Follow that car, a Chinese short story for HSK 3

A stranger jumps into the taxi Wáng Lěi has just taken and shouts “Follow that car!” Who is in the white car, and why the hurry?

你喜欢看电影吗？我有一个出租车的故事，跟电影一样！
Nǐ xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge chūzūchē de gùshi, gēn diànyǐng yíyàng!
Do you like movies? I have a taxi story, just like a movie!

在北京，我常常坐出租车。每次都一样：上车，说去哪儿，看手机。
Zài Běijīng, wǒ chángcháng zuò chūzūchē. Měi cì dōu yíyàng: shàng chē, shuō qù nǎr, kàn shǒujī.
In Běijīng I often take a taxi. It's the same every time: get in, say where you're going, look at your phone.

有一天早上，我刚上了一辆出租车，还没说去哪儿。一个男人跑过来，也跳上了车，关上了门。
Yǒu yì tiān zǎoshang, wǒ gāng shàngle yí liàng chūzūchē, hái méi shuō qù nǎr. Yí ge nánrén pǎo guòlai, yě tiàoshàngle chē, guānshàngle mén.
One morning I had just got into a taxi and had not yet said where to. A man ran up, jumped in too and shut the door.

他指着前面一辆白色的车，大声说：“跟上那辆车！快！”
Tā zhǐzhe qiánmiàn yí liàng báisè de chē, dàshēng shuō: “Gēnshàng nà liàng chē! Kuài!”
He pointed at a white car in front of us and shouted: “Follow that car! Fast!”

司机笑了：“我等这句话等了二十年了！”你猜，白车里是什么人？
Sījī xiào le: “Wǒ děng zhè jù huà děngle èrshí nián le!” Nǐ cāi, bái chē li shì shénme rén?
The driver smiled: “I have waited twenty years for someone to say that!” Guess: who was in the white car?

他当然开得很快，跟电影里一样。
Tā dāngrán kāi de hěn kuài, gēn diànyǐng li yíyàng.
He drove fast, of course. Just like in a movie.

白车往左拐，我们也往左拐。白车往右拐，我们也往右拐。
Bái chē wǎng zuǒ guǎi, wǒmen yě wǎng zuǒ guǎi. Bái chē wǎng yòu guǎi, wǒmen yě wǎng yòu guǎi.
The white car turned left, and we turned left. The white car turned right, and we turned right.

我问那个男人：“那辆车里是什么人？坏人吗？”他说：“我太太。”
Wǒ wèn nà ge nánrén: “Nà liàng chē li shì shénme rén? Huàirén ma?” Tā shuō: “Wǒ tàitai.”
I asked the man: “Who is in that car? A bad man?” He said: “My wife.”

我想：哦，原来是这种电影。我就不问了。
Wǒ xiǎng: ò, yuánlái shì zhè zhǒng diànyǐng. Wǒ jiù bú wèn le.
I thought: oh. It's that kind of movie. I stopped asking questions.

他手里拿着一个小袋子，拿得很小心。他看看袋子，看看白车，又看看袋子。
Tā shǒu li názhe yí ge xiǎo dàizi, ná de hěn xiǎoxīn. Tā kànkan dàizi, kànkan bái chē, yòu kànkan dàizi.
The man held a small bag in his hands, very carefully. He looked at the bag, then at the white car, then at the bag.

我对司机说：“再快一点儿！”我很想知道袋子里是什么。你觉得是什么？
Wǒ duì sījī shuō: “Zài kuài yìdiǎnr!” Wǒ hěn xiǎng zhīdào dàizi li shì shénme. Nǐ juéde shì shénme?
I told the driver: “Faster!” I really wanted to know what was in that bag. What do you think it was?

一个小时以后，白车停了，停在一个小学门口。
Yí ge xiǎoshí yǐhòu, bái chē tíng le, tíng zài yí ge xiǎoxué ménkǒu.
An hour later the white car stopped, in front of a primary school.

那个男人拿着袋子跳下车，跑到白车那儿。
Nà ge nánrén názhe dàizi tiàoxià chē, pǎodào bái chē nàr.
The man jumped out with the bag and ran to the white car.

他太太下了车。一个小女孩也下了车，背着一个大书包。
Tā tàitai xiàle chē. Yí ge xiǎo nǚhái yě xiàle chē, bēizhe yí ge dà shūbāo.
His wife got out. A little girl got out too, with a big school bag.

男人把小袋子给了小女孩。她打开一看，笑了。
Nánrén bǎ xiǎo dàizi gěile xiǎo nǚhái. Tā dǎkāi yí kàn, xiào le.
The man gave the small bag to the little girl. She opened it and smiled.

是她的饭盒。她把饭盒忘在家里了。
Shì tā de fànhé. Tā bǎ fànhé wàng zài jiā li le.
It was her lunch box. She had left it at home.

那个男人回到车上，很高兴。我看了看计价器：一百八十块。
Nà ge nánrén huídào chē shang, hěn gāoxìng. Wǒ kànle kàn jìjiàqì: yìbǎi bāshí kuài.
The man got back in the taxi, very happy. I looked at the meter: one hundred and eighty kuài.

他付了钱，说：“谢谢！她饿了就学不好。”
Tā fùle qián, shuō: “Xièxie! Tā è le jiù xué bu hǎo.”
He paid and said: “Thank you! She can't study when she is hungry.”

我问：“饭盒里是什么？”他说：“蛋炒饭。我自己做的。”
Wǒ wèn: “Fànhé li shì shénme?” Tā shuō: “Dànchǎofàn. Wǒ zìjǐ zuò de.”
I asked: “What is in the lunch box?” He said: “Egg fried rice. I made it myself.”

一百八十块。北京最贵的蛋炒饭。
Yìbǎi bāshí kuài. Běijīng zuì guì de dànchǎofàn.
One hundred and eighty kuài. The most expensive egg fried rice in Běijīng.

Words in the story

出租车
chūzūchē
a taxi

司机
sījī
the driver

跟上
gēnshàng
to follow, to keep up with

辆
liàng
measure word for cars

往左拐
wǎng zuǒ guǎi
to turn left

往右拐
wǎng yòu guǎi
to turn right

坏人
huàirén
a bad man, a bad guy

原来
yuánlái
so that's it, it turns out

袋子
dàizi
a bag

小心
xiǎoxīn
careful, carefully

小学
xiǎoxué
a primary school

书包
shūbāo
a school bag

饭盒
fànhé
a lunch box

忘
wàng
to forget, to leave behind

计价器
jìjiàqì
the taxi meter

蛋炒饭
dànchǎofàn
egg fried rice

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/follow-that-car