the blood of peasant farmers.

Sun Liu Kun

(Reflecting, and looking at the dollars) But it would be a way, woman, and the silver would save us.

Servant

My master is a famous man in Shanghai, where all know that he does such good deeds. He does not need to deceive poor countrymen. Look at the water. Look at the land. You know that you cannot live till next harvest without help!

Wife

(Screaming) You cannot take her, Figs! Go! and leave us in peace. (She holds her daughter behind her)

Wang Is Tang

(quietly to Sun Liu Kun) Come and walk a little way with me, old friend. (They move along the embankment towards the trolley. Wang pushes the five dollars into Sun's belt. The wife, who is being held at bay by the slave dealer's servant, sees the transaction, and runs towards Sun, alternately pleading and cursing. Wang makes a sign to the servant, who seizes the bewildered Li Mei, and places her on the trolley, which has been started up. He helps to pull Wang on also, and they go off the scene.)

Wife

You have sold her. My daughter, you have sold her! (She becomes hysterical, and in spite of Sun's and the neighbor's efforts, and her own pitiful bound feet, breaks away and runs wildly along the embankment to where a swift current flows under a culvert. Sun Liu Kun catches her up here, guessing what her purpose is, but she twists, and leaving her coat in his hands, throws herself into the water.)

Sun Liu Kun

She has gone!

1st Neighbor

She cannot be seen.

2nd Neighbor

She has gone deep, and there is no way to save her.

Sun Liu Kun

(Holding the crying Little Tiger) She was a good wife. But now the devils have taken her. Parents, land, home, babies, all have gone. But Heaven has left me my son. (Turning away from the culvert) Little Tiger, we will leave this evil place.

Little Tiger

Yes, let us go away father.

Act 1.  
Scene 2.

Sun Liu Kun and Little Tiger have been walking along the railway embankment for two weeks and are now approaching Shanghai. On both sides of the railway embankment are thatched huts, better than those of the refugee encampment, but still very sordid. In the distance behind the huts rise the tall buildings of the Shanghai skyline. Sun and the boy are both tired and footsore. The first cold days of winter make them glad to wear all the clothes they possess, few, patched and worn as they are.

Little Tiger        These Shanghai houses are just the same as our country houses, aren't they, father ?

Sun Liu Kun        Indeed, the houses in our village were better than these. But look, a few miles in front are those tall houses we have heard about.

Little Tiger        It will be better when we get there. But why do people live in such poor houses as these here, when the big city is so near ?

Sun Liu Kun        That I do not know, son. There must be many reasons.

Little Tiger        People here are very poor. Perhaps they have run away from the flood as we have.

Sun Liu Kun        Perhaps. But it is said that the city will be much finer than this. We still have four silver dollars, so do not fear. Let us ask where is the best place to live and to work. (Sun stops a passer by who has looked at them in an interested sort of a way. He is a loafer and a gangster) Thank you, friend, but we are refugees from the north of the river. Our land has been flooded, and we wish to find work in Shanghai until the spring. Can you tell us where to go to find the rich portion of the city where the foreigners live, and where wealth is easily gained, should a man be willing to work for it ?

Loafer                (Laughing) Shanghai is a strange place, my friend, and though almost every kind of unusual thing can happen here, still I do not think it is likely that you will obtain wealth. You can only be a worker, and the harder you work here, the less you will get.

Sun Liu Kun        I do not understand. There must be work, though, and for work there must be wages.

Loafer                Soon you will understand. Yes, there is work - as long as you have health, there will be work, perhaps pulling a cart, or else pulling a man carriage. You may earn enough to buy food and a place to sleep. It depends on your luck. These houses are full of men such as you. You rent the ground, and put up your own house, or else you rent a corner in another man's house.

Sun Liu Kun        And how much is the rent for the ground each year ?

Loafer                I pay three dollars for that on which my house stands. For

material to build the house, I paid twenty dollars.

Sun Liu Kun So much money !

Loafer Not for Shanghai. It is the cheapest way to live in this city. Where they have houses of brick and wood, ten dollars a month is the price charged for one little room.

Little Tiger Listen, father, he says ten dollars a month for a room! And how much money would have to be paid for a room in one of the tall houses?

Loafer (Laughing) There men must pay three hundred dollars each month.

Sun Liu Kun I cannot believe it! Three hundred dollars ?

Little Tiger Three hundred dollars every month ?

Loafer Yes, and much more. But they are upper class men. Important men, and Shanghai is their city.

Sun Liu Kun (Humbly) I did not know that there were places like this. It is very strange.

Loafer You will soon get used to it. And you have a boy with you. There are many places where a boy may work, and good food be given him. But first one must give a little silver, and that, of course, you will not have.

Sun Liu Kun You are wrong, friend. I have one large piece of silver, and would gladly give it should a place be found where the boy can live.

Little Tiger But I want to stay with you, father.

Loafer (With increasing interest) With one piece of silver, it may be possible. As you are my fellow countryman from the north of the river, I will help you. Let us think of a way. (He ponders for a moment) Good ! I have it. You, friend, stay in my house for an hour and drink some tea, while I go to the city with the boy to the Foreign Settlement. Near the place known as the Kashing Road Market - everyone knows it - there is a man who works with metals. I will make the chopmaster a little present, and ask for a place for the lad. If I succeed, the boy will stay there while I return and take one more dollar from you for my expenses.

Sun Liu Kun One more dollar ? But I have only one dollar !

Loafer Don't be so polite ! If a countryman like you says that he has a dollar, he must have more. And it is worth it. First we will all have a bowl of noodles, and then I and the boy will go in a man carriage. Do you agree ?

Sun Liu Kun

But it is so much money !

Little Tiger

(Holding on to his father's trousers) I'm frightened to go with him, father. I want to stay with you.

Loafer

I only offer to help you because you are my fellow countryman. You should be glad of my help.

Sun Liu Kun

But two whole dollars !

✓ Loafer

You talk like a countryman who has known brass cash only. In Shanghai we talk of silver. When you yourself find work, you may also sometimes be paid in silver. Perhaps as much as forty cents for one day's work. Men are always needed to pull carts, and carry loads.

Sun Liu Kun

Then perhaps it is a way out. But I must know the place where my son works, so that I can go and see him.

Loafer

(Heartily) Of course, of course. Now come over to my home.

Little Tiger

I don't want to go, father.

Sun Liu Kun

(Sadly) I can see no other way, Little Tiger. People like us must take chances as they come. They do not come often. (He gently disengages Little Tiger's arms which have now become clasped around his leg) Let us follow the man. He is a fellow countryman in this strange city.

Loafer

Over this way, now. Please come inside. (They enter one of the straw huts, from which a mangey cur runs. Presently the Loafer emerges, leading Little Tiger by the hand. Sun Liu Kun comes to the door to watch them go. He is desperately miserable, and wipes his eyes with his wide, ragged sleeve, as the couple disappear from view.)

✓ Sun Liu Kun

No man has ever had a better son than I have. Perhaps Heaven will be kinder to him than it has been to me.  
(He turns, and stumbles into the hut)

Act 2  
Scene 1.

A cross section of the front portion of a dwelling house in the Industrial district of Shanghai. A cobbled street is fronted by an open shop, about ten feet wide by about thirty feet deep. The ground floor is in use as a metal polishing shop, where a row of wretched small boys, stand over revolving wheels, polishing brass souvenirs - fat Buddhas, etc - used in the tourist trade. It is ten o'clock at night, but they still stand with their heads bowed over the wheels. They are covered with the heavy black dusts which come from the polishing operation, and move from one foot to the other, to ease their tiredness. Beneath the bottoms of their wide, blue cotton trousers, their bare legs are cut by the cold wind which sweeps up the now almost deserted street. An electric motor operates the shafting from which the wheels are driven. Little Tiger is one of these boys. He has injured his hand, and has a dirty bandage around it. All overhead space in the shop not occupied by belts, is filled with wooden shelves, on which is stacked the boy's cotton quilts, so that they can take down their bedding rolls, and sleep where they work.

The floor above the shop, is occupied by two young intellectuals, clad in thin overcoats, who sit writing. Their room contains a bed, two tables on which are many books and papers, and a night soil pot of the usual wooden type.

On the street, a miserable, tattered figure approaches. It is Sun Liu Kun.

Sun Liu Kun (Leaning feebly against the door) Little Tiger, Little Tiger !

Little Tiger My old father ! (He stops work, looking quickly to the rear to see that the shopmaster is not about. The other workers lift their heads dumbly, but seeing who it is, drop them and go on working again as if nothing had happened. He goes to the front of the shop)

Sun Liu Kun It were better that I had not come, Little Tiger, for now I cannot bring you food as I did in those first days in this bad place, when I still had strength and silver. I have been pulling a man carriage this last week, but yesterday a policeman beat me, and took my licence, so that I had to give him my earnings.

Little Tiger Why did he beat you, father ?

Sun Liu Kun He said that I had broken a traffic rule. Other pullers said that I had not. The policeman, a Shantung man, became angry, and beat me to save his face.

Little Tiger It would be good to beat him !

Sun Liu Kun (Smiling weakly) Yes, that would be very good. But today, I have made enough with eight hour's pulling, to pay the contractor only, who, curse him, is an evil man. I am ill, and even if there was food, I fear I could not eat it. Devils have indeed entered my stomach. But I have come on another matter, Little Tiger. It is about your sister, the little Li Mei.

Little Tiger

Li Mei ? You have seen her, ? (He brightens up)

Sun Liu Kun

(Bitterly) Yes, I have seen her. And it were better indeed that she had gone with your mother and the babies in the yellow flood waters, for she has fallen into the hands of those who buy women like pigs, to sell their meat on the streets. Last night I saw her, when I pulled my rickshaw on Nanking Road. Her pretty face was painted, and she was being led on the streets by an old hag.

Little Tiger

We must think of a way, father, to find her. Then we will leave this bad place, and if we beg hard enough we can find our way back to the north of the river. Go and rest, father, and when the devils leave you, we will go.

Sun Liu Kun

But how is it possible for you to leave here ?

Little Tiger

Upstairs there is a teacher who has spoken kindly to me. If I ask him, I think that he will give me some coppers and then in the night, when the others are asleep, I will run away and join you. You know that here we eat but a little cabbage and rice each day, and I too feel ill.

Shopmaster

Smxyxw (Coming up from behind) So yours was the machine that stopped, eh ? And you will run away, eh ? (He strikes Little Tiger over the head) After I have paid a good ~~xxxx~~ twenty dollars for you, you will run away ! Jail is the place you will run to, boy ! I have many friends in the police. Get back to your work ! (He strikes again, and Little Tiger shuffles back to his machine)

Sun Liu Kun

Twenty dollars ? Twenty dollars ? And who paid such money ?

Shopmaster

The man who brought the boy, fool ! Get out of here, you dirty beggar ! I have seen you about here too often. For a full month you have hung around this shop.

Sun Liu Kun

But I am his father !

Shopmaster

Turtle's egg Go, before I call the police ! (Sun Liu Kun, with a despairing look at the Shopmaster, moves off. The Shopmaster himself belches, spits on the pavement, and turns to go into the shop)

Act 2  
Scene 2.

On the first floor the two men <sup>are printing leaflets on a flat, noiseless, lithograph machine.</sup> ~~go on printing.~~ The buzz of the machines on the ground floor continues. The writers are Wu Sing Ta and his friend Yu Mao. Wu is a well built, quiet and determined type of intellectual, while Yu is thin and delicate.

Wu Sing Ta The children below us grind late tonight. They usually finish at ten.

Yu Mao Poor dead little minds in living bodies! That opium sot of a Shopmaster must ~~xxx~~ have got another contract. Soon they should sleep, though. Our friends will come before midnight, and Anna might have some news for us.

Wu Sing Ta Anna is a true comrade. ~~..... Those children below these children are treated worse than animals. ~~xxx~~ gain a little profit. The Shopmaster has already bought a north - of - the - river lad to take the place of the one who was sent away to die last month.~~

Yu Mao Yes. The one who looks so bright. He should make one of us if he lives. He said that his name was Little Tiger.

Wu Sing Ta Even tigers would have their spirit broken here. I wonder how long he will last. Perhaps over the winter .....

Yu Mao He is an inspiration for us to fight for a better world for all children. Their prison bars will fall some day.

Wu Sing Ta No jail was ever more cruel ! ( The machines below stop. The boys reach up to the lofts and pull down their bedding while some climb up on the lofts to sleep. Others spread their quilts on dirty pieces of matting they ~~xxxxxxx~~ lay on the floor. They turn over in these, exhausted. Little Tiger, the youngest and newest of them, struggles to fix the tall boards against the shop front. This finished, he lies down beside one of the other boys, and pulls over his own tattered coverlet. The Shopmaster enters, hawking and spitting to turn off the light. )

Yu Mao Well, they've stopped for the night. Do you have to go out, or can you stay for the meeting ?

Wu Sing Ta No news till Anna comes. She may have a message. I hope I can stay.

Yu Mao You love Anna very much, don't you ?

Wu Sing Ta We love each other. I did not know love could be so strong. For us, the Revolution always comes first, but somehow to me she and the Revolution are as one.

Yu Mao

You were revolutionaries before you were lovers, though, weren't you ?

Wu Sing Ta

(Quietly) Yes. ~~What both thought and paid in suffering for our cause before.~~ She is so different from the usual Eurasian who tries to imitate the ruling-class Westerner, and is so despised by them. She is mentally liberated, and is so free from that dirty, clammy, middle-class morality. Her courage helps me to hold on always, for it is the courage that knows all the consequences and is prepared for them.

Yu Mao

What would your old family say ? (They both laugh)

Wu Sing Ta

What would any feudal family say ? The cult of family and ancestors is our worst ~~opiate~~. It makes our family life artificial and loveless. It makes us breed like rabbits. It teaches us to despise women, to take concubines, to inbreed, and that corruption and extortion, and indeed any unsocial act done for the sake of the family, is an honourable thing. It holds us in chains. Our officials sell out workers to be exploited for centuries, so that the official class can continue to gamble over each others' mah-jhong tables, ~~then...~~

Yu Mao

*... Then to*  
~~we~~ retire to a monastery in the mountains now and then when the weather is suitable, to practice calligraphy, and to spit melon seeds from suitable pavilions over renowned precipices.

Wu Sing Ta

*(titterly) and always, always*  
~~we~~ to steal with the help of all forces of law and order, the livelihood of countless tolling peasants and workers, so that these must live like animals, and die like flies in ~~the~~ drought and flood, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~.

Yu Mao

And to build up an industrial system founded on the most cruel type of slavery - for no slavery could ever have been worse than our contract system for girls in cotton mills, or our alleged apprentice system for little boys in all branches of industry.

Wu Sing Ta

The gangsters who do the dirty work, are the slave dealers essential for a capitalist nation which has entered late into the industrial race. Other nations have such a lead on us, that our *préfiters*, can only compete, by the use of crude working conditions.

( There are two short knocks on the door at the rear. Wu Sing Ta runs to open, and Anna enters. She has a light skin, but dark hair, and is decidedly beautiful.)

Anna

I couldn't come sooner. The other comrades will be up by and by. What have you been doing ?

Wu Sing Ta

*lecturing each other*  
Keeping warm by ~~lecturing each other~~ and waiting for you. (They all laugh)  
What is the news ?

Anna

Good. I hear that our Red Army has broken through the

Kuomintang lines, and is advancing towards Chengtu. The Whites are rushing up everything they have got. They ~~say~~ say we are "hordes" "infesting" the countryside.

*gap.*  
Yu Mao

May our "hordes" continue to "infest" ! This means, though, that the white terror will get worse here in Shanghai.

Anna

Yes. They took a comrade last night. A college professor. He may know someone who knows this address, so we will all move out this evening. One of us must stay till tomorrow midnight, though, to meet the Kiangsi comrade.

Yu Sing Ta

As there is no message for me to go out, I will stay.

Yu Mao

Why not me ?

Anna

It will have to be you, Sing Ta, but take all the precautions, won't you. (To Yu Mao) there is a message for you to go elsewhere.

Yu Sing Ta

You don't know when we can expect our friend ?

Anna

Any time between now and this time tomorrow night.

Yu Mao

Then we must put up the all clear signal. (He gets a white shirt, strings it through a bamboo pole, and hangs it up across the window, so that its shadow can be clearly seen from the outside )

Yu Sing Ta

(Helping Yu Mao) This should be plain enough.

Anna

Yes. He will have to come by the front to see the numbers, as this is the first time he has been here. He is sure to look at the house for a while before he enters.

Yu Sing Ta

Have you ever seen our house from the front ?

Yu Mao

Of course she hasn't. (Laughing) She always comes in from the Ten Thousand Happiness Alleyway at the rear, as do our other friends.

Anna

Yes. The washing you so kindly leave on the drying stage is always a welcome sight for me. It shows out good and white at night.

Yu Sing Ta

I am always frightened that it will blow away. The Shopmaster's wife thinks that we are mad for leaving it there all night. And as we cannot leave the same piece for long, we have a job to find enough white things for our continual washing. (They all laugh)

Anna

With no stove in this room, you must freeze in those thin clothes in this weather. And what ~~have~~ *had* you ~~had~~ to eat ?

Yu Mao

*As usual -- what we contract for*  
with the shopmaster below. ~~rice~~ *rice* and cabbage. He feeds his boy workers on it each day. It is not good, but we often slip out into the back lane, and buy a bowl of hot noodles with beef in it, which helps to keep us warm.

Wu Sing Ta How those children keep alive, and work as they do, I cannot make out.

Anna What story did you tell the Shopmaster ?

Yu Mao That we are brothers who are school teachers in a distant province, and that we wait for money from a friend to take us back to the country. He seems to believe us, all right.

Wu Sing Ta He is an ignorant gangster, and our money is good. We do not see him much, as our excursions for food are few.

Anna ~~Myself~~ I stopped at a German Butchery on the way over, and bought you some sliced cooked meats. The shop attendant had a swastika on his apron.

Yu Mao That won't affect the taste of the meat. (Unwrapping the package)

Wu Sing Ta Good old Anna ! (They both attack the meat with ~~relish~~ relish)

Yu Mao Better leave some for you tomorrow. You may need it.

Wu Sing Ta That's true. (They stop eating, and fold up the package again) Hullo, there our friends come ! (There are several knocks on the rear door)

Anna I'll go and open. (She opens the door, and two workers clad in blue overalls and old golf caps enter)

1st Worker Have you eaten rice, comrades ?

Wu Sing Ta Yes, we have eaten. You have come at the right time.

2nd Worker Why, what is doing ?

Anna We must find a new place to meet. Wu Sing Ta will stay here another day, and then he must move too.

Wu Sing Ta What is your news ?

1st Worker Delegates from our factory today held a meeting, and decided to join in a demonstration against the Japanese action in the North. It is hard to organise cells, though, as the Management is continually discharging men, and taking on small boys it calls apprentices. You know how difficult it is to organise ~~big~~ kids. It is easy for the bosses to deceive and terrorise them.

2nd Worker Today they told us we shall all lose our jobs unless wages are cut. It is difficult for the workers to keep up heart. The bosses have their spies in every corner, and at our works, two of the best known local gangsters have been given guns, and made gate watchmen, with power to beat up any worker they like.

1st Worker In our factory yesterday two plain-clothes men

the bosses hired, came into the compound at meal time, took one of our leaders, beat him until he was nearly dead, and then threw him into the W.C. The watchmen stood at the meal room door, and prevented anyone going out to see what was wrong. We have three new cells, though.

Wu Sing Ta Fine work ! Three new cells ! You are good organisers. It must be hell with you all now, wages going down, and all food prices going up.

1st Worker Yes it is. I for instance, have a grandfather, a grandmother, a wife and three babies, as well as two brothers out of work. I get a dollar a day, and now we'll have to take a cut or walk out.

2nd Worker It is the same with most of ~~the workers~~<sup>US</sup>. I have a grandmother still with me, and my grandfather's funeral is still not yet paid for. I have had seven children, but five of them have died. In my house there are also one brother who gets casual work, and one sister who works in a mill. We are well off compared with many. (He laughs quietly, in an embarrassed manner)

1st Worker If the cuts go through, I don't see how any worker can get along. There are many comrades in jail, and we must collect Red Aid dues to help their families. I have brought a little money also, to help with our paper. As soon as we get the last copies, we distributed them, one to each cell.

Yu Mao <sup>Fifty-two coppers!</sup> I don't know how you managed to collect as much as this.

2nd Worker Our night school is going well. The workers are very tired after their twelve hour day, but they come and do their best.

1st Worker In our's it is the same. I go with my two brothers. Our teacher is a comrade, and many of us have learned to read. I can read the party paper to my cell.

Anna Speaking of schools and schoolmasters, I was thinking of them as I tried to cross Bubbling Well Road this evening. I must have waited ten minutes to cross, while the stream of cars kept on uninterrupted. People coming from the tea dances, movies and so on. I suppose they average \$100 a month to keep up, every single one of them.

Yu Mao A primary school in the country would run ~~well~~ for six months on one hundred dollars.

Wu Sing Ta Many have a yearly budget of less than that. And 90 % of our people are illiterate.

Anna That's what I thought. But, comrades, you simply must be going. Yu Mao, You're like the Red Army. You havn't much luggage, but let's put together what there is. (They roll up a bundle of bedding, and pack a suit case)

Yu Mao (To first worker) Take what you need of these handbills. (He picks up a parcel from the table) I will take away what you do not want.

1st and 2nd Workers Good, good! (they stuff handbills in special pockets on the inside front of their trousers)

Anna (To Yu Mao) You had better not take any papers.

Wu Sing Ta The search parties will probably go through your things anyway.

Anna I will take ~~everything possible~~ <sup>the machine by nickaha. Also</sup> the dictionary here. As I look like a proper foreign woman, they will not search me, while of course they will arrest Yu Mao if he has a lot of ~~reading matter~~ <sup>stuff</sup>. They do not trust people who read ~~too much~~.

Wu Sing Ta. Leave the books... I'll take them when I go.  
1st Worker Yu Mao, give me something to carry. It is safer for us than for you.

2nd Worker Unless they decide that we are kidnapers and shoot before they search. (They laugh grimly)

Anna And where do we meet again, and when?

1st Worker Is the room over the tea shop in Yangtsepoo all right? (He looks around and is answered by all in the affirmative)

Wu Sing Ta At this time, and this day week then.

2nd Worker Good. We will arrange that the back door will be unlocked

Anna Now the procession starts. I'll go first. (She goes out <sup>heavily burdened</sup> and after a short interval the two workers follow)

Wu Sing Ta Anna is wonderful, isn't she?

Yu Mao You are a lucky man. ~~I hope that you will be able to live together some day~~ . . . . . I will go now.

Wu Sing Ta (As Yu Mao moves towards the door) It will be a new day if we can!

Interlude

While the scenes are being shifted here, the front of the stage will represent a scene on Nanking Road, near an American Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor known as the Chocolate Shop. This is a building fronted with white tiles, and divided from it by an alleyway is a milliner's shop, where the latest fashions are displayed. Many people will pass along the pavement, some of the more prosperous ones coming from the Chocolate Shop. Various types of policemen, Sikhs, Chinese, British and Japanese pass along, as do representatives of the Marine Landing parties of the various Powers. Rich, befurred Chinese, stout little Japanese, and various types of westerners, some loud mouthed, some silent and haughty move on and off.

Sun Liu Kun haunts the mouth of the alleyway, and retreats into the interior as each policeman approaches, only to emerge again as they go on. He is sick, but has come here to see if he can find where Li Mei is being held, as he had seen her in this locality when pulling a rickshaw. He sees a middle aged Chinese lady and her little daughter emerge from the restaurant, and goes over to beg from them as they wait for their car.

Sun Liu Kun A copper, honourable lady, for a sick man.

Lady Better give him a copper, daughter. Beggars are such a nuisance, and he will go away if you do.

Daughter (Petulantly) Wait a little, mother, he has not begged long enough yet. (To Sun Liu Kun) Get out!

✓ Sun Liu Kun (Renewing his pleading humbly) Lady, lady, may you be rich. May your husband become a high official. May he become a General. (Others pass in the street, and a Sikh policeman approaches. Sun Liu Kun begs harder, kneeling and bumping his head on the ground) May your husband become a great General, lady, a great General.

Daughter (Throwing a copper into the mouth of the alleyway) Go! Get out! Look, mother, there is our car up the road a bit. (They move off, just as the Sikh saunters up, and Sun Liu Kun is down on his hands and knees searching for the copper)

Sikh (Striking Sun Liu Kun on the back with his stick) Pig of a beggar! You know you cannot beg on this street. (He drives Sun Liu Kun up the alleyway, and returns majestically to his beat)

Two American ladies stop to look in at the Milliner's shop. They are expensively dressed.

1st Lady Just look, my dear, what a beautiful gown! And so cheap! Only two hundred dollars. I can't wear that one I bought for the Armistice ball again, so I think I'll have to get something like this.

2nd Lady Of course you should buy it if you like it. Say, I do like those furs in the corner. Only seven hundred and fifty! It seems very reasonable.

1st Lady

Oh do you know ! I saw a lovely thing yesterday. It's in Vatican blue, done in the latest renaissance style ! My dear you should see it. The waist line creeps up at the front, and down at the back ..... slenderising, you know.

2nd Lady

It must be very lovely ! (Pointing to some material displayed) How about that stuff for an ankle length restaurant dress, or a cocktail suit ..... You know, it's just style history now.

Sun Liu Kun

A copper ladies. A copper for a sick man.

1st Lady

I wonder they allow those filthy beggars on the streets!

2nd Lady

~~What~~ a dirty old beast! I'll tell you what I'll do. Get my husband to speak to the Secretary General about it. He is one of us, and will surely do something.

1st Lady

Yes, one feels so sure of things with a good American like him at the head of affairs. Shall we go up to the Palace Hotel for tea ?

2nd Lady

That would be nice ! (They pass along)

Sun Liu Kun

(Propping himself up against the corner of the ~~the~~ lane ) It was here I saw her two nights ago. But perhaps she does not live here. (Mumbling weakly) Little Li Mei a prostitute - we will go back to the flood ! But I must lie somewhere and rest till this sickness leaves me. I must find a quiet corner out of the wind. (He shuffles out on to the road, but a passing policeman sees him, and with a few well-directed ~~blows~~ blows, chases him off the scene.

Two elderly men of the Y.M.C.A. type come out of the restaurant. They are arguing about profits.

1st Man

But it's a fine investment man, 25% per annum clear profit is not so bad in hard times like these. Even the Jesuit Fathers of the China Inland Mission would invest money at that rate.

2nd Man

Not on your life they wouldn't. I was talking to a man at the Community Church party the other day, and he had some much better lines than that. And as for your Jesuits, I know that they would touch nothing that was not so good as what they have already .. real estate in a working class district, with really solid profit.

A white Russian lady of easy virtue, who has been looking into the milliner's shop, hears some of the conversation, and swinging her hips happily, falls into line behind the two men. Behind her come two gangsters with little round Chinese caps, and long overcoats over their silk gowns. One looks back, and then nudges his companion, so that they both step off the pavement and into the mouth of the alleyway as Yu Mao approaches.

1st Gangster (Looking at Yu Mao) He's a Red. Can we grab him and hand

him over ?

2nd Gangster He's got both hands in his pockets. Perhaps he's got a gun. Not this time, I think. (Yu Mao passes)

1st Gangster There goes a good twenty five bucks, and may be more if he turned out to be a big one. Let's ~~just~~ follow him for a bit. (They move off after Yu Mao)

A rich Chinese and a Foreign business man stand at the door of the Chocolate Shop, fussing as to who will go in first. The foreigner goes first of course, leaving the Chinese bowing, and the ~~Six~~ policeman watching approvingly. Several ragged, hungry Chinese children come along, and are held spellbound by the array of cakes in the window. They stand holding hands. A Chinese policeman tries to make them move on, but they are too dumbfounded by the sight of such marvellous things to go. He finally loses patience, and hits them.

Chinese Policeman Get out ! Get out ! You little devils. You've got no money to buy such things !

Children Of course we have no money. (They grab each other, and run along)

Two foreign soldiers, trailed by a Chinese leafer come along.

1st Soldier Look at that Chinaman' ! Bloody big car, and the likes of us must walk. Not right, I call it.

2nd Soldier An' we protectin' them from the fuckin' Communists. Hell of a place this is. What's this buggar behind us saying ?

Loafer (In hoarse whisper) All kinds of girl have got. Big girl, little girl, thin girl, fat girl, girl so high, so low (using his hand to show child size) Chinese girl, Russki girl, Japan girl, Korea girl, cheap, all very cheap. Maybe you want nice Mellycan, Inglesh girl - can do, price more dear ..... little more dear ..... Suppose wanchee small boy, can do, very cheap .....

1st Soldier How about a bit ~~of~~ of h'indoor sport, chum ?

2nd Soldier Too bloody right ! Let 'im lead the way. We'll fix the price before we ~~ax~~ 'ave our fun, though.

1st Soldier Too right, we will ! (They go on )

At the mouth of the alleyway, Li Mei and another little girl appear. They have just got up from bed, and look pale and miserable, without the paint and the silk clothes they use at night. They look up and down the street.

Girl I was beaten again toady. I could only get two men last night.

Li Mei

I have been beaten most days, but last night I had four men, and so the master excused me. He got sixty cents for each one.

Girl

You will have the sickness soon, and then it will be harder. They will pay less then.

A haughty cleric, Dean of the English Cathedral, passes along with a faithful parishoner.

Dean

Deeah, deeah ! Just look at those wretched little sluts ! I am always trying to get measures taken against them.

E.P.

You are always so energetic, you deeah man. It is really shameful to see such dreadful persons.

Dean

Well, we have done our best. We have refused to licence such houses, and such persons are not allowed to come out on this road in the daytime. It has meant a loss of revenue, but it has been worth it. The police arrest many each day.

E.P.

These social problems are so terrible ! One should not think about them too much. As you said last Sunday, it is the things of the spirit which matter.

Dean

Quite so, deeah Madam, quite so. They are really far too morbid. (they pass off)

A group of the slick, broker type of young Chinese emerge from the restaurant. They are picking their teeth, and are belching with pleasure. They sling smart cracks at each other.

1st Broker

Don't forget to put your money on No 7 at the Grandrome tonight. It's a sure thing.

2nd Broker

After the change on the market today, I think a good blow out, starting at the Paramount and ending at the ~~Wanda~~ *Venus* cabaret is indicated. See some of you men there. (They all laugh, and go on up the street)

A newspaper seller, a small boy, passes shouting : " Soong Mei Ling flies to Shanghai from Chengtu in her private aeroplane. Big victory in Szechuan. New agreement at Peiping. Sin Wan Pao. Six coppers. Sin Wan Pao. Six coppers."

A big fat Chinese of the compradore type comes along, followed by several wives and many children. They head for the door of the Chocolate Shop. The Sikh policeman, seeing the difficulty the fat man has in managing the door, rushes to the rescue, and holds the door open, while the large company passes in. The Sikh then turns to strike at some famine refugees who have come along, and who have stopped at the window.

Sikh

Get off with you, beggars ! Go ! (He waves his baton at them, and they move off dazedly)

Two more foreigners pass. One says to the other, & "Good men, these Sikhs. Look at that one. They cost money, but they are worth it. The other replies, "You're right. They represent taxes well spent.

Two small boys from the Cathedral School come along. They are dressed in dark purple school blazers and shorts.

1st Boy He can't come to our school. He's an Eurasian.

2nd Boy Of course not. My dad says that we would never know where to stop, if we started taking those sort of people.

1st Boy My dad says that I must go to England this year. He says that he can't have me growing up amongst all these damn Chinese.

2nd Boy I've got two dollars to spend. Lets go in and have a feed. (They turn into the Chocolate Shop)

A group of tourists with cameras come along.

1st Tourist (Looking at the restaurant) This must be the nice place where they told us we could get real American food.

2nd Tourist Too good to be true. I wish I were back in little old New York. This is a hell of a place to come to for a holiday.

3rd Tourist Oh, some of the hotels are not so bad. But there are too many Chinamen. I must say, I don't like seeing so many Chinamen all at once.

1st Tourist Let's go in and eat. Then we can buy some curios and get back to the ship.

2nd Tourist A good idea. (They all troop into the Chocolate Shop.)

Act 3.  
Scene 1.

The bed sitting room of a Detective in the Special Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Police. The room is large, and has several deep, comfortable arm chairs, with brass teapots beside them. A cheerful fire blazes in the open grate. There is much polished brass, and a heavy carpet covers the floor. On the mantelpiece are pewter mugs. The bed is screened off in the corner. Other furniture includes a radio, and a wardrobe. Pictures of racing ponies and bathing beauties adorn the walls. A door opens, and a large, heavily-built man enters and slumps into a chair. A Chinese "boy" in a long white gown, comes in quickly, following him.

Detective What thing, Boy ?

Boy Missie have come, Master. Just now wait bottom side.

Detective You bloody fool ! What the hell do you keep her down there for? Tell her to come up, chop chop!

Boy (Making rapid exit) Yes, Master.

Anna (Entering) You did ask me to come to tea, didn't you, old dear ? I began to think that you had been called away on a 'job' as you call it.

Detective (Waving an arm in invitation, but not getting up) Sure I wanted you to come. Been looking forward to a proper evening with you ever since that first night at the Del Monte. And now here you are ! Say, do you mind just pushing the bell ? (The bell push is about three feet away from him, but Anna crosses the room and rings) And now make yourself at home, my dear.

Anna Thanks. I will. (She sits down) Poor old fellow. You must be tired !

Detective Done right in ! Spent half last night trying to make a Bohemian talk, and today those crazy students kept me on the streets most of the time. Vicious little devils some of them were too. But my fellows knocked hell out of them.

Anna It is wonderful how you manage to keep law and order ! But what did they do ?

Detective Oh, they just walked down the street in bunches, giving out papers against the Japanese occupation of the country. As the Japanese Consul has said distinctly that this kind of thing must stop, we started to break them up. One little devil got in the way .. it was damn funny, you know (he laughs at the recollection) Just as I hit at his head, a big rickshaw coolie pulled him away, so I laid out the coolie first, and the kid next. They both had blood running from their mouths when I left them !

Anna (Admiringly) You big strong man !

- Detective Oh, its all in the job ! Its a pity some of the swine about this joint don't apprecate us properly, though.
- Boy Have ring, Master ? (He has come in during the conversation and has stood behind the ~~xxxx~~ Detective's chair, until the opportunity comes for him to speak)
- Detective Oh, you lazy devil, you here at last ! Take off my shoes will you. (The Boy bends over the outstretched legs, and removes the shoes, replacing them with slippers he gets from behind the screen. He leaves as quietly as he has entered )
- Anna And who was the Bolshie you had ? (She comes over and sits on the arm of his chair, taking one of his hands in hers.)
- Detective Said that he was a college professor. Miserable little shrimp! Didn't want to put the electric wires on him too often, so we did not get much news. Had those wires on an apprentice from a shop down the road the other day. They said that he had stolen some coppers from the till, but he snuffed it at the first shock, so we will never know whether he did or not. Oh, blast it, I forgot to tell that fool of a Boy to bring the tea. Give the bell a pust, there's a good kid.
- Anna Yes, it would be nice to have some tea. (She gets up and rings again) And what have you done with the Red Professor now ?
- ~~xxx~~ Detective <sup>Oh</sup> My fellows are trying some new stunts on him which ought to produce the ~~xxxxxx~~ required results. Got to be a bit careful these days, you know, for things are not quite what they used to be in the old times. It's pretty safe with the Reds though, as all the people who matter are against them, so that their families cannot squeal. Jolly funny, though, the other day : One of our chaps put the wires on a woman ~~on~~ one on each nipple. When she went to court, she was found "Not Guilty" and then, damn me, if she didn't go and dig up an influential relation, and prosecute the police ! Of course, she did not get a judgemnt, but still, it didn't look too good. Oh, here's that louse Boy at last. (Boy enters with a tray. He arranges the tea on the teapoys) Takes him a devil of a time to get here.
- Anna I thought that he was rather quick, but then you men in official positions are used to having things done quickly, aren't you ?
- Detective (With his mouth full of toast) Too right, we are ! You've got to keep these people up to scratch. Oh, give that bell another push, will you ? I've forgotten my smokes.
- Anna Have one of mine. (She goes over for her handbag)
- Detective No thanks. I like my own brand.
- Anna Of course. I know mine are not very good. (She walks over and pushes the bell again)
- Detective Might as well make the lazy devil go down and get them. ~~xxxx~~

It's only four flights.(Boy enters) Go bottom side,Boy,  
Office table have got one tin cigarettes.Bring top side.

Boy

Yes,Master.(He goes out)

Anna

(Drinking her tea) And what do you expect from your Red  
professor,old dear ?

Detective

You seem pretty interested in him ! (Laughing) I had better  
look out.(More seriously) Expect a ring at any time now to  
say what they got ..... we have managed to collect  
a few ideas,and I have one or two of our men watching places  
now.I'll probably have to take a look around them myself  
by and by,in case they think it is any use making a raid.

Anna

(Coming over and sitting on his knee) You are so clever !  
I can't make out how ever you think of all these things.

Detective

You're a pretty little son of a gun,are'nt you. (He pulls  
her over him,and kisses her several times ) Funny how lucky  
I am with girls.I knew you were a bit of all right the first  
time I saw you.(He squeezes her leg)

Anna

(Making no attempt to move) Oh,you big rough man !

Defective

A dog,a woman and a walnut tree,the more you beat them the  
better they be.My old man told me that when I was a kid.  
(He pulls her down,and kisses her again)

Anna

What else did he tell you ?

Detective

Never mind about that.Say,what about having chow with me  
here,and then camping with me for the night ? I'll see  
that you have a new dress to come and see me in again if  
you do.

Anna

Dearie ! How wonderful of you ! But I'm afraid it can't be  
done this time.My mother is sick,and I have to go home to  
look after her.And anyway,your men who are watching on the  
street might report any time,and then you would have to go.

Detective

Oh damn ! I never seem to be able to get down to brass  
tacks with you.Something always seems to turn up just at  
the wrong moment.Its right about those fellows of mine,  
though.They might haul me out any old time.

Anna

(Stroking his hair) Will you have a long way to go if they  
do,dear ?

Detective

Oh,not so far.We suspect the locality around a bit of  
a brass working shop,but there's not much to go on yet.

Anna

Poor old thing ! You do have to work so hard,and it must be  
terrible for you.But I must really be getting along now.  
(She gets up and makes ready to go)

Detective (Yawning, and straightening his legs in the chair) Why all the hurry, anyway ?

Anna You will be able to have a nice quiet read when I am gone.

Detective Good God ! I haven't read a book since I left school, and I don't intent to start that nonsense now.

Anna (Laughing) I was only teasing, dear.

Detective Women are the devil. Come up tomorrow, can't you ?

Anna I'll try. But you'll soon be saying, "There's that damn woman again!"

Detective Not to you. You're different somehow.

Anna So you say now ! Well, cheerio for the time being.

Detective (Lying sulkily in his chair) Aren't you going to say goodbye properly ?

Anna Poor old boy ! (She comes over to the back of his chair, bends over, and kisses him ) Is that all right now ?

Detective Not so dusty ! Well cheery - and oh, before you go, would you mind just giving that bell a push ? I'll send and get some fellows to come over and have a cocktail or two with me here before dinner.

Anna Now you're bucking up again. (She goes over and pushes the bell )

Detective Thanks awfully. Ćheerio, then.

Anna (Leaving and laughing) Cheerio !

Act 3.  
Scene 2.

At the metal polishing shop again. It is the evening meal time, and the child workers squat around a wide iron basin filled with rice, from which they fill their bowls. There is also a bowl of cabbage, from which they pick pieces to put on their rice. They shovel in the rice with their chopsticks ravenously. Little Tiger is not eating. He sits apart, propped up against the polishing wheels. His hand is worse, and he is sick. The Shopmaster enters.

Shopmaster What, Little Tiger not eating? I have no good luck!  
(To Little Tiger) You just learn to work, and then you go and get sick! Why don't you eat?

Little Tiger My head is hot, and I have no strength.

Shopmaster (Spitting disgustedly) Well, you will have to sit somewhere in the shop this evening. You will be able to work in the morning, all right. (He turns, and goes to the rear of the shop, hawking and spitting)

1st Apprentice In the country we treated our water buffaloes better than that fat robber treats us. (To Little Tiger) You ought to sleep, Little Tiger.

2nd Apprentice Or go upstairs to the teacher who lives there. He is alone today, I hear. Stay in his room till night! Here I'll help you. (Kindly) Come on, get up.

Little Tiger Good. Perhaps he will let me stay there with him. He always smiles at me.

1st Apprentice And no one else has ever smiled at us.

2nd Apprentice Yes. We are not easy to look at. I think that his heart must be good. (Helping Little Tiger to the rear where the stair lies)

3rd Apprentice (Blowing his nose with his fingers on to the floor) Yes, he is a good man.

4th Apprentice I knew he was a good man the first time I saw him.

1st Apprentice He cannot be a Shanghai man.

All Apprentices (In chorus) Shanghai Man? - no, of course not!

On the first floor, Wu Sing Ta hears the knocking, and goes to open the door.

2nd Apprentice (Entering with Little Tiger) Thank you, sir, but Little Tiger here is sick, and there is no place downstairs that is comfortable. Please could he stay here with

you till we go to bed tonight ?

Wu Sing Ta

Ah, little brother, you don't look much like a Tiger now, do you. (He picks up Little Tiger, and sits him up on the bed) I'll see if I can't be the doctor. (He gets a large enamel washing bowl from the rear, fishes in his pocket for some coppers, and says to the 2nd Apprentice) I'm glad you brought him up. I am by myself and he will keep me company. (Handing over the basin) Do you think that you can go and buy me a basin of hot water from the hot water shop in the back lane ?

2nd Apprentice

Of course I can ! You have a good heart sir, and thank you. (He goes out with the basin)

Little Tiger

It is much better up here than below. My head does not ache so much now. (He smiles a little)

Wu Sing Ta

Good. Now let me see, what have we got for you here. Ah, now, there is a little meat. (He gets the package left by Anna the night before) You eat one piece, and I eat one piece. It will be good fun.

Little Tiger

Very good ! We sometimes had meat, at New Year in our old home. It is very dear food, isn't it.

Wu Sing Ta

A friend gave it to me. Come, now, eat up. (They each take a piece) I've got an idea. The next piece we will save to eat with a bowl of noodles. Hot noodles.

Little Tiger

(Eating his meat) Ai yah ! That would be very good. I have not tasted noodles for a very long time, and we Northerners do not like rice, and always rice as these Southerners do.

Wu Sing Ta

Ah, you're coming to life again ! Am I not a good doctor ?

Little Tiger

(Laughing a little) Yes, you are a good doctor.

2nd Apprentice

(Entering) Here is the water you wanted.

Wu Sing Ta

Good. (Producing more coppers) And now there is one more thing. Can you get us two bowls of noodles from the old man beside the hot water shop ? Hot ! And there are are enough coppers for you to have a bowl yourself while you are there.

2nd Apprentice

Thank you, thank you ! I'll soon be back. (He departs grinning)

Wu Sing Ta

When did you wash last, Little Tiger ?

Little Tiger

Last Summer in our countryside, we boys swum every day. But not since then.

Wu Sing Ta

Well, I think that some of that dirt had better come off. (He takes off Little Tiger's single padded jacket, and dipping a small towel into the hot water, proceeds to clean the boy's head, arms and hands ) Ah, you look a different boy, now, Little Tiger.

Little Tiger

The hot water feels very good. How white my skin is. (Looking down at himself) Just like the skin of a foreigner !

Wu Sing Ta

Yes, hot water is very good medicine. Of course your skin is white when there is no sun to give it color. (Looking at the bandaged hand) We must fix that hand up soon, too. Now, I'll find something to keep your top half warm while we attend to the bottom half. (He gets one of his own short Chinese jackets, rolls up the sleeves, and puts it on Little Tiger. (They both laugh)

Little Tiger

It feels very clean, and has no lice at all.

Wu Sing Ta

Yes, no lice.

Little Tiger

(Helping to take off his shoes and trousers) I am too dirty for you to clean. I will do it.

Wu Sing Ta

You are sick, and I am the nurse, so this is my job. (Scrubbing at the dirt) Ah, what dirt ! (They both laugh)

Little Tiger

It is the way in our work.

Wu Sing Ta

What would you do if you had food and didn't have to work all day ?

Little Tiger

But to get food, I must always work all day. What else could I do ?

Wu Sing Ta

but suppose you had food and didn't have to work for it, then what ?

Little Tiger

Like a rich man ? Then I suppose I would eat all I wanted to, sit in a warm place in winter, and in a cool one in summer .. and .. and have many baths.

Wu Sing Ta

And what then ? (he scrubs vigorously)

Little Tiger

(Hesitatingly and shyly) Perhaps I would be able to learn some characters. (Eagerly) Are there any places where boys who work know characters ?

Wu Sing Ta

One thing finished ! (He lifts Little Tiger up, and wrapping the cotton quilt around him, props him up against the wall) Comfortable now ?

Little Tiger

Very comfortable!

Wu Sing Ta

(Sitting down beside the bed) Yes, there are places where working boys know characters. And in China too.

- Little Tiger I would like to go to such a place. Could a girl go there too ?
- Wu Sing Ta Yes. Girls and boys are equal there.
- Little Tiger That is very strange. But I think of my sister. (Hesitatingly) ~~Ma~~ She is being held as a prostitute.
- Wu Sing Ta She would not be so used there.
- Little Tiger If I could go, then, I would help my father to find her, and then we would all go together. Will you tell me about it ?
- Wu Sing Ta Yes, but here come our noodles, and I must fix your hand before we can eat. (He goes to the table, and tears off a strip from a clean towel, and says to the 2nd Apprentice who enters) Thank you, thank you. Little Tiger is much better already.
- 2nd Apprentice (Putting the two steaming bowls of noodles on the table) Ai Yah ! His face is clean. How funny ! (He laughs) I must hurry back to work. I'll come for Little Tiger when we finish. (He departs, laughing still)
- Wu Sing Ta Now, hold on while I put some yellow medicine on your bad hand. (He pours some iodine on the cut hand. Little Tiger does not wince) Good boy ! (He winds the bandage around, and both take up their bowl of noodles) Now for the rest of that meat. Here we are now. (They both set to work with the chopsticks)
- Little Tiger It is very good to eat, isn't it !
- Wu Sing Ta Very good ! But I was going to tell you about the good place for workers. It is south of the river, in the province called Kiangsi. There the peasants and workers made their own Government.
- Little Tiger But did the Landlords and the officials let them ?
- Wu Sing Ta Oh no ! They fought the workers and peasants. But the people killed some of them, and the others ran away !
- Little Tiger Good ! Good ! ~~They are very good~~
- Wu Sing Ta But those who ran away came back with soldiers to kill the peasants and workers ! The people called them White Bandits. Many rich people in Shanghai and in other countries gave them guns and helped them.
- Little Tiger My father says that Shanghai is an evil place, and it is true. It is a very bad place. But you are a very good man ! (Finishing off the noodles, and putting the bowl back on the table)

- Wu Sing Ta There are many good men in Shanghai, and most of them are good men. They are workers. But bad men hold this city with their soldiers, and squeeze it like an orange.
- Little Tiger ~~It would be good to kill them too.~~  
*They should be killed too!*
- Wu Sing Ta (Putting his bowl on one side) Perhaps some day they will get frightened, and run away as did the rich men of Kiangsi.
- Little Tiger The countrymen there must have been very brave!
- Wu Sing Ta And the boys too. I remember a little boy just about your age, who carried a rifle which was taller than himself.
- Little Tiger Were you there too?
- Wu Sing Ta Yes, I have lived there. One day on the hills when ~~was~~ the workers and peasants were fighting the White bandits, he was shot through the cheek. He lost so much blood that he fainted. When the whites came along, they saw he was very ~~small~~ small, so did not shoot him, but took him back to their camp thinking that he would join them. In the night though, he got up and ran away to the hills again, but before he went, he took off his coat and filled it with steamed breads we call "mo-mo" which had been prepared for the white bandit's breakfast. And so he returned, but not without a present for his comrades.
- Little Tiger A good story. A good story. Can you tell me others?
- Wu Sing Ta (Laughing) There are many such. (Two shots, followed by many others, crash out from the rear of the house. Wu Sing Ta gets up and quickly tears down the signal from the front of the window.)
- Little Tiger What is it? Are the bandits coming?
- Wu Sing Ta Perhaps it is the White bandits. (He looks out of the window and sees policemen on the street, so turns for the back door. He is too late, for the door swings open, and the Detective, followed by two Foreign Officers and two Chinese Policemen, enter. The Shopmaster follows up in the rear)
- Detective (With gun pointing at Wu Sing Ta) Put 'em up! (Wu Sing Ta puts up his hands) Handcuff the bastard, Sergeant. (The first of the officers handcuffs Wu Sing Ta) Who's the little son of a bitch in bed? (He turns for the Shopmaster)
- Wu Sing Ta He is a sick boy from the shop below.
- Detective (Striking Wu Sing Ta over the mouth) Shut your face, You!
- 1st Officer (To Shopmaster) Lor-pei. Is this boy yours? Answer! You yellow bastard!
- Shopmaster (Bowling and nervously) Yes, he is mine. He came up here

this afternoon. I will take him away.

Detective

Wait, fool ! We must see what is here. Too bad the other one got away just as he was going to enter. (He looks around the room)

2nd Officer

We would have got him if that Chinese woman in the alleyway hadn't given him the tip off near the back door. That bloody bitch got away too.

1st Officer

I hit someone, didn't I ?

Detective

Yes. A kid and an old man. But not the ones we want. Say fellows, look at the books here ! This is a dangerous swine, I'll bet. Wonder what they are all about ? We'll take 'em all back to the station, anyway.

Shopmaster

(Shocked) Books ! He certainly must be a Communist ! And sirs, he must be very dangerous, because he always smiles and talks to my workers ! He has been talking to this boy all the evening. Al Yah, how unlucky I am to have such a mad dog in the house !

2nd Officer

Cunning brutes, these Bolshies !

Shopmaster

And now I come to think of it, my wife said that he had other workers coming up here at nights to learn to read ! He and his friend who is now gone, curse him ! I have heard them in my dreams. He is really a very evil man.

1st Officer

(Sneering) Opium dreams, I'll bet !

Detective

Well boys, there's nothing more to do here. We might as well get back. We'll teach this bloody son of Marx a few things he didn't know before when we get him back to the station ! Tomorrow will be an interesting day for him. (They all laugh) It'll be a hell of a long time before he reads anything again. Come on, you. (He jerks Wu Sing Ta over to the Chinese policemen, and they all clump down the stairs and off the scene )

Act 3.  
Scene 3.

The same room as in scene one. The Detective is again lying in his chair. The other two chairs are occupied by the 1st and 2nd Officers who appeared in the last scene. They are both in uniform, and have been drinking ever since their return to the Station several hours previously. They are in the loud talking stage. The 1st Officer is a newly enlisted man, and the other two are trying to impress upon him, what hard boiled men of the world they are, and what are the rules of the game in Shanghai.

Detective Yes, as I was saying, these yellow bastards understand one thing only. Treat 'em rough and they respect you ; be kind and they despise you. Christ, how I wish my long leave would come along a bit quicker, so that I could live in a white man's country for a while ! I hate these yellow faces !

2nd Officer (Winking at 1st Officer) Saw a face going out of here this afternoon that was not so white.

Detective Oh, her ! Yes, she's a wonk. Some kind of a Japanese English mixture. Met her at the Del Monte. Not such a gold digger as some of those White Russians - the Princesses from Harbin, you know, who want you to support the whole family, after the first time you sleep with them. You ~~can't~~ can't say she's yellow, though. She's as white as you are.

2nd Officer I'll bet her ancestors weren't. Still, she's good enough for a certain purpose. It'll be a change for you after serving the Russian community ! (They all laugh)

1st Officer

*Thinking of marrying the wonk?*  
~~You can't marry a wonk though, can you?~~

2nd Officer

(With loud guffaw) For Christ's sake ! What the hell does he want to marry her for ! You don't have to marry a woman in this dump to get what you want, my lad. You can keep her for a while if you like, though you may have to do the right thing, and pay for an abortion case at the Jap Hospital if you don't take the right precautions.

Detective

Shut up about my bloody woman, can't you ? You buggars have only got one topic of conversation. What the hell was it ? Oh, yes, I remember. We were talking about handling Chinamen. Now, you know what I think ? We ought to take a leaf from the Jap's book. They know a thing or two. They killed twenty thousand in one month in this city three years ago, and got away with it completely. Kick a Chinaman in the face, and when he gets up kick him again. That's the only way to get on with them, and the Japs know it.

1st Officer

They are as ignorant as hell, aren't they ? Rotten low standard of intelligence.

2nd Officer

You've said it ! (Draining his glass) And remember, never use your hands on them. Always your feet. (He shouts) Boy !

Boy (Entering with tray of bottles) More whisky soda, Master ?

2nd Officer What the hell do you think, you bloody idiot ? (Boy fills his glass, and goes to the other men's glasses )

Detective Bright idea of mine to have that useless buggar wait in the hall just outside the door. It saves pushing the bell, and I hate the brute standing behind my chair. Gives me a nasty uncomfortable feeling. It is a damned nuisance ringing the bell all the time.

1st Officer Of course ! Much easier to shout. It is very different from England, though, isn't it ?

Detective Yes, but Chinamen aren't human beings, like people there.

2nd Officer That's something you've got to remember, lad!

1st Officer It's easy enough to do that. But by Christ, what I do remember is that we are on duty. We should be down in the Charge Room, shouldn't we ?

2nd Officer Oh, that's all right ! They can telephone us if anything is doing. None of the heads will be around on a night like this. Cold as a bastard out on the streets, I'll bet. (The telephone rings) Christ ! there's the telephone now. (He gets up and goes to the 'phone, listens and answers) ~~Rakskikwax~~ You want the Detective ? Yes. Hold on. (To Detective) They want you.

Detective Oh, hell ! Can't they leave a man in peace ? (Into 'phone ) Hello. What do you want. (He listens) Oh, chuck him in the cell with that Bolshie. I'll see him in the morning !

2nd Officer (Drinking) What's the disturbance ?

Detective Oh, bloody funny ! You remember that sick kid we saw in the Bolshie's room ? Well, they found him hanging around the charge room door, trying to get a look at the Red in his cell.

1st Officer At this time of the night ? ~~Rakskikwax~~ A hell of a time to be out visiting !

Detective That's what they thought below there. However, they'll see all they want of each other now. (The three men laugh loudly) We'll give the Red the works tomorrow.

2nd Officer And another little drink wouldn't do us any harm ! Boy ! (The Boy comes in again, and fills the glasses )

1st Officer How'll you make him talk ?

Detective There are many ways. My fellows have ideas ! Perhaps we can find if he has a wife and kids, and arrest them too. If they live outside the Settlement, so much the better. The Chinese Police will then arrest 'em for us. We can do our stuff on these wild men, and leave them unmarked if we have to, though that probably will not be necessary in this case.

Make him squeal somehow ! I must say, though, that in all my experience I've never come up against anything as hard as it is to get these buggars to talk. They're something new in China !

1st Officer

Verily the way of the evildoer is hard ! That's what I was told when I was a kid, anyway. (They all laugh)

Detective

Bloody hard ! (He drinks again)

2nd Officer

They say Chinamen don't feel pain ! That's all balls ! Get two or three of our men on to one of 'em, and you can make him sick enough. There's that 'phone again ! (He goes over, listens and replies) O.K. I'll be right down. (He returns to his chair, sits down, and takes up his glass)

Detective

(Laughing) So you'll be right down, eh ? What is it anyway ?

1st Officer

Anything to do with me ?

2nd Officer

Too bloody right, it is ! The point policeman over by Kashi Road reports a sick beggar by his post. It's your job !

Detective

Well ! That all ! Let's have another drink. (They all drink) You know what those fellows at Hongkew Station used to do with beggars ? They'd come into Shanghai in herds in the winter, God knows where from. Our bright boys used to catch 'em, and stick 'em in a cement floored cell. Then they'd turn the hose on the bastards. Always a few stiff ones in the morning.

2nd Officer

Got to do something like that, or else the whole bloody dump would be filled with beggars, and we'd be getting complaints from all over the place.

1st Officer

Well, I've got to go and attend to this one. What'll I do with him ?

2nd Officer

I've got a bloody fine idea ! I'll come with you in the car, and then we'll see ! (He laughs, much amused)

1st Officer

But you're not supposed to go out. You're in charge down below, even if you are a bit tight.

2nd Officer

Not so tight as you, my boy ! (They laugh drunkenly) And hell who will know if I do go ? It'll only take ten minutes. Christ ! If we kept all the rules in this bloody place, we'd all be crackers in a week ! Let's go !

1st Officer

Duty calls ! Let's go. (They get up and lurch heavily to the door) Cheerio, 'Tec !

Detective

(Nearly asleep in his chair) Cheerio, there !

Act 4  
Scene 1.

A cobbled Shanghai street, with shuttered houses. It is after midnight. A Chinese policeman is on duty not far from a river bank, above which are railings. The policeman stamps his feet, and hugs himself to keep warm, though wearing a thick overcoat. A ragged, half clothed beggar lies near by. It is Sun Liu Kun, who is sick and is moaning weakly. A Ford car drives up with a Chinese police driver, and with the 1st and 2nd Officers seated in the rear. The car stops at the policeman, and the two foreigners climb out.

2nd Officer (Lurching a bit) Is this the man, constable ?

Chinese Policeman Yes sir, this is him. Will I send for the ambulance ? He is very sick.

2nd Officer (Laughing) Sick, is he ?

1st Officer (Coming over to Sun Liu Kun) So this is the bastard?  
All the way out on a fuckin' night like this, to look at this bloody apology for a man ! (Trying to be as tough as the other)

2nd Officer (To policeman) Ambulance ? What the hell do you want an ambulance for ? I'll show you how to fix these useless buggars !

1st Officer What are you going to do ?

2nd Officer You wait and see. We'll get in the car. (They both climb back into the rear seat, laughing in a drunken manner) Now, constable !

C. Policeman Yes, sir.

2nd Officer You and the driver put that bloody wreck in at our feet.

C. Policeman Yes sir. (He and the driver pull Sun Liu Kun up on to his feet, and then push him into the rear of the car where he falls at the feet of the two foreigners)

2nd Officer Now, driver, you drive to the creek over there. Stay here where you are, constable.

C. Policeman Yes sir.

Driver Yes sir. (The car moves over to the side of the creek)

2nd Officer O.K. driver ! (To 1st Officer) Now we'll have some sport with this filthy son of a bitch (They stagger out over the top of Sun Liu Kun. When they get to the street, the 2nd Officer says) I'll pull his legs

When his head comes out, you grab it.

- 1st Officer All right, Sergeant, his arms will be better though. I'll get them.
- Sun Liu Kun Ni Men tao shummo? (He struggles weakly)
- 1st Officer (Holding on to the arms) What's the bastard saying?
- 2nd Officer Christ only knows! And who cares. Now what we'll do with this thing, is to heave it into the bloody creek. Hellova good joke, eh?
- 1st Officer That's the idea. Let's chuck him in the creek!
- 2nd Officer I'll count. One, two and three. At three, over the rails he goes. (He counts) One, two - a bit higher next time - Three! (Sun Liu Kun is tossed over the rails and into the water. He falls with a splash)
- 1st Officer Let's get back now, eh?
- 2nd Officer O.K. with me, dearie. (He gets into the car followed by the 1st Officer, and says to the driver) Go station side, driver.
- Driver Yes sir. (The car moves off, with the two officers singing a song about a woman who would not agree)
- G. Policeman (Coming over towards the river and ruminating) What did they want to put him in the car to bring him this little way for? They are drunk again tonight. Now if the driver does not report this, all may be well. But if he does and I do not, then there will be trouble. So I'd better report now, and then again in the morning.
- Sun Liu Kun (From the creek) Help, help!
- G. Policeman Tor-ye-nak-ka-nyang! He is still alive, is he!
- Passer-by Come, policeman, there is someone in the water!
- G. Policeman I know. Help me out with him (They go over to the bank, and soon are back on the road with the dripping Sun Liu Kun, who is groaning feebly)
- Passer-by I must be going. (He shrugs his shoulders, and walks off)
- Sun Liu Kun Ai-Ya! I must die quickly now. In Shanghai they have men's faces, but animal's hearts.
- G. Policeman (To himself) It is very funny. He can still talk. These countrymen are very strong. (To Sun Liu Kun) Patience, old man. You will be taken to hospital. It will be very soon, very soon now. (He turns and walks back to his beat, slapping his leg with his baton)

Act 4  
Scene 2.

It is the ~~xxx~~ charge room of a police station in the International Settlement. It is a large room, with some high desks, on which are large registers. On one side of the room is a cell - a grill of iron bars big enough to hold about five people. A row of tear gas bombs hangs on the wall, as do armoured vests for the police. At one corner, near the desks, is an open fire, beside which a clerk is writing. An interpreter leans against the mantelpiece. The clerk is wearing a long Chinese gown, while the interpreter is wearing western clothing. Both are of the gangster type. Behind the bars sit Wu Sing Ta and Little Tiger. Little Tiger is asleep, with his head on the other's shoulder. It is early morning, and the two have talked much of the night. The interpreter and the clerk are having a conversation.

Interpreter Where is the foreign Sergeant on duty ?

Clerk Over in the W.C. He's had a bad night. He'll be back in a minute or two. Do you want him ?

Interpreter No. I just wondered. After the trouble with last night's duty Sergeant.

Clerk The Jap. Inspector reported him.

Interpreter Ah well, they will have their fun ! Look, here comes one of our gang brothers. The shopmaster of the Eternal Happiness Metal Works. He seems angry about something (He walks towards the shopmaster)

Shopmaster Good morning, brothers ! My luck is indeed bad. Yesterday a Red Bandit was arrested in my house, and last night my new apprentice ran away. I came to see if you have any report of the little devil. I paid good money for him.

Clerk Look in the cell over there ! (The shopmaster looks and sees Little Tiger)

Shopmaster (Becoming excited) It's him ! (Shouting at Little Tiger, who awakes and holds on to Wu Sing Ta ) You turtle's egg !  
(To the clerk) I will take him home and beat the life out of him !

Clerk Take him, and welcome. We're glad to get rid of him. (He gets the key, opens the cell door, and pulls Little Tiger out)

Little Tiger (Starting to cry) I don't want to go back.

Interpreter They usually cry when they are being put in there, not when they are being taken out.

Wu Sing Ta You dirty pack of gangsters ! (Bitterly) Some day we will <sup>finish</sup> ~~you~~ you ! Neither your foreign backers, nor your gang leader Tu Yohh Sung, will last for ever !



J. Inspector (Sucking in his breath) Sodeska ! I will be back in a short time ( He goes out by a side door)

Enter the Detective followed by the 1st and 2nd Officers.

2nd Officer Yes, the bastard reported us ! And now I suppose we're confined to the Station until further orders ! A hell of a business ! The service is going to the dogs, when it can do this to a man !

1st Officer But will we lose our jobs ?

2nd Officer That'll come out in the washing ! It may be back in England on the dole for us. God only knows what'll happen, and he wo'nt tell.

Detective Oh, cheer up ! It ~~wasn't~~<sup>won't</sup> be so bad. Did you send for that slick gang lawyer I told you about ?

2nd Officer Yes, we did. Had to promise him five hundred, and pay a cash advance ! He says that he can get a confession from the beggar that he jumped into the river.

1st Officer But what if the beggar dies before our man gets the confession ?

Detective Not so good, but we'll find a way out somehow. (Looking towards the Jap. Sergeant) It's all kinds of people wanting to control the police, that is making things tighten up like this.

2nd Officer Oh, shut up you chaps ! What a hell of a head I've got!

Detective You fellows should not have got so tight. (To clerk) Have you that Communist we arrested yesterday, and the small boy who was locked up last night ?

Clerk The boy's master came for him. He was a runaway apprentice. The Red bandit is in the cell over there.

Detective ~~(Handing over papers) Has he been questioned ?~~  
Has he been questioned ?

Clerk Yes sir, and these are the papers. (Handing over some papers)

Detective Nothing of use on these ! We'll get some more by and by.

Duty Sergeant (Entering) Morning 'Tec. Morning chaps. You've had a night out, I hear !

2nd Officer (Glumly) You've said a mouthful !

Enter the Chinese policeman, reporting from duty. He has with him two little girls, and an old woman. One of the girls is Li Mei. He reports to the Duty Sergeant.

Policeman

I report. Last night at 2 a.m. two foreign Policemen in a car belonging to this station, drove up to my post. They took a beggar I had reported as being sick, and threw him into the creek. I and a passer-by helped him out. I telephoned for an ambulance, which came and took him to St Luke's Hospital. On my way back to the station, I found these prostitutes soliciting in the streets, so I have arrested them. (He salutes, and takes off his belt and pistol, placing them on the table. He takes the pistol ~~xxxxxxxx~~ out of the holster for inspection. He then turns and leaves the room.)

Duty Sergeant

(Writing in the register) The car driver also reported this to the Jap. Inspector. (Pulling a face at the 1st and 2nd Officers) You're in a jam!

2nd Officer

Hell, don't rub it in!

Duty Sergeant

(To Interpreter, throwing him a large key) Hey, you! Stick those dirty whores in the coop.

Interpreter

*Anna enters and stands, watching what happens. The Interpreter*  
Very good, sir. ~~He~~ takes the key, opens the door, and pushes in the three women with Wu Sing Ta. He then locks the door, and puts the key back on the desk, alongside the Chinese policeman's pistol. The foreigners discuss last night's escapade, and offer each other cigarettes while gathering around the fire. ~~Then, the charge~~  
~~room door. Anna appears.~~ *Anna* stands for a moment, taking in the whole scene. The Detective has his back towards her. She exchanges glances with Wu Sing Ta, and then walks over to the group of officers. The Duty Sergeant sees her first, and steps over towards her, thinking to attend to some complaint.)

Anna

I would like to see the Detective, please.

Detective

(Hearing her voice, and turning in an embarrassed manner) Hullo, Anna, Why so early in the morning?

Anna

(Now by the desk on which the pistol and the key lie) I just wanted to see you for a moment. (Suddenly she grabs the pistol with one hand, the key with the other, and backs towards the cell.) Stick them up all! (They obey her command, and put up their hands in a dumbfounded sort of a way) I can use this gadget as well as any of you, and the first man who moves, gets it in the guts. (She passes the key behind her to Wu Sing Ta, who reaches through the bars and opens the door)

Wu Sing Ta

(As he emerges) I'll get a gun from one of them, Anna.

Anna

(Commandingly) No! Go quietly! Easy past the sentry, turn the corner, and run. (Wu Sing Ta gives her one look, and passes quietly out of the rear door)

Detective

You dirty, double crossing little bitch!

Anna

It would take hours to tell you my opinion of you.

Keep your hands up ! ~~And anyway, a stupid, conceited animal of your type would not understand if I did. You cease to be men here, and become degenerates - all of you.~~

2nd Officer

Fuckin' little whore, you !

Detective

Enough of this bloody nonsense ! (He reaches for his gun. Anna opens fire, and he falls to the hearth. Attracted by the sound of the firing, the Japanese Inspector appears at the side door. Anna does not see him, so that he is able to take careful aim at her. He fires and she collapses. The Jap continues to empty his pistol, and one of the bullets strikes little Li Mei, who has come out of the cell, and who has stood wondering, near Anna. She cries out, and falls forward )

There is a scene of general confusion. The Duty Sergeant telephones H.Q. with details, and asks for an ambulance for the Detective. The 2nd Officer and the Interpreter, seeing that the Detective is quite dead, join the two Japanese in looking at Anna.

2nd Officer

The bitch killed poor old 'Tec all right ! Hell of a fate, eh ? To be killed by a bloody wonk ! God ! I hope that I do get sent back to good old Blighty ! (He puts out his boot, turns over her face, and laughs)

Interpreter

~~xxkx~~ There's another one killed too, sir. (He pulls Li Mei over, and throws her across Anna's body)

2nd Officer

Jolly good shooting, Inspector, if I might say so ! You got the little whore as well !

Jap Inspector

Sodeska ! (He sucks in his breath and bows slightly)

2nd Officer

For Christs sake ! Why didn't she stay in the cell with the old woman and the other little bitch ? Too bloody stupid, I suppose ! Anyway, if she'd worked honestly for her living, this wouldn't have happened to her !

Jap. Sergeant

(Drawing in his breath) Ah, sodeska !