

Xie Mei Wen

JK: Jia Kim (Interviewer)

MX: Meiwen (Mindy) Xie (Interviewee)

MIDDLE OF TAPE, SIDE A

JK: Hi Mindy.

MX: Hi Jia.

JK: Nice to meet you.

MX: Uh. Nice to meet you, too.

JK: Where are you from?

MX: Um, from China.

JK: From China?

MX: Yeah.

JK: So. How long have you been here?

MX: Uh, six years.

JK: Six years? Wow.

MX: How about you?

JK: Uh. Two years.

MX: Two years?

JK: You know what, um, I have a class, um, I have an assignment to record another story, personal story and tape and transcribe. So is that OK for you?

MX: Yes, it is fine.

JK: OK. Thank you.

MX: You're welcome.

JK: Um, do you have any story to tell me, uh, when you were young, when you were child you heard from your parents or you read?

MX: Uh, yes, I have one they called “Open Sesame.”

JK: “Open Sesame?”

MX: “Open Sesame.” Have you heard about that before?

JK: No.

MX: No?

JK: But I think it is a very interesting story.

MX: This is the story that I heard like a lot of time, my grand-mom told me a lot of time. So I am going to, maybe, I will tell you this one.

JK: OK.

MX: OK? [pause] OK. I am going, I’m going to tell you this story, OK? This story called uh, “Open Sesame,”—

JK: Se, sesame?

MX: You know, sesame seed?

JK: Yes. Uh huh.

MX: OK. Once upon a time, oh yeah, by the way there is nothing to do with sesame, but--

JK: Oh.

MX: It’s just like, it’s like a secret password for the open the door. Something like--

JK: Oh, so what is that secret—

MX: The secret password.

JK: Oh, password? We have this story. Korean story--

MX: Yeah. You have this story? In Korea?

JK: It is Cham-gue, like sesame, like that.

MX: Yes, it is just like “Open Sesame,” like you say that, it’s about like thief—

JK: Open Sesame?

MX: Is that about thief? You got now?

JK: Oh, OK, OK.

MX: OK. Once upon a time, there is a little young boy named Wen. OK. He lives with his family in an old village. He has six brothers. He is the youngest son in the family. His parents are farmers. He and his brothers always, um, help their parents on house work and farming. Behind his village, there is a big hill with a lot of trees.

JK: Oh, like, like the same--

MX: Like the same? Wen loves to climb the trees and look for bird nest. One day he is climbing up the tree and try to look at the bird nest on the tree. While he is looking at the nest--

JK: Nest?

MX: Yes nest, like bird nest.

JK: Um huh.

MX: He hears some noise, he look around to see what it is. He finds a group of people who dressed in black, walking with uh, three donkeys.

JK: Donkey?

MX: Donkey, yeah.

JK: Oh, they’re, they’re—

MX: Right. The animal, donkey.

JK: OK, donkey. They are thief?

MX: The thief walking with the donkeys, OK? Because, you know, the thief, they put—

JK: I, I got it.

MX: Whatever they stolen, they don't want to carry it, so they use the donkey to carry it.

JK: Yeah.

MX: He doesn't know who they are because he had, he had been playing in this wood almost everyday and never seen these people before. So, as they walk closer toward the tree that he is on, he realizes that they are not the people from his village.

JK: Uh huh. That mean strangers.

MX: Yes strangers. Then, he wondered, he wondered why they are there. So he was up the tree and he was wondering, so no he never seen them before. So, as he wait to see what is going to happen, he heard, um, one of the man tell the others to look around and see if anyone is around.

JK: Oh, they want to do something.

MX: Yes, they are doing something. The boy realizes that somebody is going to, something is wrong, he is scared, he is afraid that they will find him. So he, you know, he keep quiet and doesn't move at all, he doesn't want them to find him since he is on top of the tree no one could see him.

JK: [laugh] Of course.

MX: After they had check around, after the thief had check around, one man report to another man that is riding on the donkey and said, "Boss is clear."

JK: That means nobody here.

MX: "Nobody here," the boss said, "OK, let's, um, put the gold into the cave." Now, now the boy realizes that these people are thieves.

JK: What's the boss?

MX: OK, you know, the boss say—

JK: The boss, uh huh.

MX: The boss say, yeah, and then let's put the gold into the cave.

JK: Gold?!

MX: Yeah, it's gold.

JK: OK.

MX: Jewelry, money, yeah. So, he gets even more scared. Because he knows that if he make a noise the thieves—

JK: They going to kill—

MX: Will find him and will kill him.

JK: Um huh [laugh]. So yeah.

MX: The boy waits quietly to see what the thieves are going to do. So, one of the thieves um, walk toward the cave and said, "Open sesame," the cave door opened. The boy is so surprised because he usually play around that cave but never be able to get inside the cave because there is no door. And he cannot find a way to get in, but now he finds out the password for it [laugh]. As the door opened, the boy see a lot of gold. And all the jewelry and stuff, yeah.

JK: Oh, he, the boy came, came inside.

MX: No, the boy's on top of the tree, \ he on top of the tree. \

JK: \ But he could see. \

MX: Yeah, he could see the gold. The thieves move the bags from the, the donkey and put it near the rest of the gold that's inside the cave already. The thieves open the bags and poured the gold out and all the stuff--

JK: Wow!

MX: The boy was so surprised because he had never see this much gold before or jewelry and stuff.

JK: Of course.

MX: After the thieves finished pouring the gold from the bag and they left the cave and then the door closed. So, after the thieves left the cave Wen, is the little boy, OK, Wen is the boy, he wait for a long time to make sure that the thieves had gone far away. He climbs down the tree and ran toward the cave. As he get there he said, "Open sesame," and the door open [laugh]. He couldn't believe what he is seeing inside the cave. There's a lot of gold, silver, diamonds in there. \ A lot of things. \

JK: \ A lot of things. \

MX: So as he walked into the cave the door close. He is so happy [laugh], he is so happy. He started like thinking what he is going to do with all these treasures that he had just found, but he knows that like he knows that, he have to move the treasure as fast as he can before the thieves return. He also know that he can't move all these by himself, because too much--

JK: Yeah. Too heavy.

MX: He's just a little boy. Too heavy. He was thinking and thinking. He was thinking to go back to the village and ask people to help him to move, to move the treasure, but he knows that if he tell the other people, then the other people come and help him then they will get a share of these treasures. He don't want to share it with them and he don't know what to do. So he start, somehow he start dreaming about like, what he can do with all these gold, and diamond, and silver, you know. He dreamed about having a big house, lot of good food to eat, and a lot of servants uh, that served him and--

JK: So mean, is he sleeping?

MX: \ No, he is imagines. \

JK: \ He imagine. \

MX: Lot of good food to eat, a lot of servants that served him and he don't have to work anymore [laugh], yeah. He don't have to harvest rice in the hot summer afternoon, because you know his parents are farmer. He don't have to like water the vegetables in the cold winter and like all that stuff. He keep dreaming and dreaming and he suddenly work up he took some diamonds and up it in his pocket, no, he realized that he had to go soon since he was dreaming he don't know how long he stayed there. So, so he took some diamonds and put it in his pocket and try to go home and tell his parents about it as he try to get out of the cave he forgot the password to open the door.

JK: Oh my God! That's very simple.

MX: Yes simple for you. Is it similar to yours?

JK: Yes, open, open sesame.

MX: And then he forgot the password for it because like, he was dreaming about what he can do with that money, you know, once he dreamed, he forgot it. He panic, he try to think and think, but he can't remember it, because of all the treasure make him forget the password. He try to find another way to get out. He look and look but there is no other door for him to get out. So he like, he sat there and cry but no one could hear him because in the cave. So, he wish he had like went back to the village and then tell the people and share the treasure with them, he wish he had done that. But it is too late, at the end, um, didn't find a way out so he died.

JK: He died? He died? So sad. You know what my country "Open sesame," the boy waited.

MX: He waited inside?

JK: Inside. Yes, until thief came and at first time he hide and then after he learned thief came and then he learned how to open from inside.

MX: That story what I remember, long time ago.

JK: You have really good memory. You know I read this book, we have a book.

MX: You have a book for it?

JK: I never heard from my grandmom, I read it.

MX: Yeah, before, like when I was little my grandmom usually tells me a lot of story. I heard a lot from the people. I lived in a village and the old people they know a lot of stories they tell us good story.

JK: Yes, interesting.

MX: I remember, I still remember this, it so interesting stuff, that's why I remember.

JK: \ But so sorry for him, he died. \

MX: \ Yeah because he couldn't find a way out. \ It is like a lesson. Not to be greedy, you know.

JK: Yeah, not to be greedy. OK, thank you for your story.

MX: You're welcome.

JK: And that's a good story. Thank you.

MX: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW

Approx. 13:30 minutes.