

THE DUTIFUL DAUGHTER

Charles Way

A fishing boat.

KE XIN: I think we should go back now.

LI YI: Be still –

KE XIN: It's getting late.

LI YI: Wait. *(LI YI catches a fish.)* Ha. Ha.

KE XIN: Poor thing. It looks so sad.

LI YI: It's a fish – all fish look sad. But the truth is they don't have any emotions at all.
(He is about to hit the fish.)

KE XIN: How do you know that? That fish looks very emotional to me – and his poor wife and children are just beneath the boat wondering where he's got to – and why doesn't he come back and the mother is starting to get worried and the fish children are crying. I can hear them.

LI YI: I can't. *(He is about to hit the fish)*

KE XIN: I think you should throw it back.

LI YI: This is my supper.

KE XIN: I am the Princess – throw it back.

LI YI: No, no you are not a princess – look at your poor clothes.

KE XIN: You dare disobey me.

LI YI: Sit down, you'll capsize the boat.

KE XIN: You have no respect – for me or the fish.

LI YI: The greatest respect I can give this fish – is to eat it. If you don't sit down I shall do the same to you. *(He is about to kill it.)*

KE XIN: Look!

LI YI alarmed by her tone looks away and she throws the fish overboard.

LI YI: What is the point of fishing – if you don't want to catch a fish?

KE XIN: Poor Li Yi – always so practical. For you the world has only one dimension. Can't you hear the fish children laughing?

LI YI: No – I can only hear my stomach rumbling. Goodbye supper. Of course you will have a fine meal to go home to, once you take off your poor disguise.

Silence. A bell rings.

KE XIN: We must go back now.

| a n | t h o | l o | g y |

LI YI: But it's still light.

KE XIN: The bell.

LI YI: Who cares about the bell?

KE XIN: It's the law. Please Li Yi – take me back. My father will be home soon and I must be ready.