The three o'clock walk, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

The doctor tells Sūn Lán's husband: no more sweets, and a walk every day. He comes home from every walk far too happy. Where does he go?

你有秘密吗？我老伴儿有一个！
Nǐ yǒu mìmì ma? Wǒ lǎobànr yǒu yí ge!
Do you have a secret? My husband has one!

去年，医生对我老伴儿说：“不能再吃甜的了。每天要去散步。”
Qùnián, yīshēng duì wǒ lǎobànr shuō: “Bù néng zài chī tián de le. Měi tiān yào qù sànbù.”
Last year the doctor said to my husband: “No more sweet things. And go for a walk every day.”

我老伴儿最爱吃甜的，他很难过。可是他说：“好，我每天三点去散步。”
Wǒ lǎobànr zuì ài chī tián de, tā hěn nánguò. Kěshì tā shuō: “Hǎo, wǒ měi tiān sān diǎn qù sànbù.”
My husband loves sweet things more than anything, so he was sad. But he said: “OK. I'll go for a walk every day at three.”

每天三点，他出门；四点回家，特别特别高兴。
Měi tiān sān diǎn, tā chūmén; sì diǎn huí jiā, tèbié tèbié gāoxìng.
Every day at three he went out. At four he came home, very, very happy.

我想：散步能让人这么高兴吗？他到底去哪儿了？你说呢？
Wǒ xiǎng: sànbù néng ràng rén zhème gāoxìng ma? Tā dàodǐ qù nǎr le? Nǐ shuō ne?
I thought: can a walk make anyone that happy? Where does he really go? What do you think?

我问他：“你在哪儿散步？”他说：“公园。”我问：“一个人吗？”他说：“一个人。”
Wǒ wèn tā: “Nǐ zài nǎr sànbù?” Tā shuō: “Gōngyuán.” Wǒ wèn: “Yí ge rén ma?” Tā shuō: “Yí ge rén.”
I asked him: “Where do you walk?” He said: “In the park.” I asked: “Alone?” He said: “Alone.”

可是有一天，他衣服上有一点儿白的东西。我问：“这是什么？”他说：“鸟。”
Kěshì yǒu yì tiān, tā yīfu shang yǒu yìdiǎnr bái de dōngxi. Wǒ wèn: “Zhè shì shénme?” Tā shuō: “Niǎo.”
But one day there was something white on his clothes. I asked: “What's this?” He said: “A bird.”

所以第二天三点，我偷偷跟着他。
Suǒyǐ dì èr tiān sān diǎn, wǒ tōutōu gēnzhe tā.
So the next day at three, I secretly followed him.

他没去公园。他去了学校后面的一条小街，走得很快。
Tā méi qù gōngyuán. Tā qùle xuéxiào hòumiàn de yì tiáo xiǎo jiē, zǒu de hěn kuài.
He didn't go to the park. He went to a little street behind the school, walking fast.

我从来没见过我老伴儿走得这么快。
Wǒ cónglái méi jiànguo wǒ lǎobànr zǒu de zhème kuài.
I have never seen my husband walk so fast.

然后，他进了一个小商店。我从窗户往里看。你猜，那是什么商店？
Ránhòu, tā jìnle yí ge xiǎo shāngdiàn. Wǒ cóng chuānghu wǎng lǐ kàn. Nǐ cāi, nà shì shénme shāngdiàn?
Then he went into a little shop. I looked in through the window. Guess what shop it was?

冰淇淋店！我老伴儿坐在那儿，吃着一个很大的冰淇淋。
Bīngqílín diàn! Wǒ lǎobànr zuò zài nàr, chīzhe yí ge hěn dà de bīngqílín.
An ice cream shop! My husband was sitting there, eating a very big ice cream.

他不是一个人。还有三个老头儿跟他坐在一起，每个人都有一个冰淇淋。
Tā bú shì yí ge rén. Hái yǒu sān ge lǎotóur gēn tā zuò zài yìqǐ, měi ge rén dōu yǒu yí ge bīngqílín.
And he wasn't alone. Three other old men were sitting with him, and each one had an ice cream.

这三个人我都认识：老李、老张、老刘。他们的老伴儿跟我在公园跳舞。
Zhè sān ge rén wǒ dōu rènshi: Lǎo Lǐ, Lǎo Zhāng, Lǎo Liú. Tāmen de lǎobànr gēn wǒ zài gōngyuán tiàowǔ.
I know all three: Old Lǐ, Old Zhāng and Old Liú. Their wives dance with me in the park.

她们都跟我说过：“我老伴儿不能吃甜的，所以他每天三点去散步。”
Tāmen dōu gēn wǒ shuōguo: “Wǒ lǎobànr bù néng chī tián de, suǒyǐ tā měi tiān sān diǎn qù sànbù.”
And they have all told me: “My husband can't eat sweet things, so he goes for a walk every day at three.”

我开门走了进去。四个老头儿看着我，一下子都不动了。
Wǒ kāi mén zǒule jìnqu. Sì ge lǎotóur kànzhe wǒ, yíxiàzi dōu bú dòng le.
I opened the door and went in. The four old men looked at me, and nobody moved.

我老伴儿说：“我……我是散步来的。”
Wǒ lǎobànr shuō: “Wǒ…… wǒ shì sànbù lái de.”
My husband said: “I… I walked here.”

老李小声说：“孙兰，别告诉我老伴儿。”你猜，我做了什么？
Lǎo Lǐ xiǎoshēng shuō: “Sūn Lán, bié gàosu wǒ lǎobànr.” Nǐ cāi, wǒ zuòle shénme?
Old Lǐ said very quietly: “Sūn Lán, please don't tell my wife.” Guess what I did?

我坐下来，说：“我也要一个冰淇淋，要大的。他们四个请客。”
Wǒ zuò xiàlai, shuō: “Wǒ yě yào yí ge bīngqílín, yào dà de. Tāmen sì ge qǐngkè.”
I sat down and said: “One ice cream for me too. A big one. These four are paying.”

现在，我每天三点也去散步。
Xiànzài, wǒ měi tiān sān diǎn yě qù sànbù.
Now I go for a walk every day at three too.

Words in the story

秘密 mìmì *a secret*	老伴儿 lǎobànr *husband or wife (how older people say it)*	医生 yīshēng *doctor*
甜的 tián de *sweet things*	散步 sànbù *to go for a walk*	难过 nánguò *sad*
出门 chūmén *to go out*	到底 dàodǐ *really, after all (in a question)*	白的东西 bái de dōngxi *something white*
鸟 niǎo *bird*	偷偷 tōutōu *secretly*	跟着 gēnzhe *to follow*
窗户 chuānghu *window*	冰淇淋 bīngqílín *ice cream*	老头儿 lǎotóur *old man (friendly)*
跳舞 tiàowǔ *to dance*	请客 qǐngkè *to pay for everyone, to treat*	

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/the-three-oclock-walk