



谁生活得更美好

Guide to reading:

This story was written by the highly regarded modern writer Zhang Jie (张洁). It takes place in Beijing around 1979 and reflects the lives and spiritual pursuits of common people. A young and pretty female conductor on the plate No. 1176 bus, is warm, polite, and serious in her job. Her beauty attracts a number of young men. Among them are two who treat her differently, one is called Shi Yanan (施亚男) and the other is Wu Huan (吴欢). They both have favourable living conditions and feel superior to others. They make a return trip by this bus every day. Shi and Wu are curious about the girl and her work. Wu sometimes helps her and sometimes offends her, but whatever he does, the girl is always polite and humble. Gradually Shi comes to respect her more and more, while Wu wants to demonstrate his superiority and thus hurts her. However, none of this influences the girl and her work. In time Shi finds that the girl is pure, honest, and noble, with a mind capable of writing beautiful poetry. In

contrast, both he and his friend seem small and mean. Finally, he realizes that the girl has a nobler mind than both of them, but Wu Huan still indulges in self admiration. The story reveals that happiness and dignity in life depends on one's spiritual nature, not on material possessions and superficiality.

故事正文:

lái jīng yǒu yī liàng gōng gòng qì chē zhè
北京有一辆公共汽车。这
liàng gōng gòng qì chē de chē pái hào shì yī yī qī liù
辆公共汽车的车牌号¹是1176。
yī yī qī liù hào gōng gòng qì chē de shòu piào yuán huàn
1176号公共汽车的售票员换
le huàn le yī gè nián qīng piào liang de nǚ shòu piào
了, 换了一个年轻漂亮的女售票
yuán
员。

zhè ge shòu piào yuán gū niang gè zǐ bù gāo hěn
这个售票员姑娘个子不高, 很
shòu hěn piào liang yǒu shí hou chē shàng de rén hěn
瘦, 很漂亮。有时候车上的人很
duō hěn jǐ tè bié shì shàng bān hé xià bān de
多, 很挤, 特别是上班和下班的
shí jiān shòu piào yuán yào zài rén men zhōng jiān jǐ lái
时间。售票员要在人们中间挤来
jǐ qù de mài piào xià chē shí yào shōu piào chá yuè
挤去地卖票, 下车时要收票, 查月
piào qì chē dào zhàn de shí hou yào hǎn chē zhàn
票², 汽车到站的时候, 要喊车站
de míng zì hái yào zhào gù lǎo rén xiǎo hái
的名字, 还要照顾老人、小孩儿
shàng chē hé xià chē shòu piào yuán de gōng zuò zhēn shì
上车和下车。售票员的工作真是
hěn máng hěn lèi
很忙, 很累。

1 车牌号: the plate number

2 月票: monthly tickets

