Dancing is for old women, a Chinese short story for HSK 1

Every evening Sūn Lán dances in the park, and her husband stays home with the TV. Then, one evening, the TV breaks.

你会跳舞吗？我有一个跳舞的故事！
Nǐ huì tiàowǔ ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge tiàowǔ de gùshi!
Can you dance? I have a dancing story!

每天晚上，我和朋友们在公园跳舞。我们有二十个人，都很高兴。
Měi tiān wǎnshang, wǒ hé péngyoumen zài gōngyuán tiàowǔ. Wǒmen yǒu èrshí ge rén, dōu hěn gāoxìng.
Every evening I dance in the park with my friends. There are twenty of us, and we're all very happy.

我爱人不跳舞。每天晚上，他在家看电视。
Wǒ àiren bú tiàowǔ. Měi tiān wǎnshang, tā zài jiā kàn diànshì.
My husband doesn't dance. Every evening he sits at home and watches TV.

我说：“你也来跳吧！”他说：“不去。跳舞是老太太的事。”
Wǒ shuō: “Nǐ yě lái tiào ba!” Tā shuō: “Bú qù. Tiàowǔ shì lǎotàitai de shì.”
I say: “Come and dance too!” He says: “No. Dancing is for old women.”

一天晚上，我们家的电视坏了。他在家没事做。你猜，他做了什么？
Yì tiān wǎnshang, wǒmen jiā de diànshì huài le. Tā zài jiā méi shì zuò. Nǐ cāi, tā zuòle shénme?
One evening our TV broke. He had nothing to do at home. Guess what he did?

他来公园了。他说：“我不跳舞。我就看看。”
Tā lái gōngyuán le. Tā shuō: “Wǒ bú tiàowǔ. Wǒ jiù kànkan.”
He came to the park. He said: “I'm not dancing. I'm only looking.”

他坐下，看了我们一个小时。
Tā zuò xià, kànle wǒmen yí ge xiǎoshí.
He sat down and watched us for an hour.

第二天，电视好了。可是晚上他又来了：“我就看看。”
Dì èr tiān, diànshì hǎo le. Kěshì wǎnshang tā yòu lái le: “Wǒ jiù kànkan.”
The next day the TV worked again. But in the evening he came again: “Only looking.”

第三天，我看了看他的脚。他的脚在跳舞！
Dì sān tiān, wǒ kànle kàn tā de jiǎo. Tā de jiǎo zài tiàowǔ!
On day three I looked at his feet. His feet were dancing!

我问：“你在跳舞吗？”他说：“没有。我脚冷。”
Wǒ wèn: “Nǐ zài tiàowǔ ma?” Tā shuō: “Méiyǒu. Wǒ jiǎo lěng.”
I asked: “Are you dancing?” He said: “No. My feet are cold.”

第四天，他没坐下。他站在我们后面，二十个人的后面。
Dì sì tiān, tā méi zuò xià. Tā zhàn zài wǒmen hòumiàn, èrshí ge rén de hòumiàn.
On day four he didn't sit down. He stood behind us, behind all twenty of us.

他的手在跳，他的脚也在跳。我问：“现在呢？”你猜，他说什么？
Tā de shǒu zài tiào, tā de jiǎo yě zài tiào. Wǒ wèn: “Xiànzài ne?” Nǐ cāi, tā shuō shénme?
His hands were dancing, and his feet too. I asked: “And now?” Guess what he said?

他说：“我这不是跳舞，是运动。”
Tā shuō: “Wǒ zhè bú shì tiàowǔ, shì yùndòng.”
He said: “This isn't dancing. This is exercise.”

现在，他每天晚上都来“运动”。
Xiànzài, tā měi tiān wǎnshang dōu lái “yùndòng”.
Now he comes for his “exercise” every evening.

上个星期，我朋友说：“孙兰，你爱人跳得真好，比你好。”
Shàng ge xīngqī, wǒ péngyou shuō: “Sūn Lán, nǐ àiren tiào de zhēn hǎo, bǐ nǐ hǎo.”
Last week my friend said: “Sūn Lán, your husband dances really well. Better than you.”

我不太高兴。
Wǒ bú tài gāoxìng.
I wasn't too happy about that.

昨天晚上，我还在吃饭。他说：“快点儿！要晚了！”他先去公园了。
Zuótiān wǎnshang, wǒ hái zài chī fàn. Tā shuō: “Kuài diǎnr! Yào wǎn le!” Tā xiān qù gōngyuán le.
Yesterday evening I was still eating. He said: “Hurry! We'll be late!” He went to the park first.

十分钟以后，我到了公园。我看了看后面，他不在。你猜，他在哪儿?
Shí fēnzhōng yǐhòu, wǒ dàole gōngyuán. Wǒ kànle kàn hòumiàn, tā bú zài. Nǐ cāi, tā zài nǎr?
Ten minutes later I got to the park. I looked at the back. He wasn't there. Guess where he was?

他在最前面！大家都看着他，跟着他跳。
Tā zài zuì qiánmiàn! Dàjiā dōu kànzhe tā, gēnzhe tā tiào.
He was at the very front! Everyone was watching him and dancing like him.

他看见了我，说：“你来晚了。去后面吧。”
Tā kànjiànle wǒ, shuō: “Nǐ lái wǎn le. Qù hòumiàn ba.”
He saw me and said: “You're late. Go to the back.”

Words in the story

跳舞
tiàowǔ
to dance

公园
gōngyuán
park

爱人
àiren
husband or wife (an older people's word)

老太太
lǎotàitai
old woman

坏了
huài le
broken

没事做
méi shì zuò
to have nothing to do

我就看看
wǒ jiù kànkan
I'm only looking

又
yòu
again

脚
jiǎo
foot, feet

冷
lěng
cold

站
zhàn
to stand

后面
hòumiàn
behind, at the back

手
shǒu
hand

运动
yùndòng
exercise, sport

比你好
bǐ nǐ hǎo
better than you

快点儿
kuài diǎnr
hurry up

晚
wǎn
late

最前面
zuì qiánmiàn
at the very front

跟着他跳
gēnzhe tā tiào
to dance after him, following him

你猜
nǐ cāi
guess!

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/dancing-is-for-old-women