

05.13-The divorce whisperer

The **divorce whisperer**

Divorce is on the rise in China

And so are **imaginative** schemes to prevent it
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Vocab

1. **divorce** n. the legal ending of a marriage 离婚
e.g. The marriage **ended in divorce** in 1996. 这桩婚姻在 1996 年以离婚告终。
2. **whisperer** n. 窃窃私语的人；拨弄是非的人；告密者
3. **imaginative** adj. **having or showing new and exciting ideas** 富于想像力的；创新的
e.g. recipes that make **imaginative use** of seasonal vegetables 妙用时令蔬菜的菜谱

WITH his **slick navy** suit, silver watch and **non-stop** smoking, Yu Feng is an unlikely **ambassador** for Chinese family values. The office from which he operates, in Chongqing in western China, looks more like a sitting room, with grey sofas, **cream** curtains and large windows looking out on the city's **skyscrapers**. Women visit him here and **plead** for help. They want him to persuade their husbands to **dump** their **mistresses**.

Vocab

1. **slick** v. (of a surface) smooth, wet, and slippery • (表面) 光滑的, 滑溜的
e.g. she tumbled back against the slick, damp wall. 她跌跌撞撞退了回来靠在了光滑潮湿的墙上。
2. **navy** COLOUR 颜色词 海军蓝;深蓝色;藏青色 Something that is **navy** or **navy-blue** is very dark blue.
e.g. I mostly wore black or **navy** trousers. 我大部分时间穿黑色或深蓝色裤子。
3. **non-stop** adj. **without any pauses or stops** 不间断的；不停的
e.g. non-stop entertainment/ work 连续不断的娱乐/工作
4. **ambassador** n. a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity • 代表；使者
e.g. »he is a good ambassador for the industry. 他是这个行业的杰出代表。
5. **cream** a pale yellowish-white colour 奶油色；淡黄色；米色
6. **skyscraper** n. 摩天大楼;摩天大厦 A **skyscraper** is a very tall building in a city.
7. **plead** n. ~ (with sb) (for sth) to ask sb for sth in a very strong and serious way 乞求；恳求
e.g. I was forced to plead for my child's life. 我被迫苦苦哀求给我的孩子一条生路。
8. **dump** v. (informal) to end a romantic relationship with sb 与(某人)结束恋爱关系
e.g. Did you hear he's dumped his girlfriend? 他已把女朋友给甩了，你听说了吗？
9. **mistress** n. a man's (usually a married man's) **mistress** is a woman that he is having a regular sexual relationship with and who is not his wife 情妇

Mr Yu worked in family law and then marriage **counselling** before starting his

business in 2007. He charges scorned wives 100,000-500,000 yuan (\$15,000-75,000); cases usually take 7-8 months. He befriends both the **two-timing** husband and the mistress, encouraging them to find fault with each other, and gradually reveals that he has **messed up** his own life by being unfaithful. Most clients are in their 30s and early 40s. "This is the want, buy, get generation," he says; sex is a part of China's new **materialism**. But changing sexual mores and a rocketing divorce rate have prompted **soul-searching** about the decline of family ties. Mr Yu claims a 90% success rate.

Vocab

- counselling** n. professional advice about a problem 咨询；辅导
e.g. marriage guidance counselling 婚姻指导咨询
- two-time** v. to not be faithful to a person you have a relationship with, especially a sexual one, by having a secret relationship with sb else at the same time 对（情人或爱人）不忠
e.g. Are you sure he's not two-timing you? 你肯定他没有背着你另有所爱？
- mess up** PHRASAL VERB 短语动词 搞砸；弄糟 If you **mess** something **up** or if you **mess up**, you cause something to fail or be spoiled.
e.g. When politicians mess things up, it is the people who pay the price...政客们把事情搞砸的时候，埋单的是老百姓。
- materialism** n. (usually *disapproving*) the belief that money, possessions and physical comforts are more important than spiritual values 实利主义；物质主义
- soul-searching** n. the careful examination of your thoughts and feelings, for example in order to reach the correct decision or solution to sth 反省；内省

The *ernai*, literally meaning "second wife", is increasingly common. So many rich men **indulge** that Chinese media sometimes blame **extramarital** relationships for helping to **inflate** property prices: some city apartment complexes are **notorious** for housing **clusters** of mistresses, paid for by their lovers, who often provide a living **allowance** too.

Vocab

- indulge** v. ~ in sth | ~ yourself (with sth) to allow yourself to have or do sth that you like, especially sth that is considered bad for you 沉湎，沉迷，沉溺（于...）
e.g. They went into town to indulge in some serious shopping. 他们进城去大肆购物。
- extramarital** adj. happening outside marriage 婚外的
e.g. an extramarital affair 婚外恋
- inflate** v. to increase in price; to increase the price of sth（使）涨价
e.g. The principal effect of the demand for new houses was to inflate prices. 对新住宅需求的主要结果是促使价格上涨。
- notorious** adj. well known for being bad 声名狼藉的；臭名昭著的
e.g. The country is notorious for its appalling prison conditions. 这个国家因监狱状况恶劣而臭名远扬。
- cluster** n. a group of things of the same type that grow or appear close together（同类物丛生或聚集的）簇，团，束，串
e.g. a cluster of stars 星团
- allowance** n. an amount of money that is given to sb regularly or for a particular purpose 津贴；补贴；补助

e.g. a clothing/ living/ travel allowance 服装/生活/交通补贴

It is not just businessmen who keep mistresses: President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign has revealed that many government officials do too. According to news reports Zhou Yongkang, the most senior person toppled by the current anti-graft crusade, had multiple paramours; former railways minister Liu Zhijun is rumoured to have kept 18.

Vocab

1. **topple** v. 推翻; 颠覆 To **topple** a government or leader, especially one that is not elected by the people, means to cause them to lose power.

e.g. ...the revolution which toppled the regime. 推翻该政权的革命

2. **anti-graft** n. 反腐败

3. **crusade** n. (长期坚定不移的)斗争, 运动 A **crusade** is a long and determined attempt to achieve something for a cause that you feel strongly about.

e.g. Footballers launched an unprecedented crusade against racism on the terraces... 足球运动员们对阶梯看台上的种族歧视发起了一场空前的运动。

4. **paramour** n. 情人; 情妇; 情夫 Someone's **paramour** is their lover.

5. **rumoured** V-PASSIVE 被动动词 据传闻; 据说 If something **is rumoured to** be the case, people are suggesting that it is the case, but they do not know for certain.

e.g. Her parents are rumoured to be on the verge of splitting up... 据说她的父母快要离婚了。

Sentence

According to news reports Zhou Yongkang, the most senior person toppled by the current anti-graft crusade, had multiple paramours; former railways minister Liu Zhijun is rumoured to have kept 18.

主干: senior person toppled by the current anti-graft crusade

According to... 现在分词引导的短语,

had multiple paramours 这里省略了 who

China has a long history of **adultery**. In **imperial** times wealthy men kept multiple **concubines** as well as a wife; **prostitution** was mostly **tolerated**, both by the state and by wives (who had little choice). Married women, in contrast, were expected to be chaste. After 1950 concubines were **outlawed** and **infidelity** deemed a **bourgeois** vice. Even in the 1980s few people had sex with anyone other than their spouse or **spouse-to-be**.

Vocab

1. **adultery** n. sex between a married person and sb who is not their husband or wife 通奸
e.g. He was accused of **committing adultery**. 他被控通奸。

2. **imperial** connected with an empire 帝国的; 皇帝的

e.g. the imperial family/ palace/ army 皇室家族; 皇宫; 皇家陆军

3. **concubine** n. (旧时的) 姘妇, 情妇, 妾 In former times, a **concubine** was a woman who lived with and had a sexual relationship with a man of higher social rank without being married to him.

4. **prostitution** n. 卖淫 **Prostitution** means having sex with people in exchange for money.

e.g. She eventually drifts into prostitution. 她最终沦为妓女。

5. **tolerate** v. to allow sb to do sth that you do not agree with or like 容许, 允许 (不同意或不喜欢的事物)

e.g. Their relationship was tolerated but not encouraged. 他们的关系得到了允许, 但不宜鼓励。

6. **outlaw** v. to make sth illegal 宣布...不合法; 使...成为非法

e.g. plans to outlaw the carrying of knives 宣布携带刀具为非法的方案

7. **infidelity** n. (夫妇间的)不忠实, 不贞行为 **Infidelity** occurs when a person who is married or in a steady relationship has sex with another person.

e.g. I divorced him for **infidelity**. 我因他的不忠而与他离婚。

8. **bourgeois** adj. 马克思主义者所指的) 资本主义的, 资产阶级的 Marxists use **bourgeois** when referring to the capitalist system and to the social class that owns most of the wealth in that system.

e.g. His privileged **bourgeois** family insisted on a good education. 他那优越的资产阶级家庭坚持让他接受良好的教育。

9. **spouse-to-be** 准配偶

Sentence

Married women, in contrast, were expected to be chaste.

主干: women were expected to be chaste. 这里 in contrast 插入在中间

Over the past 30 years, however, sexual mores have **loosened** and more young Chinese are having sex with more partners and at a younger age. Some clearly continue to **wander** after marriage. Some 20% of married men and women are **unfaithful**, according to a survey of 80,000 people in 2015 by researchers at Peking University.

Vocab

1. **loosen** v. 放宽, 放松 (限制、法律等) If someone **loosens** restrictions or laws, for example, they make them less strict or severe.

e.g. Many business groups have been pressing the Federal Reserve to **loosen** interest rates... 不少企业集团一直在向联邦储备委员会施压, 要求其放松利率管制。

2. **wander** v. 走神; 开小差 If your mind **wanders** or your thoughts **wander**, you stop concentrating on something and start thinking about other things.

e.g. Jarvis found his attention **wandering**... 贾维斯发现自己走神了。

3. **unfaithful** adj. having sex with sb who is not your husband, wife or usual partner 不忠的; 通奸的

e.g. Have you ever been unfaithful to him? 你对他是否有过不忠行为?

In many respects growing **infidelity** is a predictable consequence of economic development. People are increasingly willing to put their own desires above **familial obligations** or reputation. Improved education and living standards mean they have more financial freedom to do so. Most Chinese couples previously had few chances to meet members of the opposite sex in social situations after marriage, but **migration** means that many couples live apart. Even if they live together, the pool of **temptation** has grown larger and easier to **dip into**, thanks partly to social media.

Vocab

1. **infidelity** n. (夫妇间的)不忠实, 不贞行为 **Infidelity** occurs when a person who is married or in a steady relationship has sex with another person.

- e.g. I divorced him for **infidelity**. 我因他的不忠而与他离婚。
2. **familial** adj. 家庭 (或家族) 的; 家庭(或家族)特有的 **Familial** means relating to families in general, or typical of a family.
e.g. Gerard also took on wider **familial** responsibilities. 杰勒德还承担了更多的家庭责任。
3. **obligation** n. the state of being forced to do sth because it is your duty, or because of a law, etc. 义务; 职责; 责任
e.g. You are **under no obligation** to buy anything. 你不必非买什么东西不可。
4. **migration** n. the movement of large numbers of people, birds or animals from one place to another 迁移; 移居; 迁徙
e.g. seasonal migration 季节性迁徙
5. **temptation** n. the desire to do or have sth that you know is bad or wrong 引诱; 诱惑
e.g. to **give way to/yield to temptation** 经不住诱惑
6. **dip into** n. 浸入, 浏览, 动用(款项等), 从...中取出

Businesses like Mr Yu's indicate that not all spouses see **affairs** as an **unpardonable** offence. But surveys also suggest that infidelity is the "number one marriage killer". Last year 3.8m couples split, more than double the number a decade earlier. China's annual divorce rate is 2.8 per 1,000 people (also double that a decade ago). That is not quite as high as America's 3.2, but higher than in most of Europe. That may be partly because Chinese people are more likely to **get hitched** in the first place: the law strongly discourages people from having children outside marriage. Even so, Chinese families are **fraying** fast.

Vocab

1. **affair** n. a sexual relationship between two people, usually when one or both of them is married to sb else (尤指已婚男女的) 私通, 风流韵事
e.g. She is **having an affair** with her boss. 她跟老板有暧昧关系。
2. **unpardonable** adj. that cannot be forgiven or excused 不可饶恕的; 不可原谅的
e.g. ...an **unpardonable** lack of discipline... 无组织无纪律, 简直不可容忍
3. **get hitch** **IDM** **get 'hitched** (*informal*) to get married 结婚
4. **fray** v. (使)烦躁;(使)恼火;(使)紧张 If your nerves or your temper **fray**, or if something **frays** them, you become nervous or easily annoyed because of mental strain and anxiety.
e.g. Tempers began to **fray** as the two teams failed to score... 随着两队都没能破门得分, 大家渐渐沉不住气了。

Sentence

That is not quite as high as America's 3.2, but higher than in most of Europe. That may be partly because Chinese people are more likely to get hitched in the first place...

这里有两句话。

第一句主干: that is not... 这里的 that 是指前句 2.8 per 1000 people 的 divorce rate

第二句主干: that may be partly... 这里 that 是指前句 not quite as high as america's 3.2, but higher than...

This article appeared in the China section of the print edition under the headline "The divorce whisperer"

The divorce whisperer

离婚语者

Divorce is on the rise in China. And so are imaginative schemes to prevent it
中国离婚率上升,新颖的阻止离婚服务也变热门。

WITH his slick navy suit, silver watch and non-stop smoking, Yu Feng is an unlikely ambassador for Chinese family values. The office from which he operates, in Chongqing in western China, looks more like a sitting room, with grey sofas, cream curtains and large windows looking out on the city's skyscrapers. Women visit him here and plead for help. They want him to persuade their husbands to dump their mistresses.

瑜峰一身笔挺的海军蓝西装,手带银表,不停地抽烟,一点都不像是中国家庭观的代言人。他的办公室在中国西部重庆,看起来更像是客厅:灰色沙发,乳白色窗帘,高大的窗户外是重庆的摩天大楼。女人到他这来寻求帮助,希望他能劝自己的丈夫甩掉情妇。

Mr Yu worked in family law and then marriage counselling before starting his business in 2007. He charges scorned wives 100,000-500,000 yuan (\$15,000-75,000); cases usually take 7-8 months. He befriends both the two-timing husband and the mistress, encouraging them to find fault with each other, and gradually reveals that he has messed up his own life by being unfaithful. Most clients are in their 30s and early 40s. "This is the want, buy, get generation," he says; sex is a part of China's new materialism. But changing sexual mores and a rocketing divorce rate have prompted soul-searching about the decline of family ties. Mr Yu claims a 90% success rate.

瑜峰之前从事家庭法方面的工作,之后是婚姻咨询,2007年开始创业。他向那些受到轻视的妻子收取10万到50万元不等(1.5-7.5万美元),案子一般持续7到8个月。他会和出轨的丈夫及其情妇成为朋友,让他们挑彼此身上的毛病,然后慢慢地让丈夫意识到,自己的不忠把生活弄的一团糟。大部分客户三十多岁和四十出头。“他们是想就能买,买就能得到的一代人,”他说;性成了中国新式享乐主义的一部分。但不断变化的性观念和急剧上升的离婚率引起人们对于家庭纽带松懈的深思。瑜峰称,他的案子成功率达到90%。

The ernai, literally meaning "second wife", is increasingly common. So many rich men indulge that Chinese media sometimes blame extramarital relationships for helping to inflate property prices: some city apartment complexes are notorious for housing clusters of mistresses, paid for by their lovers, who often provide a living allowance too.

二奶的字面含义为“第二个老婆”,该现象现在愈来愈普遍。太多有钱人纵情于石榴裙之下,以至于中国媒体有时将房价过高归咎于婚外情:一些城市住宅区因成为情妇聚集地而臭名昭著,她们的情人买下这些房子,还经常提供生活费。

It is not just businessmen who keep mistresses: President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign has revealed that many government officials do too. According to news reports Zhou Yongkang, the most senior person toppled by the current anti-graft crusade, had multiple paramours; former railways minister Liu Zhijun is rumoured to have kept 18.

不仅仅生意人包二奶:习近平主席的反腐运动揪出的很多政府官员也一样。据新闻报道,受近期反腐运动打击的周永康职位最高,他有数名情妇;据传前铁道部长刘志军包养了18名情妇。

China has a long history of adultery. In imperial times wealthy men kept multiple

concubines as well as a wife; prostitution was mostly tolerated, both by the state and by wives (who had little choice). Married women, in contrast, were expected to be chaste. After 1950 concubines were outlawed and infidelity deemed a bourgeois vice. Even in the 1980s few people had sex with anyone other than their spouse or spouse-to-be.

在中国，婚外情由来已久。封建时代，有钱人除有一个正妻之外还会养很多小妾。无论是国家还是妻子（几乎没有选择权）对于卖淫的态度一般都很宽容。相比之下，人们却希望已婚女性忠于配偶。从1950年开始，法律禁止纳妾，人们也视婚姻不忠为资产阶级的恶行。甚至到20世纪80年代也很少有人和配偶或准配偶以外的人发生性关系。

Over the past 30 years, however, sexual mores have loosened and more young Chinese are having sex with more partners and at a younger age. Some clearly continue to wander after marriage. Some 20% of married men and women are unfaithful, according to a survey of 80,000 people in 2015 by researchers at Peking University.

然而，在过去30年间，人们的性观念变得开放，更多中国年轻人和更多伴侣发生性关系，而且他们的年龄也越来越小。有些人明明结婚了，仍在朝三暮四。北京大学的研究员在2015年做过一份8万人参与的调查，结果表明约20%的已婚男女对另一半不忠。

In many respects growing infidelity is a predictable consequence of economic development. People are increasingly willing to put their own desires above familial obligations or reputation. Improved education and living standards mean they have more financial freedom to do so. Most Chinese couples previously had few chances to meet members of the opposite sex in social situations after marriage, but migration means that many couples live apart. Even if they live together, the pool of temptation has grown larger and easier to dip into, thanks partly to social media.

从很多方面看，可以料到越来越多的人出轨是经济发展的结果。人们日益将自己的欲望置于家庭责任和名声之上。教育程度加深，生活水平提高，为他们的行为提供了更多的经济自由。从前，大部分中国夫妻在婚后没什么机会在社交场合接触异性，但在地工作导致很多夫妻不能住在一起。不过即使他们住在一起，由于受到社交媒体的影响，人们也更容易身陷越来越大的诱惑之中。

Businesses like Mr Yu's indicate that not all spouses see affairs as an unpardonable offence. But surveys also suggest that infidelity is the "number one marriage killer". Last year 3.8m couples split, more than double the number a decade earlier. China's annual divorce rate is 2.8 per 1,000 people (also double that a decade ago). That is not quite as high as America's 3.2, but higher than in most of Europe. That may be partly because Chinese people are more likely to get hitched in the first place: the law strongly discourages people from having children outside marriage. Even so, Chinese families are fraying fast.

瑜峰所从事的工作说明并非所有人都认为婚外情不可原谅。但调查也表明，出轨是“第一大婚姻杀手”。去年，380万夫妻离婚，这个数字是十年前的两倍多。中国的年离婚率为2.8‰

（同样是十年前的两倍）。这虽然不及美国的3.2

‰，但仍比大部分欧洲国家高。部分原因也许是中国更容易结婚：法律强烈反对人们婚外生子。即使这样，中国家庭还是分离得很快。