

# Street of Eternal Hope

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*From "Shanghai: Writers in Café", a collection of short stories  
published December 2021 by Shanghai Daily in cooperation with Shanghai Writers Association.*

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In an open window a red striped tomcat stretches his back and licking the upper lip,  
at the moment the afternoon sun touches the roof ridge of the opposite house,  
two black hat magpies turn their head ninety degrees,  
and a lone man sits at his regular outside café table with a stimulating cup of coffee  
as the red striped high tailed steps down the sloping tiles, cast a sidelong glance  
over the alley and follows the gutter towards the nearby marketplace.

A young girl hurries by pushing a bicycle with a squalling front wheel,  
a tonsured guy takes a curious bite of a sandwich,  
in a side alley a curved back woman in slippers search the garbage bins,  
and a ventilator sets scrambling off.

Children chase one another behind the university clinic,  
wet laundry, loud voices and cigarette smoke swing in the wind,  
in front of the supermarket a young couple stash shopping bags in a tow cart,  
a man wearing a purple pyjama and a baseball cap is watching.

The fruit seller slumps down on a stool and open a book about Shanghai foxtrot,  
a boy with poppy-out ears lies on his knees  
in front of a swimming turtle on top of an empty bottle,  
a lost man with free-flowing fairy hair wants to know where from the turtle came.

A man with sunken cheeks leans against the edge of a flower basin  
in his own thoughts scratching the upper hand next to  
his wife waiving a fan and wanting to be part of an intimate conversation,  
two women have under a silent tree crown across the street.

The hair dresser's red-white-blue spiral wiggles endlessly down,  
a pigeon takes off from a plane tree and makes a big dropping on the bonnet  
of a dark blue Audi just as the driver starts to clean the windshield  
while waiting at the gate for his boss to return.

The red striped cat tilts his head and curl his lips,  
 the careless pigeon coos "oh good, oh good",  
 a mother on a bike passes by with a daughter behind in a yellow kid's seat,  
 the little girl looks back and sticks out her tongue.

Nearby a bus takes off,  
 a police constable stands with legs spread apart and squinted eyes,  
 a tattooed dude with a loose hanging cigarette in his mouth is strutting along  
 appearing to be in full control.

Tears fall from the eyes of a young girl in painted jeans,  
 as she reads a text message from her boyfriend breaking up with her,  
 strangle a sob and puts her hand on her best friends' arm,  
 whom inspects her lips in the mobile screen.

A heavy woman with sad eye brows and wearing a green floral dress  
 close her eyes and rest her head at the shoulder of her husband,  
 while pearl after pearl in her arm band pass through restless fingers,  
 and a little boy with stripe of drool on his chin squats down and smiles.

The pigeon flutters towards the rising scent  
 of newly fried fish and chips,  
 the red striped tomcat turns around  
 in the gutter and walks back.

And a little boy with a stripe of drool on his chin squats smiling down,  
 while a heavy woman with sad eyebrows and wearing a green floral dress  
 let pearl after pearl of her arm band pass through restless fingers,  
 close her eyes and rests her head at the shoulder of her husband.

And a young girl inspects her lips in the mobile screen,  
 as she reads a text message from a boyfriend breaking up,  
 as her best friend in the painted jeans put a hand on her arm,  
 strangling a sob while tears fall from her eyes.

And having a cigarette hanging loose in his mouth a tattooed guy  
 struts the street along, appearing to be in full control,  
 as a nearby bus takes off,  
 and police constable stands with legs spread apart and squinted eyes.

And a little girl looks back, sticks out her tongue from a yellow kid's seat  
 safe behind a mother's back, as the mother passes by on her bike  
     tilted head the red striped cat curl his lips,  
 while the careless pigeon coos "oh good, oh good".

And while waiting at the gate for his boss to return,  
 the driver starts to clean the windshield of a dark blue Audi,  
 the pigeon takes off from a plane tree and drops big on the car bonnet  
 and the hair dresser's red-white-blue spiral wiggles endlessly down.

And as two women under a silent tree crown enter into a head-to-head chat,  
 a woman from the other side of the street flickering a fan wishing to take part,  
 the husband with sunken cheeks next to her leans back against a flower basin  
     scratching the upper hand in his own thoughts.

And in front of a swimming turtle on top of an empty bottle,  
 a lost man with free-flowing fairy hair bends down and ask  
     the boy lying on his stomach, where to the turtle is heading,  
 as a fruit seller slumps down on her stool, and open a book about Shanghai foxtrot.

And a man wearing baseball cap and purple pyjama is watching  
 a tow cart being filled with shopping bags by a young couple,  
     the wind moves laundry, cigarette smoke and shrill voices  
 as children chase one another behind the university clinic.

And as ventilator sets scrambling off in a side alley,  
 garbage containers are being search by a curved back woman in slippers,  
     a tonsured guy curiously takes a bite of a sandwich,  
 and a young girl hurries by pushing a bicycle with a complaining front wheel.

And the afternoon sun disappears under the roof ridge at the opposite house,  
     two black hat magpies turn their head ninety degrees,  
 as the red striped cat hightailed returns casting a sidelong glance over the alley  
     before stepping up the sloping tiles to the open window,  
     stretching out his back and licking his upper lip  
 the sole man sitting at the café table sips the last drop of comforting coffee.