Lesson 1 – “Love: the fine print”
Text Translation (English)

A radio station wanted to pick out a married couple who are the most loving. After comparing, there were 3 couples who entered the finals.

The panel asked the first couple to tell them how they are loving. The wife said, years ago she was completely paralyzed, and the doctor said the possibility of her ever standing up again is slim. All the others thought that her husband would divorce her, and she also contemplated suicide. But her husband kept on encouraging her, looked for countless hospitals for her, and took care for her for years as if it were a day, and never complained. Under the care and effort of her husband, finally she stood up again. Her story were very moving, all the judges were deeply touched after hearing it.

Then enter the second couple, they said, in over ten years of married life, they have never gotten red-faced or fought over anything, always loving each other, respecting each other. After hearing it, the judges nodded quietly.

It's the third couple’s turn, but no one showed up for a long time. The judges

1 一对夫妻：对 = a pair; 夫 = 丈夫; 妻 = 妻子
2 入入围： “围” was formerly written as “闱”, lit. side door to a palace. 入围 lit. means entering a closed quarter. Nowadays it means entering the finals, or qualifying rounds of a competition.
3 评委: 就是 “评价委员会” (evaluating committee), 也可以是 “评价委员” (evaluating committee member).
4 全身: 全部身体。全身瘫痪: 全部, 整个身体都瘫痪了。
5 为她不知找了多少家医院: 不知多少 (one does not know how many) = countless
6 感人: 让人感动
8 轮到: 轮到你 = it’s your turn. 轮 = 轮子 = wheel. Imagine a roulette wheel, when it stops spinning, if it points at you, it’s your “turn”.
9 不见人: lit. [we] don’t see anyone
started to lose patience\textsuperscript{10}, so they walked out to see just what's going on\textsuperscript{11}. Look,\textsuperscript{12} the third couple is still sitting outside the door, the man’s head leaning on the woman’s shoulder, having fallen asleep. A judge wanted to go forward and shout at the guy awake, but the woman stretched out her finger and made a shushing gesture, then carefully took out a pen and paper from her purse, wrote a line of crooked text with her left hand, and handed to the judge. And her right shoulder allowed her husband’s head to lean on the whole time. The judges saw what’s written on the note\textsuperscript{13}: Don’t make a sound, he didn’t sleep well yesterday night. A judge lift the pen and wrote a sentence after her words\textsuperscript{14}: But ma’am, we have to hear your (lit. you couple) relating\textsuperscript{15} [your story]! The woman wrote again: We just won’t participate any more then.

Everyone was shocked, how could it be that\textsuperscript{16}, this woman would rather give up the opportunity so as not to disturb her husband’s sleep! But the panel still decided not to rush them for now, but rather wait a while longer.

After a while, the man woke up. The judges asked him why he was that tired. The man embarrassingly smiled and said: “My home is\textsuperscript{17} on the first floor, there are lots of mosquitos. Yesterday midnight, I was woken up by a mosquito bite\textsuperscript{18}, and I was afraid that my wife would be woken up again by the noise, so I spent the second half of the night repelling mosquitos for her.
The final result was, the radio station added two awards, awarding the first couple as “couple sharing trials”, the second couple as “respectful couple”, but the real “most loving couple” award was given to the third couple.

—Modified from Jinri Wenzhai¹⁹

¹⁹ 《今日文摘》，meaning “today’s digest”, can be read here: http://www.todayabc.com/