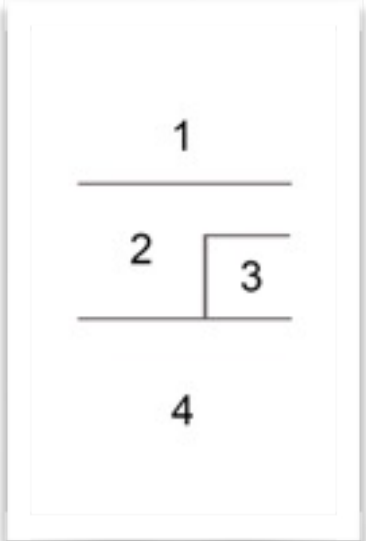


# Marriage Battle

145cm\* 75cm





1:

He suddenly sat down, sighed: "Oh my, It's really all over. She has even blocked me on QQ. I mean usually when she tried to break up with me, the worst case was not picking up my phone call. This time I think I really need to go back to deal with it."

That is what Zhou said the last time I met him.

After that conversation Zhou quit his job in the factory and went back home to fight for his marriage, and never came back.

Zhou's wife used to work in the same factory. She worked on the assembly line producing locks. I got to know her through Zhou.

Once she told me that her marriage with Zhou was not really a thoroughly thought through act.

At that time, she was very young, and her family thought she should get married before working outside since a couple have a bigger chance of surviving the tough life outside than if you are single. So her relatives introduced her to a man from the neighboring village and they got married as everybody expected. At that time Zhou was 21-years-old and had already worked for three years in factories. People thought Zhou was honest and hard-working, and therefore a man a young woman can rely on.

After getting married, this young couple went to Zhejiang and worked in this factory thanks to the introduction of one of their fellow villagers.

The next year, their son was born.

“The kid is still too young, her (wife’s) parents take care of him back in our hometown. I will get him here to go to school when he is older” Zhou always told me.

This year, Zhou’s wife decided to go home earlier before the Chinese New Year holiday started. When she came back to her parents’ place, she all of sudden asked for a divorce. At that time when his wife was breaking up with him, Zhou looked really upset all day and checked his smartphone all the time.

In the end, he drew a conclusion that his wife must have had an affair and wished to get rid of him while she is still young and can get married again.

“If I can’t persuade her to stay, I will at least keep our son” Zhou said.

他一屁股坐下来说道：这下真完了，她在QQ上都把我拉黑了，之前闹分手最多只是不接我电话，我得回老家一趟。

今年年初得这段对话是我和小周最后一次见面。

之后，他辞了工回老家挽回自己得婚姻，就再也没有回来过了。

小周得老婆之前也在同一厂上班，在锁具生产线上。

我和她得相识是因为小周。

她告诉我她和小周得婚姻并不是深思熟虑得结果。

当时年纪小也不懂什么的，家里人说出来之前把婚结了，两个人一起不会太辛苦，所以亲戚介绍了隔壁村的一个，就把婚结掉了。当时的小周二十一岁，已经在厂里干了三年活，勤快老实，村里人都觉得是个可以托付的人。

婚后小两口来到了浙江，在老乡的介绍下一起进了这个厂，第二年他们的儿子出生了。

孩子太小养在她父母那里，等大一点了就接过来念书，小周一直和我这么说。

今年春节前老婆说要早点回家，可一回娘家就开始说要离婚了，那段日子小周天天愁眉不展地守着手机。

最后，他的结论是，她一定在外面有男人了，真年轻想改嫁了。

如果人留不住，那儿子无论如何要是他的。



## 2:

I have never met Zhou's son A Bao since he was kept back at their rural hometown.

Once Zhou took out his smartphone to show me the photo of his son. This photo was taken at last Chinese New Year when they came back to visit their parents. In this photo his son was standing in front of a vegetable field, eating the marble chocolate Zhou brought to him. The boy was wearing a coat which looked slightly too big for him. Zhou told me this coat was a new one especially for the Chinese New Year, and because of this over sized coat his wife had a big row with him.

Zhou thought since the kid was growing quickly they should buy an oversized coat so that it wouldn't get too small too soon. However his wife thought the Chinese New Year is only once per year, so a new coat for the Chinese New Year should look good and just fit.

In the end, they still bought an oversized one as Zhou insisted. However his wife was really unhappy and this conflict was mentioned by her many time as an example of 'not sharing the same values' as Zhou.

因为，一直被养在老家，我从来没有见过小周的儿子阿宝。

有一次小周翻开手机相册给我看儿子的照片，照片是去年春节回家时拍的。儿子在家门前的菜地上吃小周带给他的巧克力豆，身上穿着过年的新衣服。衣服显得有些偏大了，小周说就因为这事，老婆还和他吵了一架。

他觉得小孩子长得快，买大两号还可以多穿几年，但老婆小胡觉得难得过年，新衣应该买合身的给孩子。

最后，虽然买的是大码，但老婆显得很沮丧，而买衣风波也成了老婆日后口中的“价值观不同”的具体事例之一。

### 3:

To you who used to be my beloved one.

One day after the Chinese New Year, Zhou's Qzone (social media profile) popped up with a new post. The post written by Zhou himself, was a few lines and a photo - the one of his son which he had shown to me before.

He had written: You finally left, there is nothing I can do. The kid can't get a *hukou* (household registration), whatever, let it be. "I am so tired" is the last line.

I tried to call Zhou, only to find however that he had changed his mobile number.

A few days later, Zhou replied to my message on QQ, he told me that he had divorced and his wife didn't ask for the custody of their son. He is now in his hometown, life had to move on. At the end he said 'thank you'. "I thought all my previous friends would ignore me and forget me. You are the first one I know who tried to call me and care about me. Thank you."

致曾经最爱的你

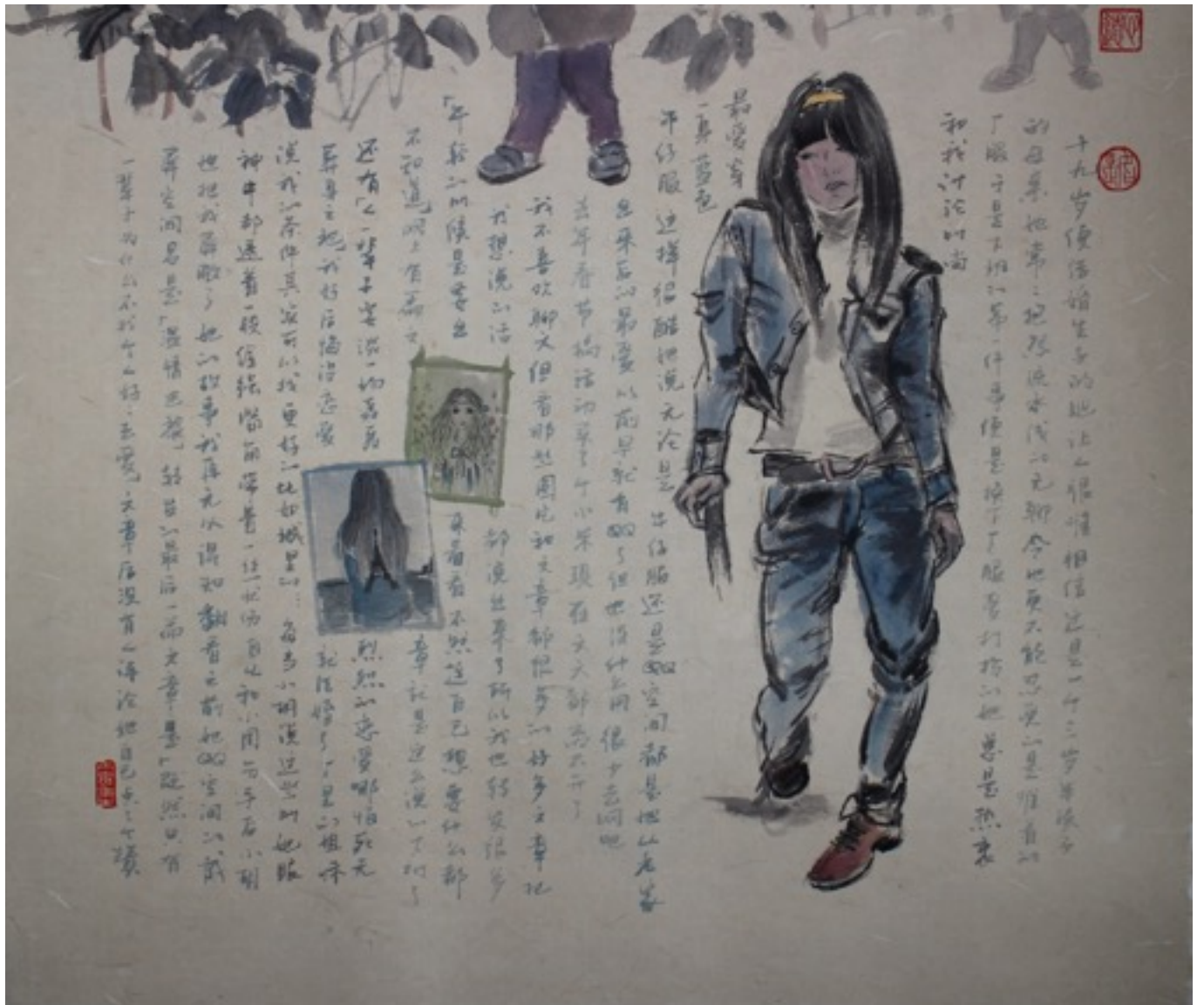
年后的一天，小周的空间更新了一篇文章，寥寥数语，一张配图是儿子的那张照片。

文章写道：你走了，只能如此，孩子没法落户，我就不落了。“我累了”是最后三个字。

我给小周打了个电话，发现他换号码了。

后来，他在QQ上回复我打留言说，婚已经离了，孩子女方没有要，他现在在老家，日子还要过。

末了，他谢谢我。“我还以为我之前的朋友都不会理我，把我忘了。你是第一个打电话给我打人，谢谢。”



#### 4:

She became a mother when she was 19-years-old. People can't tell she is the mother of a three-and-half-year-old boy.

She always complains about her boring job on the assembly line, however to her the even more unbearable thing seems to be the ugly factory uniform. So, the first thing she does after work is to take off the uniform.

She always likes to talk about fashion with me. A denim jacket and jeans is her favorite outfit. "It looks cool" she says.

Denim and QQ both are her 'new love' after working outside.

She had a QQ account many years ago but didn't use it actively before working outside, partially because she didn't go to internet Cafes regularly in her hometown.

Last year she bought a smartphone 'Xiao Mi' during the Chinese New Year's Sale and now she can't go without her smartphone.

"I don't like chatting online, but I love viewing pictures and reading posts."

"Some posts speak exactly to my feelings, those that I myself can't express properly otherwise, so I also frequently shared many such posts."

"When you are young you should go outside and see the world, otherwise you don't even know what you really want.' one of the posts said so and it is so right."

"Also 'One should at least go through one passionate and unforgettable romance in the world, even at the price of a miserable end.' I feel real regret about getting married too early. My fellow workers said given my situation I could easily find somebody better, like someone with a city hukou.(household registration)."

Whenever Hu said so, I saw an unyielding look sparking in her eyes and faint sadness flickering across her lips.

Since her divorce with Zhou, Hu also blocked me on her QQ. I have nowhere to follow her story. I checked screenshots of her Qzone (social media profile) stored in my computer. Her Qzone title is "Tenderness in Paris", the last post she shared on this profile was called "Why not go for a real love".

Nobody commented on this post. She herself 'liked' it.

十九岁便结婚生子的她，让人很难相信这是一个三岁半孩子的母亲。

她常常抱怨流水线的无聊，令她更不能忍受的是难看的厂服，于是，小班的第一件事便是换下厂服。爱打扮的她总是热衷和我讨论时尚，最爱穿一身蓝色牛仔服，这样很酷，她说。

无论是牛仔服还是QQ空间，都是她从老家出来后的最爱。

以前早就有QQ了，但也没什么用，很少去网吧。

去年春节搞活动买了个小米，现在天天都离不开了。

我不喜欢聊天但看那些图片和文章都很多的。

好多文章把我想说的话都说出来了，所以我也转发很多。

"年轻的时候石药出来看看，不然连自己想要什么都不知道" 网上有篇文章就是这么说的，太对了。

"还有，'人一辈子要谈一场轰轰烈烈的恋爱，哪怕死无葬生之地' 我号后悔没恋爱就结婚了。厂里的姐妹说我的条件其实可以找更好的，比如说城里的。"

每当小胡说这些时，她眼神中都透着一股倔强，嘴角带着一丝忧伤。

自从和小周分手后，小胡也把我屏蔽了。她带故事我再无从得知。

翻看之前她QQ空间的截屏，空间名是"温情巴黎"，转发的最后一篇文章是《既然只有一辈子为什么不找个人好好去爱》。

文章后没有人评论，她自己点了一个赞。