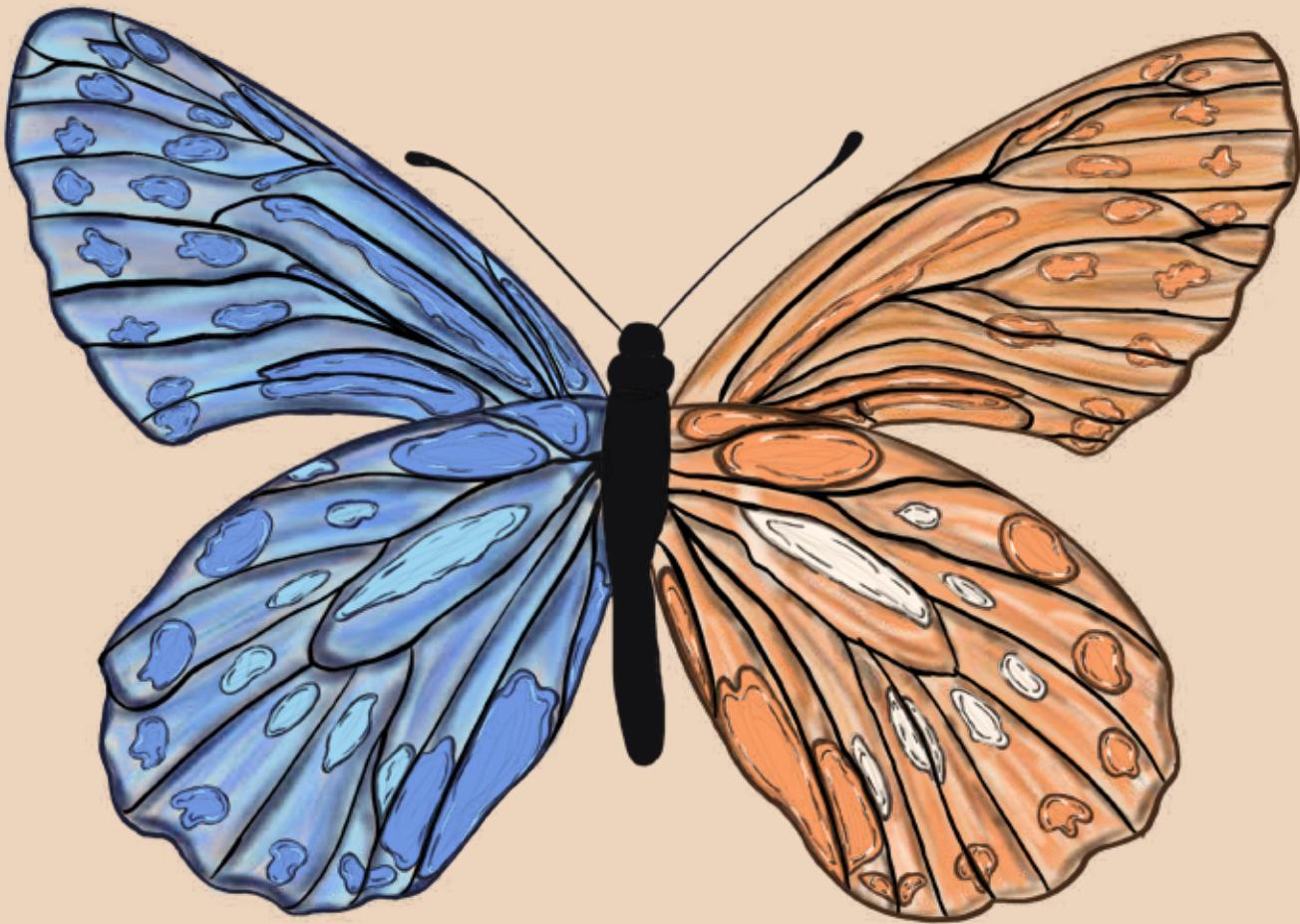


# *The Butterfly Lovers*



*Eastern Jin Dynasty*

# *The Butterfly Lovers*

In Shangyu (now Shaoxing), Zhu Yingtai, a woman who loved poetry, disguised herself as a man to study in Yuezhou, as women were not allowed to do so. She traveled with her maid, Yinxin, and met Liang Shanbo, a scholar from Yin County (now Ningbo). They became close friends over three years, but Zhu secretly fell in love with Liang, who didn't realize she was a woman.

One day, Zhu confessed her feelings to Liang, but a bystander named Ma Wencai informed Zhu's family, who called her home. Before leaving, Zhu wrote to Liang, asking him to propose in ten days. Liang misunderstood and arrived a month later, only to find Ma had already proposed to Zhu. Heartbroken, Liang fell ill and wrote to Zhu, hoping for her visit. Zhu replied, saying their love had no future but that they should be buried together after death.

After Liang's death, Zhu reluctantly agreed to marry Ma but insisted that the wedding procession pass by Liang's grave. When she visited the grave, a storm cracked it open, and Zhu jumped in. Moments later, a pair of butterflies flew out, symbolizing their eternal love.

# *Niulang & Zhinu*



*Western Zhou Dynasty*

# *Niulang & Zhinu*

Niulang was a lazy cowherd who refused to help his family with chores. He loved day-dreaming and spent most of his time with his old ox. One night, he dreamed of visiting the fairyland in the sky, and with the help of the ox, he ascended to heaven. There, the Weaving Maiden, a celestial being, longed to experience life on earth. The Queen Mother, feeling sorry for her loneliness, sent magpies to bring the Weaving Maiden to meet Niulang. They fell in love and enjoyed their time together in the sky.

However, the Weaving Maiden had to return to her duties weaving clouds and brocade in heaven, which left Niulang feeling bored. He decided to return to earth and was eager to take her with him to enjoy the warmth of the world. But the Queen Mother, angered by this, created the Milky Way to separate them. She allowed them to meet only once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month, when magpies form a bridge across the river of stars.

Niulang returned to earth, where he reunited with his family. He no longer wasted time on fantasies but worked hard and appreciated the beauty of life. Though he regretted that the Weaving Maiden could not join him on earth, their annual meeting was enough to make him feel content.

# *Legend of the White Snake*



*Tang Dynasty*

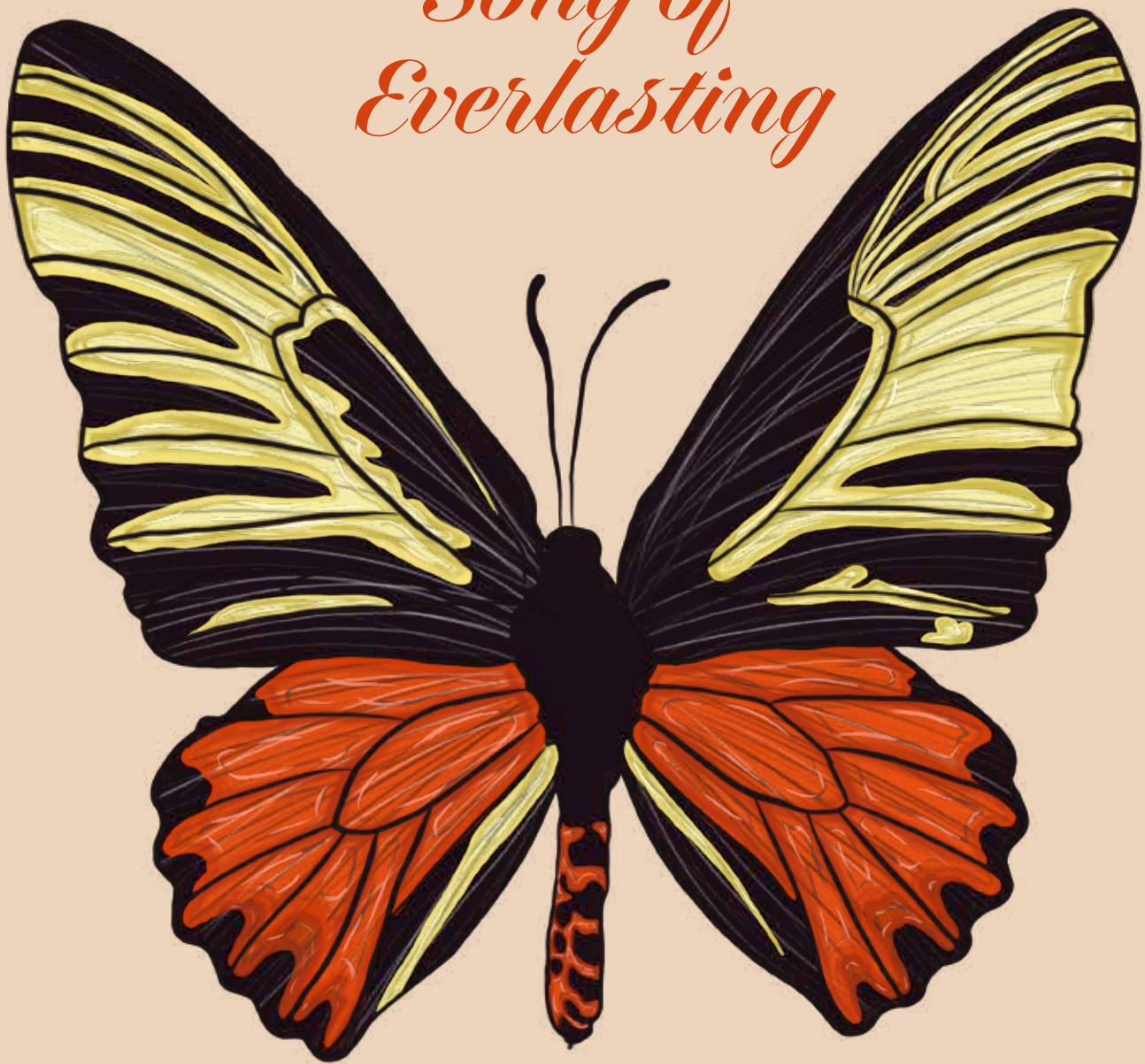
# *Legend of the White Snake*

Bai Suzhen, a snake demon with a thousand years of training, took human form in order to repay Xu Xian, a scholar, for saving her life in his previous life, but she met Xiaoqing, a green snake spirit, and the two of them became companions. Bai Suzhen used her magical powers to get acquainted with Xu Xian and married him.

After their marriage, Fa Hai, a monk from Jinshan Temple, told Xu Xian that Bai Suzhen was a snake demon, and Xu Xian was skeptical. Later, Xu Xian followed Fa Hai's advice and made Bai Suzhen drink wine with Xionghuang during the Dragon Boat Festival, which forced Bai Suzhen to reveal her original form, but scared Xu Xian to death. Bai Suzhen went to heaven and stole the herb Ganoderma lucidum to bring Xu Xian back to life.

Fahai lured Xu Xian to the Jinshan Temple and put him under house arrest. Together with Xiaoqing, Bai Suzhen and Fahai fought with Fahai and flooded the temple with water, but hurt other living beings as a result. After giving birth to her child, she was taken into Fahai's bowl and suppressed under the Leifeng Pagoda for violating the laws of heaven. Later, Bai Suzhen's son grew up and won the Scholarship. He went to the pagoda to sacrifice his mother and rescued her from the pagoda, and the whole family was reunited.

# *Song of Everlasting*



*Tang Dynasty*

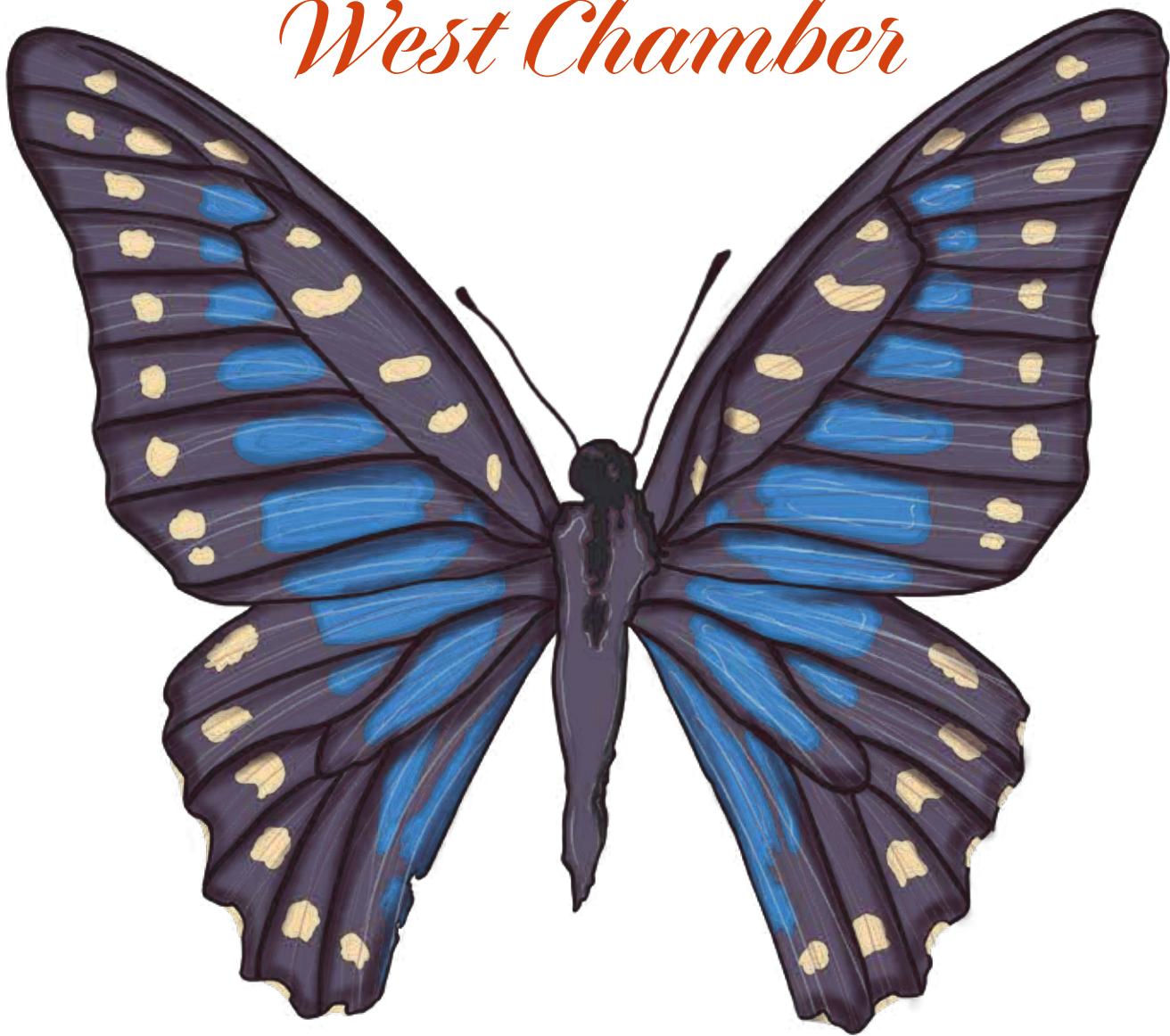
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# *Romance of the West Chamber*



*Yuan Dynasty*

# *Romance of the West Chamber*

Zhang Sheng meets Cui Yingying, a young lady of the Sangguo, at the Pusu Temple and falls deeply in love with her. When Sun Feihu, a rebel general, surrounds the temple and wants to marry Yingying, Zhang Sheng is promised marriage by Cui's mother and borrows the help of General Baima to resolve the crisis.

However, Cui's mother backtracked and Zhang Sheng became very ill due to his longing for her. Yingying loves Zhang Sheng but does not confess her love for him. With the help of Hongniang, the two have a private meeting. When Cui's mother discovers this, she interrogates Hongniang and eventually agrees to the marriage, but orders Zhang Sheng to take the examination in Beijing.

When Zhang Sheng wins the first prize, Zheng Heng falsely claims that Zhang Sheng has already married, and Cui's mother again refuses to marry him, wanting to promise Yingying to Zheng Heng. When Zhang Sheng returns to Beijing, Zheng Heng falls to his death and Zhang Sheng eventually marries Yingying.

# *Romance of the West Chamber*



Tang Dynasty

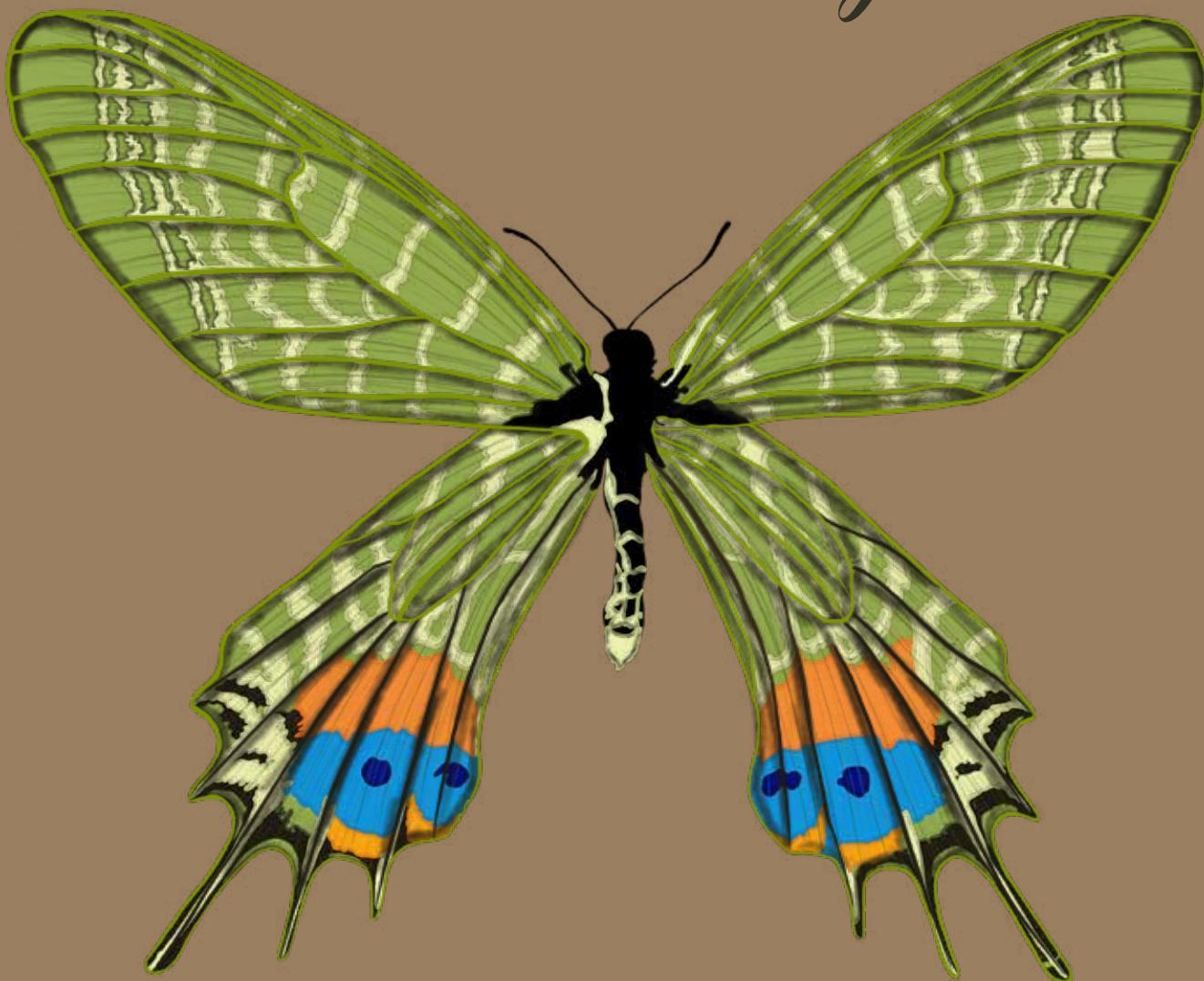
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# *The Peacock to the Southeast Fly*



*Eastern Han Dynasty*

# *The Peacock to the Southeast Fly*

During the Jian'an period of the Eastern Han Dynasty, Liu Lanzhi, a talented and beautiful woman, and Jiao Zhongqing, a minor official in Lujiang, fell in love with each other sincerely. However, her mother-in-law, Jiao's mother, made things difficult for Liu Lanzhi for various reasons, and Lanzhi resolutely asked her to return to her mother, and Zhongqing begged her mother for mercy, so the couple had to say goodbye, and both of them "swore that the sky would not fail them".

When Lanzhi returned to her mother's house, she was met by a series of suitors, including a magistrate who proposed for her son, and a minister of defense who put down the minister as a matchmaker. Lanzhi refused categorically because she had an appointment with Zhongqing. However, after her brother's bad words, Lanzhi has no choice but to agree to the marriage with the governor.

When Zhongqing hears of the change, the couple agrees to be "birds with wings in heaven and branches with branches on earth". On the joyous day of Lanzhi's marriage, Liu Jiao and his wife were both killed in the Yellow Springs.

# *The Peacock to the Southeast Fly*



*Western Han Dynasty*

# *The Peacock to the Southeast Fly*

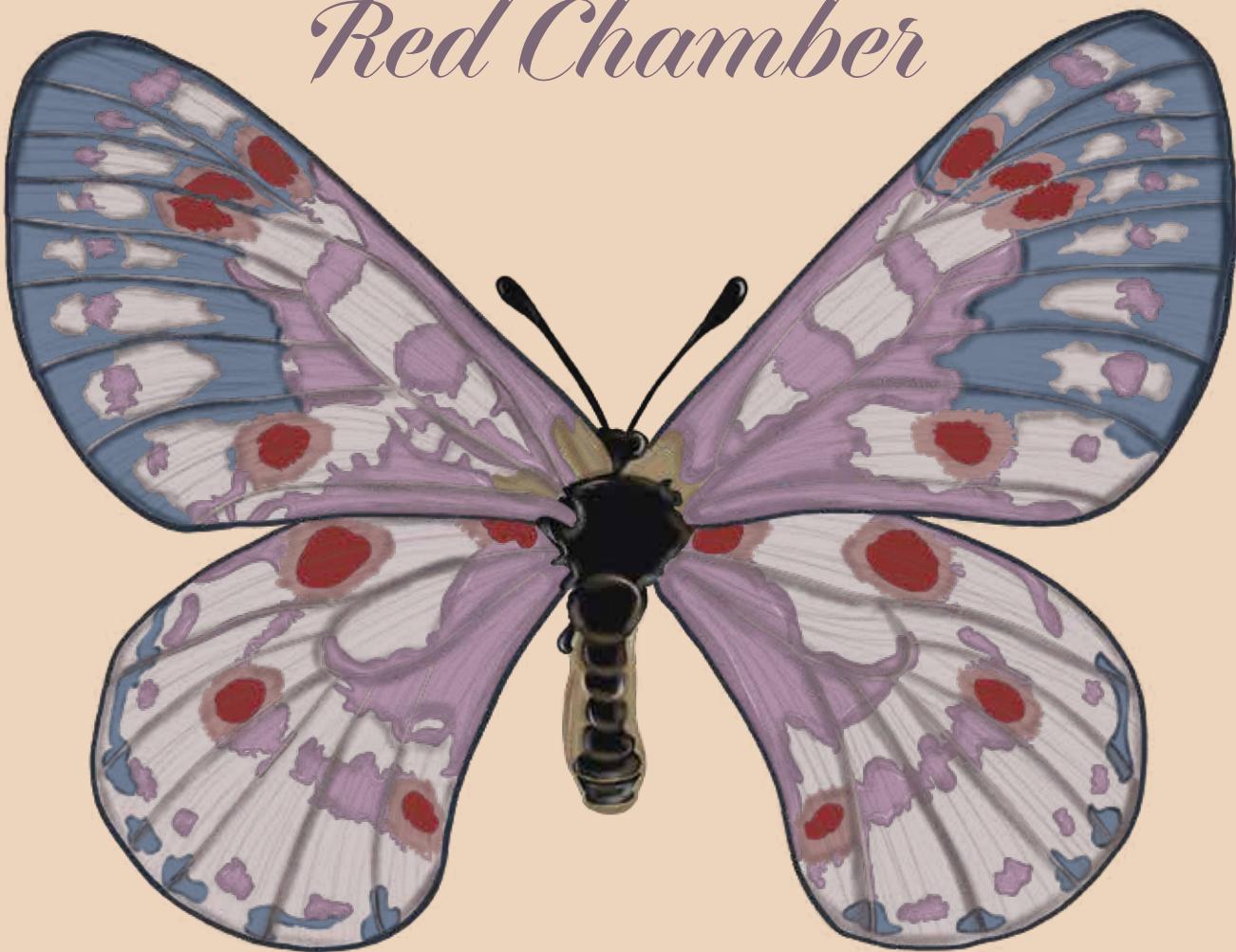
Chang'e's husband Hou Yi was a divine archer. In ancient times, when ten suns appeared at the same time, Hou Yi, the divine archer, shot down the nine heavens and strictly ordered the last sun to rise and set on time for the benefit of the people.

Hou Yi was thus honored and loved by the people. In addition to passing down the art of hunting, he also spent time with his wife, and people envied this loving couple.

Hou Yi also received a package of immortality medicine from the Queen Mother of Kunlun. It was said that this medicine could ascend to heaven and become immortal. However, Hou Yi could not let go of his wife and temporarily gave the immortality medicine to Chang'e to treasure. Chang'e hid the elixir in a box on her dressing table, but was surprised to be seen by the villain Peng Meng, who wanted to steal the elixir and become immortal himself.

Three days later, Hou Yi led his disciples to go out hunting, Peng Meng took the opportunity to break into Chang E's house and forced Chang E to hand over the immortality pill. Chang'e had no choice but to swallow the elixir of immortality. The elixir of immortality was really effective.

# *Dream of the Red Chamber*



Qing Dynasty

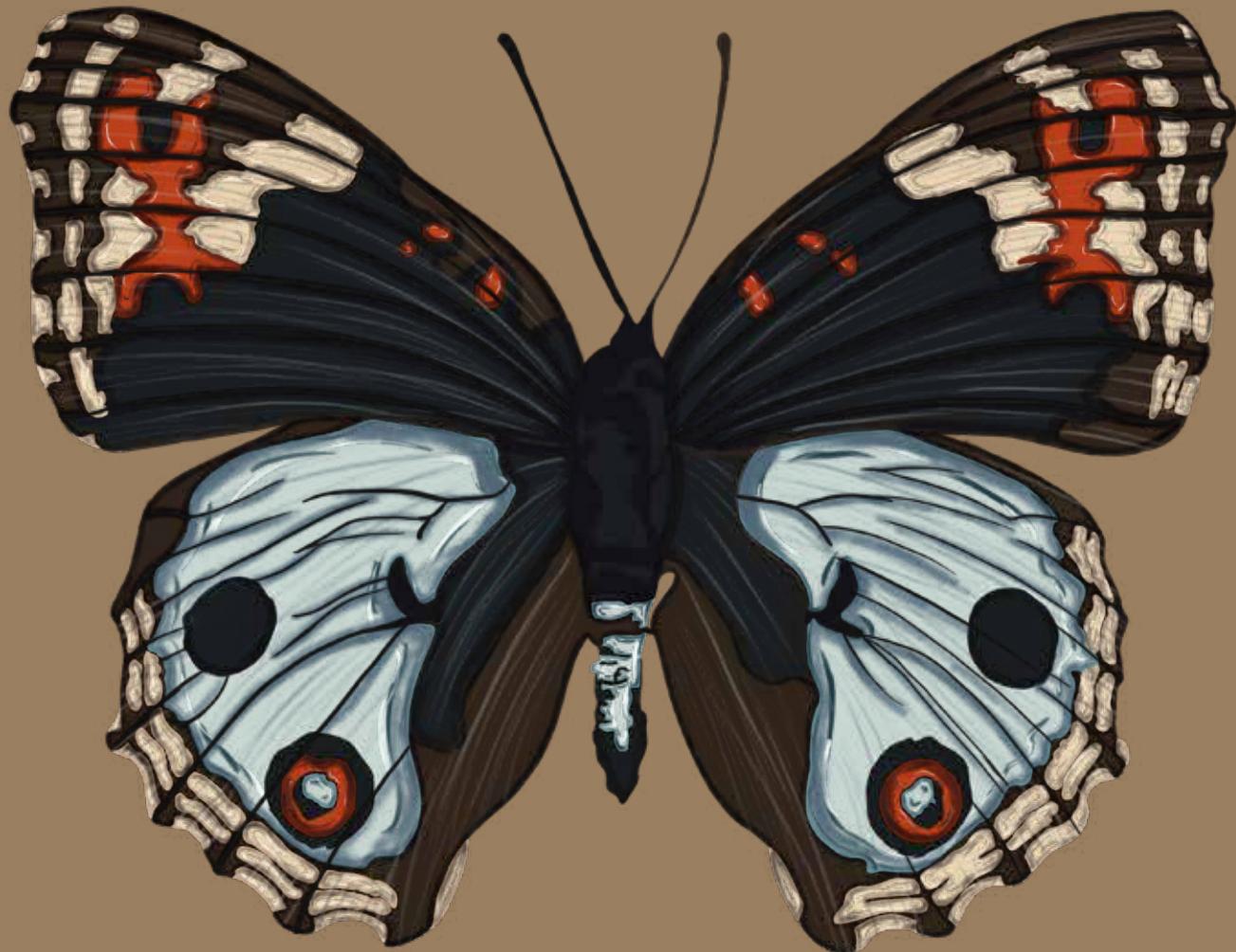
# *Dream of the Red Chamber*

It tells of the experiences of Jia Baoyu, a wealthy nobleman. The Jia family in Kyoto was a prominent aristocracy with two residences, the Rongguo Mansion and the Ningguo Mansion. Daiyu, the granddaughter of Jia's mother, lived in the Rongguo Mansion after her mother's death and became close to her cousin Jia Baoyu. Later, Aunt Xue brought her son and daughter Xue Baochai into the Rongguo Mansion. Xue Baochai soon became a favorite of the Jia family because of her obedience to the times, which distressed Daiyu, who often had verbal disputes with Baoyu and was secretly saddened.

Yuanchun went home to visit his relatives, and gave the name of his home as the "Grand View Garden". Outside of the Grand View Garden, the Jia family is in a state of economic decline, despite its wealth and honor. Inside the garden, it is calm on the surface, but in reality there are many crises.

After sending off Tanshun, Bao Yu was ordered by Jia Zheng to go to the West Sea along the son, and his whereabouts were unknown after being stolen on the way. Daiyu learned of the disease worsened and died of tears. After Daiyu's death, Baoyu and Baochai were ordered to get married, but Baoyu only had Daiyu in mind. The Jia family was defeated by their political rivals due to official rivalry, and the once prominent family building collapsed in an instant.

*Meng Jiangnv*



*Qin Dynasty*

# *Meng Jiangnu*

Legend has it that after Qin Shi Huang unified the six kingdoms, he began to build the Great Wall to prevent the invasion of the Xiong Nu. In order to complete this huge project, he forced people from all over the world to participate, and many young strong men, including newlyweds, were conscripted. Fan Xiliang, the husband of Meng Jiangnu, was taken to build the Great Wall just after he married her. Even though Meng Jiangnu did not want to let go, she knew that her husband had to go. However, due to the difficult conditions of the construction of the Great Wall, Fan Xiliang died on the construction site due to overwork.

Meng Jiangnu was devastated by the news of her husband's death and set out on a journey of a thousand miles to find him. After a long and arduous journey, she finally arrives at the Great Wall, only to learn that her husband is dead. In her grief, Meng Jiangnu cried so loudly, filled with anger and sorrow, that she miraculously shook the Great Wall, causing a section of it to collapse. Her sobs became a story that has been passed down through the ages.

After burying her husband, Meng Jiangnu decided to throw herself into the sea to follow him. She stood on the shore and her last tears disappeared into the waves. Meng Jiangnu's fidelity and deep love still touches countless people and has become a symbol of love and perseverance.