

短片电影《秘方》旁白
Short film "Secret Recipe" Narration

1

自我记事那年，身边的人们如同南迁的鱼群，带着某种期望来到了这片陌生的大陆。我的母亲带着我独自来到这里，我无法想象为了给我一个更好的未来，她经历了多少困苦。

For as long as I can remember, the people from our hometown have been migrating southward to this foreign land, with the expectation of a better life. My mother brought me here all by herself. I couldn't imagine what hardships she had to endure, in the hopes of giving me a better future.

但这个故事，比起那些辉煌的移民史，再普通不过。这个故事，有关一道菜，一道用我父亲的秘方烹制的松鼠桂鱼。而这里，是我母亲的厨房，一切开始的地方。

But this story has nothing to do with the glorious history of Chinese immigrants. This story is about a dish: the Squirrel Fish, made with my father's secret recipe. And here we are, in my mother's tiny kitchen where everything started.

忘记说了，她的厨艺，糟糕透顶。

Oh, I forgot to mention. She was a terrible cook.

2

我不记得在多少的黑夜中，她独自一人想念着那个已经不再需要她的人。太久没有他的音讯，我偶尔会梦到他，那时候的我只想知道，他再鱼里究竟放了怎样的秘方。

I can't recall how many nights she sat alone, thinking of the man who no longer needed her. I dreamed about him sometimes. But after all those years, all I could remember was his cooking, and all I wanted to know was the secret ingredients he used for the Squirrel Fish.

3

从小到大，除去嗅觉灵敏，我都是一个再普通不过的孩子。我母亲从来不会拿我当马戏团的猴子一样供人围观，究竟是为了保护我，还是是因为还是对我彻底失望，这至今是个谜。

Save for my sharp sense of smell, I was a very mediocre child. My mother never asked me to show off my talent in front of the crowd like a circus monkey. Whether she was trying to protect me, or she was simply disappointed remains a mystery.

那一次的社区聚会，或许是我童年唯一的闪光之处。那天我遇到了John,他后来成为了我唯一的好朋友。那天我和Rosemary说了第一句话，她后来成为了我的妻子。

That community gathering was perhaps the only highlight of my childhood. I met John that day. He became my best and only friend. And it was on that day, I spoke to Rosemary for the first time. She became my wife.

但最终要的是，我做了一道菜，第一次拿起了铲子。对那天的记忆有些已经很模糊，但我记得人们因此为我菜肴的香气而欢呼，那一刻我以为，我终于可以让母亲自豪一次了。

And most importantly, I made a dish. For the first time, I picked up the spatula. My memories of that day have already become a hazy blur, but I remembered that everyone was cheering for the fragrance of my dish. And for the first time, I thought I had made my mother proud.

4

那天以后，John与我形影不离,他拉着我走遍大街小巷训练我的味觉，我害怕如果有一天我失去了这个独特的能力，就再也找不到父亲的秘方。我的母亲不愿再让我踏入厨房半步，但这并不影响我成为一个厨师，我仍旧在烹饪，用我的想象力。

John and I became inseparable, he helped me to train my sense of taste. I was afraid that if I would lose my unique talent, I would never find father's secret recipe. My mother forbade me from entering the kitchen, but it didn't stop me from becoming a chef. I still cooked — with my imagination.

5

就这样我进入了高中，生活更加平淡无奇。母亲和所有的中国母亲一样，唯一的期望就是我能考上一个好大学。而我只想迫不及待的想离开这里，去做我想做的事情。我们因此而争吵，她也因此对我失望透顶。

I entered high school, and life turned duller still. Like all Chinese mothers, her only wish was for me to get into a good university. But I only wanted to leave this place, to chase my dreams. We quarrelled, and she was thoroughly disappointed.

6

渐渐的，母亲不再要求我什么，她离我的人生越来越远，而Rosemary却离我的人生越来越近。我决定告诉母亲18岁一到，我就会和Rosemary一起搬去悉尼生活的那一天，母亲怅然若失。而真正离家远行的那一天，却比我们所预期的快了许多。

With time, my mother had lost her expectations. We grew further apart. But Rosemary drifted towards the centre of my life. When I had decided to tell my mother that upon turning eighteen, I would move with Rosemary to Sydney, my mother seemed lost. And that day came much sooner than we had anticipated.

7

我们在悉尼的生活的简单而充满乐趣,一切甚至比我曾憧憬的还要令人愉悦。两年后，我从帮工变成了副厨师,又过了三年，我顺利晋升为主厨。

Our life in Sydney was simple and fun. In fact, it was even more pleasant than I had hoped for. After two years, I rose to the position of deputy chef. Another three years later, I became the head chef.

8

不敢相信，我真的去了苏州，母亲的故乡。到了那的第一天，我便意识到父亲其实并没有秘方，他那道菜肴在我心中的与众不同，不过是因为他用了桂鱼，而澳洲却没有桂鱼罢了。用这样一个可笑的方式结束我多年的追寻，或许再好不过，就让

这结局成为对我过去的幼稚执着，最后的道别。

Surprisingly, I really went to Suzhou – my mother’s hometown. On the very first day after I had arrived, I realised that my father had no secret recipe. The uniqueness of his dish was simply because he had used the mandarin fish, which isn’t found in Australia. Perhaps it’s for the best, that my years of search had ended with such a comical twist.

9

我望着她，第一次发现，我那个坚强的母亲已经老去了。她问我，去苏州，秘方找到了么？我说，秘方就是桂鱼。她摇摇头，问我，还记不记得小时候...

For the first time, I had noticed wrinkles on my mother’s stoic face. She asked me: “Have you found the secret recipe in Suzhou?” I told her that the secret is the mandarin fish. She shook her head and asked me whether I still remember. When I was a child...

10

母亲的厨房，是一切结束的地方。我用了二十年的时间去追寻父亲的秘方，而当我真正找到它的时候，却发现一切与味道无关，与配料无关，与鱼也无关。事实上，那一直令我向往追寻的，并不是味道本身，而是我之所以记住那味道的原因。

My mother’s kitchen was where everything had ended. I spent twenty years obsessed with finding my father’s secret recipe. But when I had finally found it, I realised that it had nothing to do with the flavours or ingredients, not even the fish. The truth is, what I had been pursuing was not the taste itself, but the reason for which it persists in my memory.