

SYNOPSIS

Waiting is the story of Dr. Lin Kong, an officer in the Chinese army who was pressured by his parents into an arranged marriage with a woman he knew he could never love. From the city a full day's travel away from his wife and daughter, Lin meets Manna Wu, a nurse in the hospital where he works, and falls deeply in love with her. Every summer for seventeen years, Lin makes the long journey back to his small village to ask his wife for a divorce, and every summer she kindly agrees until sitting before the judge and backing out at the last minute. While still married, even though they haven't slept in the same bed since conceiving their child, Lin is forbidden from even holding Manna's hand, let alone consummating their relationship. A loophole in Chinese law, however, allows divorce without consent if couples are separated for eighteen years. As the characters wait for the approach of this eighteen year mark, *Waiting* takes this deceptively straightforward narrative and imbues it with subtle, complex themes and ironic comic tones. In elegantly minimalist prose that illuminates the lives of Lin, his wife Shuyu, and Manna. *Waiting* wrote in easy English, readable, and interesting.

Ironically, his dreaming in 18 years effort eliminate his honest wife put himself to a complex fail, ill feeling, guilty feeling, to be poor, hated by people, unloved of his daughter, etc. However, Lin has not found happiness in his family with Manna Wu, his mistress in 18 years. This marriage changes to an unexpected situation, because the change character of Manna Wu and the birth of twin's baby cannot bring the marriage situation better. An inability to manage the house hold brings Lin in difficult condition. Finally he found himself as useless man, unhappy, the condition of Manna who in crisis, her health

getting worse, does he want back to Shuyu? Who knows? In *Waiting* it is not mentioned if Lin came back to Shuyu or not.

APPENDIX