

05.12-The wedding house

The wedding house

Obituary: Jia Jinglong died on November 15th

The Chinese **protester** against forced **expropriation** was 30 years old
Nov 26th 2016

Vocab

1. **obituary** n. (报纸上或广播里的) 讣告, 讣闻 Someone's **obituary** is an account of their life and character which is printed in a newspaper or broadcast soon after they die.
e.g. I read your brother's **obituary** in the Times. 我在《泰晤士报》上看到了你哥哥的讣告。
2. **protester** n. 抗议者; 反对者 **Protesters** are people who protest publicly about an issue.
e.g. The **protesters** say the government is corrupt and inefficient. 抗议者称政府腐败无能。
3. **expropriation** n. 征收, 征用; 没收

MAY 25th was an **auspicious** day for Jia Jinglong. It was his birthday by the **lunar calendar**, and in 2013 it was also the date of his forthcoming wedding to Li Lanlan. They had been going out for four years, a long time; but he was a shy boy, who had not wanted to go to college and didn't read or write much, and who would blush whenever he spoke to a girl.

Vocab

1. **auspicious** adj. 吉祥的; 吉利的 Something that is **auspicious** indicates that success is likely.
e.g. His career as a playwright had an **auspicious** start. 他的剧作家生涯有了一个好的开头。
2. **lunar calendar** n. 阴历
3. **blush** v. ~ (with sth) (at sth) to become red in the face because you are embarrassed or ashamed (因尴尬或害羞) 脸红, 涨红了脸
e.g. to blush with embarrassment/ shame 尴尬/羞愧得面颊绯红

Sentence

They had been going out for four years, a long time; but he was a shy boy, who had not wanted to go to college and didn't read or write much, and who would blush whenever he spoke to a girl.

主干: They had been going out 后面 but 转折 but he was a shy boy

who had not wanted ... 这里 who 表示的是 shy boy

who had not wanted and didn't read or write

and who would blush 这里还有个新的从句和 who 并列

The wedding was to happen in his family house in North Gaoying village in Hebei province, near Beijing. "Village" no longer seemed the right word; the small houses were being rapidly **swallowed** up by the city of Shijiazhuang, whose towers rose up to the sky at the end of the village streets, while the **thump** of **pile-driving** drowned out the birds. Nonetheless Mr Jia loved his spacious house. He and his father had built it only six years before; it was full of windows, not all of which looked out on the **encroaching cranes**. It had three storeys. His parents lived on the

ground floor; his two **Tibetan mastiffs** were on the top; and the second storey, his part, was the wedding house. It was already filled with more than 100 plants, as well as bundles of straw which kept him, and them, warm. Around the village he was the number-one guy for plants, he said. He grew **begonias**, **aloe vera** and every kind of **cactus**: ball cactus, crab cactus, **lithops**. Sometimes he gave them away to neighbours. "Anybody's kid who has an **itchy** neck knows to come to me for cactus," he told the court before his **sentencing**. By then, however, the judges had stopped listening.

Vocab

1. **swallow** v. to make food, drink, etc. go down your throat into your stomach 吞下 ; 咽下
e.g. Always chew food well before swallowing it. 什么食物都要先嚼碎再吞咽。
2. **thump** n. 重重地摔出;沉闷地撞击 If you **thump** something somewhere or if it **thumps** there, it makes a loud, dull sound by hitting something else.
e.g. She **thumped** her hand on the witness box...她抬手重重地砸在证人席上。
3. **pile-driving** n. 打桩
4. **encroach** v. to begin to affect or use up too much of sb's time, rights, personal life, etc. 侵占 (某人的时间) ; 侵犯 (某人的权利) ; 扰乱 (某人的生活等)
e.g. I won't encroach on your time any longer. 我再也不会占用你的时间了。
5. **crane** n. a tall machine with a long arm, used to lift and move building materials and other heavy objects 起重机 ; 吊车
6. **mastiff** n. 獒, 大犷犬(一种体大强壮的短毛犬) A **mastiff** is a large, powerful, short-haired dog.
7. **Tibetan mastiff** n. 藏獒 an animal of a breed of large black-and-tan dog with a thick coat and drop ears
8. **begonia** n. 秋海棠 A **begonia** is a garden plant which has large brightly coloured leaves.
9. **aloe vera** n. a substance which comes from a type of **ALOE** , used in products such as skin creams 芦荟汁 (用于生产护肤霜等)
10. **cactus** n. 仙人掌 A **cactus** is a thick fleshy plant that grows in many hot, dry parts of the world. Cacti have no leaves and many of them are covered in prickles.
11. **lithops** n. 生石花
12. **itchy** adj. 发痒的;令人感到瘙痒的 If a part of your body or something you are wearing is **itchy**, you have an unpleasant feeling on your skin that makes you want to scratch.
e.g. Wigs are **itchy** and uncomfortable.假发让人感觉发痒,很不舒服。
13. **sentence** v. 判决;宣判;判刑 When a judge **sentences** someone, he or she states in court what their punishment will be.
e.g. She was **sentenced** to nine years in prison...她被判 9 年徒刑。

To make his house ready for the wedding, he went to endless trouble. He changed his job at the **pharmaceutical** factory from the day to the night shift, so that he could spend the days refurbishing. On his knees, with hands **callused** from hard work, he carefully wiped out dust with a damp **rag** from cracks in the floors. After repainting he bought new furniture and hung up red decorations, the colour of Chinese weddings. Most of them he had made himself (he liked to **sew**, especially **cross-stitch**). Pride of place went to a framed red-backed collage of 0.01yuan coins, collected for years, arranged to form the characters "I love my home."

Vocab

1. **pharmaceutical** adj. connected with making and selling drugs and medicines 制药的 ; 配

药的；卖药的

e.g. pharmaceutical products 药物

2. **calloused** adj. made rough and hard, usually by hard work 粗糙的；粗硬的；起老茧的

e.g. calloused hands 有老茧的双手

3. **rag** n. a piece of old, often torn, cloth used especially for cleaning things 抹布；破布

4. **sew** v. 缝制；缝合；缝补 When you **sew** something such as clothes, you make them or repair them by joining pieces of cloth together by passing thread through them with a needle.

e.g. She **sewed** the dresses on the **sewing machine**...她在缝纫机上缝制衣服。

5. **cross-stitch** n. 十字缝；十字形针法 **Cross-stitch** is a type of decorative sewing where one stitch crosses another.

Men in black **sedans**

He knew that a shadow hung over it. In 2010 his father, Jia Tongqing, had signed a **demolition** order. It had been forced out of him by local party officials; if he didn't sign, Tongqing was told, his aged mother's request for a pension would be rejected. So it was done, and his parents had moved to the cramped **high-rise** flat they had been given by the government. No cash **compensation** came. The pattern of forced **demolition** and relocation, with developers and officials in corrupt **cahoots** together, is common all over booming China, and for the most part stoically accepted. But this particular **doomed** house was their only son's home, too—his wedding house—and he did not agree, and would not move.

Vocab

1. **sedan** n. 大轿车；厢式轿车 A **sedan** is a car with seats for four or more people, a fixed roof, and a boot that is separate from the part of the car that you sit in.

2. **demolition** n. (建筑物的)摧毁，拆毁，拆除 The **demolition** of a building is the act of deliberately destroying it, often in order to build something else in its place.

e.g. The project required the total **demolition** of the old bridge...该项目要求将老桥完全拆毁。

3. **high-rise** adj. very tall and having a lot of floors 高层的

e.g. high-rise housing 高层住宅

4. **compensation** n. 补偿(或赔偿)金 **Compensation** is money that someone who has experienced loss or suffering claims from the person or organization responsible, or from the state.

e.g. He received one year's salary as **compensation** for loss of office...他得到一年的工资作为失业补偿金。

5. **demolition** n. (建筑物的)摧毁，拆毁，拆除 The **demolition** of a building is the act of deliberately

e.g. The project required the total **demolition** of the old bridge...该项目要求将老桥完全拆毁。

6. **cahoots** **IDM** **be in cahoots (with sb)** (*informal*) to be planning or doing sth dishonest with sb else 与...结伙；共谋；勾结 (...做坏事)

7. **doomed** adj. 注定要失败(或毁灭)的 Someone or something that is **doomed** is certain to fail or be destroyed.

e.g. Fireman battled through the smoke in a **doomed** attempt to rescue the children...消防队员奋力穿过烟雾企图去救孩子们，而这注定是要失败的。

So when the black sedans drew up outside, 18 days before the wedding, and thugs with axes and sticks got out and began to throw bricks at the windows, he **furiously** resisted. He climbed on the roof of the second storey, waving a big red national

flag, but no one listened. He was dragged out and beaten up. The house was smashed to **ruddle**, with everything in it, all the plants he loved; his mastiffs were taken away. He told the court later that the pain tore and **pierced** him like a knife. And the worst of it was that, in two months, Lanlan called off the wedding. After all, her **prospective** husband now had no house to give her.

Vocab

1. **furiously** adv. 猛烈地；狂暴地

2. **ruddle** n. broken stones or bricks from a building or wall that has been destroyed or damaged 碎石；碎砖

e.g. The bomb **reduced** the houses **to ruddle**. 炸弹把那片房子炸成了一堆瓦砾。

3. **pierce** v. ~ (through) sth to make a small hole in sth, or to go through sth, with a sharp object 扎；刺破；穿透

e.g. to have your ears/ nose, etc. **pierced** (= to have a small hole made in your ears/ nose so that you can wear jewellery there) 在耳朵、鼻子等上扎洞眼

4. **prospective** adj. expected to do sth or to become sth 有望的；可能的；预期的；潜在的

e.g. a prospective buyer 可能的买主

He wrote appeal after appeal for **proper** compensation, but got no answer. So in October 2014 he began to arm himself. Personal **firearms** being forbidden, he bought three nail-guns and began to **fiddle** with them. One **did the job** for him: in February 2015 he managed to shoot the local party chief, He Jianhua, in the back of the head at close range at a New Year party in the village. For this he was sentenced to death in the People's Intermediate Court. His sentence was **upheld** this year in the Supreme People's Court, China's highest.

Vocab

1. **proper** adj. right, appropriate or correct; according to the rules 正确的；恰当的；符合规则的

e.g. We should have had a proper discussion before voting. 我们本应在表决之前好好讨论一下才是。

2. **firearm** n. a gun that can be carried (便携式的) 枪

e.g. The police were issued with firearms. 警察都配发了小型枪支。

3. **fiddle** v. ~ (with sth) to keep touching or moving sth with your hands, especially because you are bored or nervous (尤指厌烦或紧张地) 不断摸弄，不停摆弄

e.g. He was fiddling with his keys while he talked to me. 和我谈话时他不停地摆弄钥匙。

4. **do the job** **IDM** **do the 'job** (informal) to be effective or successful in doing what you want 起作用；有效

e.g. This extra strong glue should do the job. 这种超黏度胶应该管用。

5. **uphold** v. (especially of a court of law 尤指法庭) to agree that a previous decision was correct or that a request is reasonable 维持，确认 (原判、裁决等)

e.g. to uphold a conviction/an appeal/a complaint 维持原判；受理上诉/申诉

Plenty of protests were made on his behalf. Two party newspapers **came out for** him, as well as 12 distinguished lawyers. Most netizens of Weibo supported him. There were **extenuating** circumstances for the murder, not least the collapse of the wedding. Besides, Mr Jia had come to **symbolise** the **plight** of the **unheeded** little man in China, powerless before **high-ups** and unable to get justice. ("If the people had any choice in life," he said, "I would not have taken this **dead-end** path.") The

courts were **implacable**, however. This was a long-planned murder of an official not especially to blame for the **demolition**; and all that online pressure to soften the law simply set a dangerous **precedent**.

Vocab

1. **come out for** 赞同；表示支持；出去
2. **extenuating** *adj.* showing reasons why a wrong or illegal act, or a bad situation, should be judged less seriously or excused 情有可原的；可减轻的
e.g. There were **extenuating circumstances** and the defendant did not receive a prison sentence. 因有可减轻罪行的情节被告未被判刑。
3. **symbolize** *v.* to be a symbol of sth 象征；是...的象征；代表
e.g. The use of light and dark symbolizes good and evil. 用光明与黑暗来象征善与恶。
4. **plight** *n.* a difficult and sad situation 苦难；困境；苦境
e.g. the plight of the homeless 无家可归者的艰难困苦
5. **unheeded** *adj.* that is heard, seen or noticed but then ignored 遭视而不见的；遭听而不闻的；被忽视的
e.g. Her warning **went unheeded**. 她的警告没有引起重视。
6. **high-up** *n.* an important person with a high rank 高官；要员
7. **dead-end** *n.* a point at which you can make no further progress in what you are doing 绝境；僵局
e.g. He's in a **dead-end job** in the local factory (= one with low wages and no hope of promotion). 他在当地工厂的工作是没有前途的。
8. **implacable** *adj.* that cannot be changed 不能改变的
e.g. implacable hatred 难以化解的仇恨
9. **demolition** *n.* (建筑物的)摧毁，拆毁，拆除 The **demolition** of a building is the act of deliberately destroying it, often in order to build something else in its place.
e.g. The project required the total **demolition** of the old bridge... 该项目要求将老桥完全拆毁。
10. **precedent** *n.* a similar action or event that happened earlier 先前出现的事例；前例；先例
e.g. Such protests are **without precedent** in recent history. 这类抗议事件在近代史上没有发生过。

His sentence might possibly have been **commuted** if he had turned himself in immediately after the murder, as he had meant to. But as he fled the scene in his car, he called Lanlan first to tell her what he had done. She was now married to another man and had a baby; but he still **referred** to her as his girlfriend, and had sent her 1,100 yuan in a red envelope for her wedding. While he talked to the woman who should have shared the house with him, He's friends **violently** bumped his car; and it was in their **custody** that the nurseryman of North Gaoying village arrived at the police station, and **sealed** his fate.

Vocab

1. **commute** *v.* 减轻(刑罚) If a death sentence or prison sentence **is commuted to** a less serious punishment, it is changed to that punishment.
e.g. Prison sentences have been **commuted**. 服刑期得以减短。
2. **refer** *v.* 称... (为) If you **refer to** someone or something **as** a particular thing, you use a particular word, expression, or name to mention or describe them.
e.g. Marcia had **referred to him as a dear friend**... 马西娅把他称作好朋友。

3. **violently** *adv.* with great energy or strong movement, especially caused by a strong emotion such as fear or hatred 强烈地；激烈地

e.g. She shook her head violently. 她拚命摇头。

4. **custody** *n.* the legal right or duty to take care of or keep sb/ sth; the act of taking care of sth/ sb 监护；保管；监护权；保管权

e.g. Who will **have custody** of the children? 谁来负责监护这些孩子？

5. **seal** *v.* to make sth definite, so that it cannot be changed or argued about 确定；明确定下来；使成定局

e.g. The discovery of new evidence **sealed his fate** (= nothing could prevent what was going to happen to him). 新发现的证据决定了他的命运。

Sentence

While he talked to the woman who should have shared the house with him, He's friends violently bumped his car; and it was in their custody that the nurseryman of North Gaoying village arrived at the police station, and sealed his fate.

主干：He's friends violently bumped his car

While he talked to the woman who should have shared the house with him 前面是 while 引导的状语从句结构是 he talked to the woman, 附带一个宾语从句 who should have shared...

and it was in their custody that 这里的 it 指代的是 bumped his car 这件事，后面 that 的定语从句的先行词是 custody

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Obituary: Jia Jinglong

讣告：贾敬龙

The wedding house

婚房

The Chinese protester against forced expropriation was 30 years old

这位反强征土地的中国人年仅30岁

MAY 25th was an auspicious day for Jia Jinglong. It was his birthday by the lunar calendar, and in 2013 it was also the date of his forthcoming wedding to Li Lanlan. They had been going out for four years, a long time; but he was a shy boy, who had not wanted to go to college and didn't read or write much, and who would blush whenever he spoke to a girl.

对贾敬龙而言，5月25日本是个喜庆的日子。这天是他的农历生日。2013年的这天还本该是他迎娶李兰兰之日。他们在一起有四年之久，但他是个害羞的男孩，不愿上大学，没怎么读过书，也不怎么写字，和女孩儿说话还总会脸红。

The wedding was to happen in his family house in North Gaoying village in Hebei province, near Beijing. "Village" no longer seemed the right word; the small houses were being rapidly swallowed up by the city of Shijiazhuang, whose towers rose up to the sky at the end of the village streets, while the thump of pile-driving drowned

out the birds. Nonetheless Mr Jia loved his spacious house. He and his father had built it only six years before; it was full of windows, not all of which looked out on the encroaching cranes. It had three storeys. His parents lived on the ground floor; his two Tibetan mastiffs were on the top; and the second storey, his part, was the wedding house. It was already filled with more than 100 plants, as well as bundles of straw which kept him, and them, warm. Around the village he was the number-one guy for plants, he said. He grew begonias, aloe vera and every kind of cactus: ball cactus, crab cactus, lithops. Sometimes he gave them away to neighbours.

“Anybody’s kid who has an itchy neck knows to come to me for cactus,” he told the court before his sentencing. By then, however, the judges had stopped listening.

婚礼原将于河北省（近北京市）北高营村的贾家旧宅中举行。如今用“村”这个字已不合适。北高营被石家庄市快速吞并，街道尽头高楼耸立，打桩机的阵阵噪声淹没了鸟叫声。然而贾敬龙还是爱他宽敞的老宅。他与父亲六年前才盖好这幢房子；满是窗户的房屋，不是每扇窗外都能见着起重机侵略的身影；房屋有三层，贾父贾母住一楼，两只藏獒住顶楼，二楼归贾敬龙自己，也是他的婚房。房中已放满100多种植物，还有成捆的稻草供他与这些植物取暖。他自诩为全村的种花达人，从种秋海棠、芦荟，到养各个品种的仙人掌：仙人球、蟹爪兰、生石花，有时还送给邻居一些。“谁家小孩脖子痒都知道找我要仙人掌。”他在判决前对法官说。可到了那个时候，他说什么法官都不会听了。

To make his house ready for the wedding, he went to endless trouble. He changed his job at the pharmaceutical factory from the day to the night shift, so that he could spend the days refurbishing. On his knees, with hands callused from hard work, he carefully wiped out dust with a damp rag from cracks in the floors. After repainting he bought new furniture and hung up red decorations, the colour of Chinese weddings. Most of them he had made himself (he liked to sew, especially cross-stitch). Pride of place went to a framed red-backed collage of 0.01yuan coins, collected for years, arranged to form the characters “I love my home.”

为了置办婚房，他费尽心力。他将药厂的工作从白班换成了夜班，这样就可以利用白天的时间装修。他跪在地上，拿着湿抹布，那双辛苦工作而布满老茧的手认真地擦除着地缝间的灰尘。粉刷一新后，他购置了新家具，挂上中式婚礼的大红装饰，红色是中国婚礼的标志。装饰多数都是他亲手制作的（他喜欢绣活，尤其是十字绣）。最显著的地方放着一张红底拼贴画，画上是他用积攒多年的1分硬币拼出的“我爱我家”的字样。

Men in black sedans

黑色轿车里的人

He knew that a shadow hung over it. In 2010 his father, Jia Tongqing, had signed a demolition order. It had been forced out of him by local party officials; if he didn’t sign, Tongqing was told, his aged mother’s request for a pension would be rejected. So it was done, and his parents had moved to the cramped high-rise flat they had been given by the government. No cash compensation came. The pattern of forced

demolition and relocation, with developers and officials in corrupt cahoots together, is common all over booming China, and for the most part stoically accepted. But this particular doomed house was their only son's home, too—his wedding house—and he did not agree, and would not move.

他知道，这个房子始终笼罩在阴影之下。2010年，他的父亲贾同庆签订了拆迁协议书，此举实是被逼无奈：当地官员警告他，若他不签字，他那年迈的母亲就得不到养老金。这才不得已签了字。贾敬龙父母随后住进了政府安置的高层公寓中，房子狭小拥挤，也没有任何现金补偿。这种开发商与官员腐败勾结，强制征地拆迁的模式在当下快速发展的中国已成常态，而多数人只能默然接受。但这个房子意义特殊，它不仅是夫妻俩唯一的儿子的家，也是儿子的婚房，即使难逃被拆的命运，贾敬龙也不同意，不愿搬走。

So when the black sedans drew up outside, 18 days before the wedding, and thugs with axes and sticks got out and began to throw bricks at the windows, he furiously resisted. He climbed on the roof of the second storey, waving a big red national flag, but no one listened. He was dragged out and beaten up. The house was smashed to rubble, with everything in it, all the plants he loved; his mastiffs were taken away. He told the court later that the pain tore and pierced him like a knife. And the worst of it was that, in two months, Lanlan called off the wedding. After all, her prospective husband now had no house to give her.

于是，在婚礼倒计时18天时，几辆黑色轿车停在了他家门外。当手持棍棒斧头的暴徒走出来，扔砖砸窗时，贾敬龙愤怒地抵抗。他爬上二楼房顶，挥舞着一大面国旗，但是无人理睬。暴徒将他拖出，一顿暴打；还将家中一切包括贾最爱的植物尽数砸毁，遍地狼藉；两只藏獒也被带走。后来他告诉法官当时的痛苦就如一把尖刀撕扯着他，狠扎他的心。最糟糕的是，不到两个月，兰兰取消了婚礼。毕竟，她未来的丈夫如今拿不出房子给她。

He wrote appeal after appeal for proper compensation, but got no answer. So in October 2014 he began to arm himself. Personal firearms being forbidden, he bought three nail-guns and began to fiddle with them. One did the job for him: in February 2015 he managed to shoot the local party chief, He Jianhua, in the back of the head at close range at a New Year party in the village. For this he was sentenced to death in the People's Intermediate Court. His sentence was upheld this year in the Supreme People's Court, China's highest.

为了得到合理的赔偿，他一次次地上诉，可最终都石沉大海。于是2014年10月，他开始武装自己。由于个人不得购买枪支，他便买了三支钉枪回来搬弄。其中一支助其成事：在2015年12月的村中新年团拜会会场，他近距离射击村党支部书记何建华的后脑，致使对方身亡。因此，中级人民法院判其死刑。今年，最高人民法院（中国最高审判机关）维持了这一判决。

Plenty of protests were made on his behalf. Two party newspapers came out for him, as well as 12 distinguished lawyers. Most netizens of Weibo supported him. There were extenuating circumstances for the murder, not least the collapse of the

wedding. Besides, Mr Jia had come to symbolise the plight of the unheeded little man in China, powerless before high-ups and unable to get justice. (“If the people had any choice in life,” he said, “I would not have taken this dead-end path.”) The courts were implacable, however. This was a long-planned murder of an official not especially to blame for the demolition; and all that online pressure to soften the law simply set a dangerous precedent.

众人纷纷替他抗议。两份党报，以及12位著名律师都声明支持贾敬龙，微博众多网友也表支持。（他们认为）虽是谋杀，有些地方还是值得宽恕的，尤其是婚礼被毁在先。而且，贾敬龙象征着中国那些不被重视的小人物的处境，他们在权贵面前无能为力，无法伸张正义。

（“但凡人生有得选择，”他说，“我也不会走上这条不归路。”）可是法官的态度坚决，认定这是一个蓄谋已久的谋杀官员案，且该官员并不直接负责该房屋的拆迁；而来自网络的施压，呼吁减刑的行为只会开启一个危险的先例。

His sentence might possibly have been commuted if he had turned himself in immediately after the murder, as he had meant to. But as he fled the scene in his car, he called Lanlan first to tell her what he had done. She was now married to another man and had a baby; but he still referred to her as his girlfriend, and had sent her 1,100 yuan in a red envelope for her wedding. While he talked to the woman who should have shared the house with him, he's friends violently bumped his car; and it was in their custody that the nurseryman of North Gaoying village arrived at the police station, and sealed his fate.

如果贾敬龙杀了人后立刻自首，那么法院很可能会减轻其罪，其实他原先也有此打算。可是，在他驾车逃离现场的时候，他先打电话给兰兰告诉她自己做的事。那时兰兰已另嫁他人，有了孩子；但他仍认定她为自己的女朋友，兰兰结婚时他还送去了1100元的红包。就在贾敬龙和这位本应住进自己婚房的女人通话时，何的朋友们猛地向他车撞去，将其逼停。这位北高营村“园丁”就这样在他们的押解下到达了警察局，自此结局已注定。