

E17 - A Jaunt Around Town

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN This story is a work of fiction. The names of all of the characters, organizations, and so on are imaginary. It also bears no connection to any specific real-life events.

[01:32] Jinshi

In that case,

[01:34] Jinshi

can you put makeup on me?

[01:37] Maomao

Huh?

[01:44] Maomao

He definitely doesn't need it.

[01:48] Maomao

There are many silly wars in history,

[01:52] Maomao

*but several of them were
caused by beautiful women.*

[01:57] Maomao

*If this man, in all his heavenly
beauty, were to put on makeup...*

[02:02] Maomao

Are you trying to topple a nation, or what?

[02:04] Jinshi

Where'd that come from?!

[02:05] Jinshi

Why does your imagination do that?

[02:09] Jinshi

How do you make your freckles?

[02:13] Maomao

Ah, he wants to be less beautiful, not more.

[02:17] Maomao

I make some powder out of dried clay,

[02:20] Maomao

then mix that into oil.

[02:23] Jinshi

Can you do that quickly?

[02:25] Maomao

Yes, preparing it takes just one night.

[02:28] Maomao

It's a bit too dark for you.

[02:31] Jinshi

If only there was a drug that can change faces.

[02:35] Maomao

Applying lacquer to your face would do it.

[02:38] Maomao

But that would be permanent.

[02:41] Jinshi

Sounds about right.

[02:42] Maomao

If you want to pretend to be a commoner,

[02:46] Maomao

that can be managed.

[02:48] Jinshi

Do that for me, then.

[02:50] Jinshi

I want to look like a completely
different person.

[02:56] Maomao

I wonder what he's up to.

[03:01] Maomao

That said...

[03:04] Maomao

If I'm doing it, I'm going all the way!

SIGN Episode 17: A Jaunt Around Town

[03:09] Maomao

Ugh, so cold.

[03:13] Maomao

Good morni—

[03:21] Jinshi

Why the bad mood
first thing in the morning?

[03:24] Maomao

Nothing. I'm sure you're
going to be beautiful all day.

[03:28] Jinshi

Is that a new form of sarcasm?

[03:30] Maomao

Master Jinshi, do you really want to
become a different person?

[03:35] Jinshi

That's what I said last night.

[03:38] Maomao

In that case, excuse me.

[03:47] Suiren

Oh dear!

[03:49] Jinshi

W-What are you doing, all of a sudden?

[03:51] Maomao

No commoner burns such expensive incense.

[03:55] Maomao

Your current outfit is, at best,
that of a lower-ranking official.

[04:00] Maomao

The most exquisite incense from overseas
should not be within your reach.

[04:05] Jinshi

How do you know this?

[04:07] Maomao

I've trained my sense of smell to separate
medicinal and poisonous herbs.

[04:12] Maomao

Do you know how a brothel
identifies good customers?

[04:14] Jinshi

No. Is it body build, clothing,
and things like that?

[04:17] Maomao

Those too, but one important thing is smell.

[04:21] Maomao

Those with multiple showy scents tend to
be rich but have venereal diseases.

[04:28] Maomao

Those who smell like livestock
don't bathe and are unclean.

[04:32] Maomao

Most new visitors to the Verdigris
House are shooed away.

[04:37] Jinshi

Ah.

[04:38] (Flashback) Lakan

You should direct that inquiry
to someone who knows that world.

[04:45] Maomao

Master Gaoshun, can you find
a new set of clothes?

[04:49] Maomao

If possible, some that haven't been
washed yet and still smell.

[04:53] Suiren

Oh dear.

[04:55] Gaoshun

Understood.

[04:56] Jinshi

Hey.

[04:57] Maomao

While he finds that...

[05:03] Suiren

What is that?

[05:04] Maomao

Oil and salt.

[05:06] Maomao

It dulls the sheen of his hair
and roughens the texture.

[05:12] Maomao

Excuse me.

[05:26] Maomao

That should do.

[05:29] Suiren

Goodness, must you use
a fabric scrap to tie it up?

[05:33] Maomao

Commoners use whatever is
available, as long as it works.

[05:37] Gaoshun

Are you sure this is acceptable?

[05:42] Maomao

Sniff. Sniff sniff sniff.

[05:44] Maomao

It could be smellier, but this will do.

[05:48] Maomao

Master Jinshi, please take your clothes off.

[05:51] Jinshi

S-Sure.

[05:56] Maomao

*Even though he's like a heavenly maiden,
he has a well-balanced, muscular physique.*

[06:04] Maomao

May I use those towels?

[06:06] Suiren

Of course, but for what?

[06:09] Maomao

I'm going to alter his build.

[06:12] Maomao

Would you both mind helping me a bit?

[06:17] Maomao

Master Gaoshun, over there, please.

[06:19] Gaoshun

Yes.

[06:20] Maomao

Lady Suiren, please take this side.

[06:22] Suiren

Understood.

[06:23] Maomao

Now, with clothes on top of that...

[06:27] Suiren

My goodness.

[06:28] Jinshi

Wow.

[06:30] Maomao

Having Master Jinshi's face on that awkward body is quite strange.

[06:36] Maomao

Next is the face.

[06:37] Jinshi

Huh?

[06:39] Maomao

I mixed several dark-colored shades.

[06:42] Maomao

I'll use them to make a suntanned complexion, like a commoner.

[06:47] Maomao

Close your eyes, please.

[06:48] Jinshi

Yeah.

[06:53] Maomao

So needlessly beautiful, even to the touch.

[06:56] Maomao

*Not a trace of facial hair,
nor any pores for that matter.*

[06:59] Maomao

*If I applied feminine makeup
on him, I wonder...*

[07:07] Maomao

Here it is, the one that Meimei forced on me.

[07:11] Jinshi

Hey, will this take much longer?

[07:13] Maomao

Please close your lips,
but don't purse too hard.

[07:16] Jinshi

Huh? Right...

[07:27] Jinshi

What's wrong?

[07:29] Maomao

I'm glad we were alone here.

[07:31] Maomao

*If anyone else were here,
it would have been a disaster.*

[07:35] Jinshi

Hey, is something the matter?

[07:38] Maomao

No, there's nothing.

[07:40] Jinshi

That hurt! What happened?

[07:42] Maomao

Nothing happened.

[07:43] Gaoshun

Nothing at all.

[07:44] Suiren

Right, nothing happened.

[07:47] Maomao

Back on track.

[07:49] Maomao

Use makeup to paint blotches on the face.

[07:52] Maomao

Add circles under the eyes with dark colors.

[07:55] Maomao

Add some moles, and draw over
the eyebrows to change their shape.

[08:02] Maomao

The remaining makeup can be applied to
other body parts to make the skin blotchy.

[08:07] Maomao

Push some under the fingernails
to make the hands look unclean.

[08:10] Maomao

Solid, manly hands.

[08:12] Maomao

I guess he can't have beautiful lady hands...

[08:15] Maomao

Hmm? He has calluses.

[08:18] Maomao

*What does he use other than
brushes and chopsticks?*

[08:21] Maomao

Does he train in sword or polearm fighting?

[08:25] Maomao

*Not something a eunuch
usually needs to do, but...*

[08:28] Maomao

*Well, there's no need to ask
such a silly question.*

[08:33] Jinshi

Wow, that looks dirty.

[08:36] Maomao

Please.

[08:38] Jinshi

A drink?

[08:43] Jinshi

Whoa! What is this?

[08:45] Maomao

Please drink it slowly, licking it
like you're wetting your lips.

[08:49] Maomao

It will make your lips and throat
swell, to change your voice.

[08:52] Suiren

What is it made of?

[08:53] Maomao

Several different irritants.

[08:56] Maomao

It's very spicy, but don't worry,
it's not poison.

[09:05] Maomao

Drink all of it.

[09:11] Maomao

The final touch.

[09:14] Maomao

Cotton.

[09:15] Maomao

Please fill your cheeks with it
to change your face shape.

[09:22] Maomao

It's finished.

[09:29] Suiren

Wow, young master, is that really you?

[09:31] Jinshi

Please don't call me that.

[09:35] Maomao

And yet he's still pretty handsome.

[09:38] Maomao

Must be hard to have such natural beauty.

[09:40] Maomao

Anyway, I did the best that I could.

[09:46] Maomao

Now, time to head home! It's been too long.

[09:50] Gaoshun

Xiaomao, you said you'll
be returning home today, yes?

[09:53] Maomao

Yes, I've been granted leave until tomorrow—

[09:57] Maomao

I haven't seen him make that face before.

[10:02] Gaoshun

In that case, Master Jinshi's
destination is on your way.

[10:07] Maomao

Yikes!

[10:08] Gaoshun

Even with his disguise, it would be
suspicious if he had his usual companions.

[10:14] Suiren

Oh, that's true.

[10:17] Gaoshun

Don't you agree, Master Jinshi?

[10:20] Jinshi

You're right.

[10:23] Jinshi

It would be great if you could come along.

[10:25] Maomao

No! Master Jinshi likes the idea, too!

[10:27] Maomao

Unfortunately, I don't think it would
improve matters much if I w-were there...

[10:33] Maomao

Perhaps having a bland attendant accompany
a bland master would look natural,

[10:38] Maomao

but I am also known to be
your personal servant...

[10:42] Gaoshun

I think it would be fine.

[10:44] Suiren

In that case, why don't you also
wear a disguise, Xiaomao?

[10:47] Maomao

Huh?

[10:48] Gaoshun

That's a fine idea!

[10:50] Suiren

I have all the tools for putting on makeup.

[10:55] Maomao

But...

[10:56] Suiren

You just have to look completely different from your usual appearance, right?

[11:00] Maomao

Ugh...

[11:00] Suiren

Right?

[11:02] Maomao

Y-Yes...

[11:05] Maomao

I have such a bad feeling about this...

[11:14] Maomao

Master Jinshi, your posture is too graceful.

[11:18] Jinshi

You stop addressing me so formally, too.

[11:20] Jinshi

Also, don't say my name.

That would ruin everything.

[11:23] Maomao

Then what should I call you?

[11:26] Jinshi

Let's see...

[11:28] Jinshi

You can call me Jinka, my lady.

[11:33] Maomao

Huh?

[11:35] Jinshi

I believe that would be appropriate, given our appearances.

[11:39] Maomao

True, this outfit belongs to Lady Suiren's daughter.

[11:44] Maomao

Both the fabric and design are nice. Doesn't look outdated or anything.

[11:47] Maomao

I suppose I could come off as a young lady from a good family.

[11:55] Maomao

Why is he enjoying this so much?

[12:01] Gaoshun

Here is the map. For Xiaomao...

[12:05] Jinshi

I will take care of the young lady.

[12:09] Gaoshun

Please.

[12:15] Maomao

Well, Master Jinka...

[12:18] Maomao

Hmm?

[12:21] Maomao

Jinka.

[12:23] Jinka

Yes, my lady!

[12:26] Maomao

Your posture is too straight.

[12:34] Maomao

"Jinka," huh? Not the strangest of pseudonyms.

[12:38] Maomao

*But to use the character "ka,"
for flower, in the name?*

[12:42] Maomao

*I guess "Jinshi" isn't a very manly
name to begin with, but still.*

[12:47] Maomao

*Maybe I should have made him
dress up as a woman, after all.*

[12:52] Maomao

*No, I can't do that, if I want to
maintain peace in our realm.*

[12:57] Maomao

Where are we headed?

[13:00] Jinshi

A restaurant just outside
the pleasure district.

[13:02] Jinshi

I'm meeting an acquaintance there.

[13:10] Basen

Why do I have to be the bodyguard?

[13:14] Basen

And while hidden? Why would—

[13:27] Maomao

*The attendant walking in front of
the mistress? He has a lot to learn.*

[13:31] Maomao

Jinka.

[13:33] Jinshi

Apologies, my lady.

[13:36] Maomao

Good.

[13:41] Maomao

*Not many leafy vegetables yet,
given the season.*

[13:44] Maomao

Hmm?

[13:47] Maomao

Now that I have my allowance,

[13:49] Maomao

perhaps I'll get a chicken too,
and boil them together.

[13:52] Jinshi

Grocery shopping?

[13:54] Jinshi

In that outfit?

[14:04] Maomao

I wanted to feed my dad.

[14:07] Maomao

*He is an impressive doctor
and apothecary, second to none.*

[14:14] Maomao

*But for some reason, he has absolutely
no sense of profit or loss.*

[14:18] Maomao

*That's why he lives in that miserable shack,
despite having what should be*

[14:22] Maomao

a lucrative profession.

[14:26] Maomao

If he were on the verge of starvation,

[14:28] Maomao

*the old lady would probably
force-feed him something, but...*

[14:42] Maomao

What is it?

[14:43] Jinshi

Why are you so silent?

[14:45] Maomao

Because there's nothing to discuss?

[14:51] Maomao

Was that the wrong answer?

[14:56] Maomao

Hmm? This smell!

[14:57] Maomao

Chicken skewers!

[14:59] Maomao

Wait here a moment!

[15:02] Maomao

Mister, two skewers please!

[15:04] Street Merchant

Gotcha!

[15:07] Maomao

Here. Eat it before it gets cold.

[15:14] Jinshi

Sure.

[15:20] Maomao

The savory skin, the tasty fat...

[15:23] Maomao

You can't get this in the palace.

[15:26] Maomao

Aren't you going to eat it?

[15:28] Maomao

As you can see, no poison.

[15:31] Jinshi

No, I...

[15:32] Maomao

Ah.

[15:34] Maomao

Here.

[15:45] Maomao

How is it?

[15:46] Jinshi

Yeah, it's better than I remember
at camp. The salt is good.

[15:51] Maomao

*Camp? I thought that type of thing
was for soldiers, not eunuchs.*

[15:58] Maomao

He really does seem to be enjoying it.

[16:04] Suiren

Oh, welcome back, Gaoshun.

[16:07] Suiren

Please don't touch the suitcase.

I just applied persimmon tannin to it.

[16:13] Suiren

The young master's toys are
full of memories, aren't they?

[16:17] Gaoshun

Yes.

[16:18] Suiren

So, how was he?

[16:21] Gaoshun

He was extremely pleased.

[16:25] Suiren

It was a surprisingly good suggestion, for you.

[16:30] Suiren

Once the young master found
a favorite toy, he would never let it go.

[16:37] Suiren

If I hid it, he would cry like

the world was ending.

[16:41] Suiren

You worked so hard to find him a new toy
to get him to settle down somehow.

[16:50] Gaoshun

Fixating on one thing...

[16:53] Gaoshun

That is not a luxury that Master
Jinshi is allowed to have.

[16:58] Jinshi

Do we have to rush so much?

[17:01] Maomao

I thought you're meeting someone.

[17:03] Maomao

Isn't it best to arrive early?

[17:07] Jinshi

You sound like you want to split
from me as soon as possible.

[17:11] Maomao

Do I?

[17:12] Maomao

*True, I do want to split from him and go
back to buy some radishes and chicken.*

[17:18] Jinshi

Is...

[17:21] Jinshi

Is life at the palace so bad?

[17:26] Jinshi

I'd think it's better than life
out in the pleasure district.

[17:30] Maomao

It's certainly not bad.

[17:34] Maomao

I left for work of my own free will,

[17:36] Maomao

and the room I've been given is quite pretty.

[17:39] Maomao

However, I worry about my adoptive
father, who I left all alone.

[17:46] Maomao

What's wrong?

[17:48] Jinshi

I just didn't expect you to care about
anything other than medicine or poison.

[17:54] Maomao

He's also my teacher in the art of medicine.

[17:56] Maomao

I need him to stay alive for much longer.

[17:59] Jinshi

He must be quite the skilled apothecary.

[18:03] Maomao

He knows not just Eastern medicine,
but has studied Western medicine, as well.

[18:07] Maomao

I heard he studied abroad,
in the west, when he was young.

[18:11] Jinshi

That must mean he was extremely talented.

[18:15] Jinshi

Only those chosen by the empire
are allowed to study abroad.

[18:19] Maomao

Yes, he's extremely talented.

[18:21] Maomao

They say heaven only grants
a person one talent,

[18:23] Maomao

but there are some who receive more than one.

[18:26] Jinshi

That's quite impressive.

[18:29] Jinshi

Why is someone so remarkable working
as a pleasure district's apothecary?

[18:33] Maomao

It must be because he's short
on luck, of all things.

[18:36] Maomao

He was given two talents, but lost his manhood.

[18:42] Jinshi

Are you saying your adoptive
father is a eunuch?

[18:46] Maomao

Yes.

[18:51] Maomao

I guess the brothel-style joke didn't land.

[18:55] Maomao

Apparently, because of his study abroad,

[18:58] Maomao

he was made a eunuch by the previous empress
dowager, the former emperor's mother.

[19:04] Jinshi

Eunuch, apothecary, doctor...

[19:08] Maomao

Did I fail to mention that?

[19:11] Maomao

Oh, is that it?

[19:13] Maomao

An inn upstairs from a restaurant.

[19:16] Middle-Aged Woman

Come, stop in!

[19:18] Middle-aged Man

Hey, hey, hey.

[19:20] Maomao

*I see. Now I get why he had to
disguise himself and everything.*

[19:26] Maomao

In that case, you could have just
come to the pleasure district.

[19:29] Jinshi

Huh? What do you mean?

[19:31] Maomao

Nothing.

[19:34] Jinshi

Apothecary, do you know the regulars
at the Verdigris House?

[19:39] Maomao

Well, the customers that stand out, yes.

[19:43] Jinshi

Who are they?

[19:44] Maomao

I can't say. I have a duty of confidentiality.

[19:49] Jinshi

Then...

[19:52] Jinshi

How does one decrease
the value of a courtesan?

[19:57] Maomao

That's an unpleasant question.

[20:04] Maomao

There are many different ways,
especially with high-class courtesans.

[20:09] Maomao

At the Verdigris House,

[20:10] Maomao

girls take most of the important
lessons while working as servants.

[20:13] Maomao

At that time,

[20:14] Maomao

they are separated into those with
beautiful appearances and those without.

[20:18] Maomao

The latter, after debuting, immediately take on customers to sell their bodies.

[20:23] Maomao

Those with talent, however,

[20:24] Maomao

are taught tea ceremony and given a higher education with which to entertain patrons.

[20:29] Maomao

Their prices go up and up.

[20:31] Maomao

Once high enough, they start to appear only very rarely.

[20:33] Maomao

At that point, you get a top-ranking courtesan,

[20:36] Maomao

who costs a year's salary just to have tea with.

[20:39] Maomao

Some retain their chastity until the day they're bought out.

[20:44] Maomao

Their value comes from their purity.

[20:47] Maomao

Losing that purity would easily halve their value.

[20:51] Maomao

In addition...

[20:54] Maomao

A pregnancy would reduce it to nearly nothing.

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narrator

Next time: "Lakan."

SIGN Episode 18: Lakan

Revision #1

Created 2024-04-08 16:57:51 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-04-08 17:00:19 UTC by whimsee