

A letter of divorce from



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Dear husband Bin I am writing you this letter because I finally must do something to change the situation that I have been suffering for many years. I have been thinking long and hard what to do, and I have been praying to Buddha in my desperate search for a better life than this one that I have as your wife. I can bear the humiliation of being your wife no longer, and that is why I am divorcing you now. When we first married I was so happy to have found a nice man, with a steady job, and prospects of promotion in the fertilizer plant. I was willing to suffer all the indignities of our humble room, and the long and weary trips to do the household chores because I was certain that one day we would have a nice apartment for us and our child. Have you any idea how humiliating it is for me to hear the other women talking about you, and looking at me with pity in their eyes? It seems to me that you are more interested in your art and your political slogans than in your loving wife and your poor child. In recent times you have provoked angry reactions from your supervisors through your meddling in political affairs. Instead of getting along with the powers that be, you have chosen to mock them, and this has brought disaster to you and also to your family. I ask myself, what was the point of all this time spent on writings? Has it brought us a decent place to live and a peaceful family life? Your seniority in the plant should have been rewarded long ago, but it is your own fault that others have been chosen before you. All of this shouting and wailing, and all the cartoons in the world, will not change the powers that be. I have had enough of being the laughing stock of the whole region, married to a man who does not know his place, and cannot understand when he is up against an impossible task. I don't believe any of your promises any more. Sometimes I wonder if you are really married to your brush and inkstand.

Certainly you appear to think more highly of them than of me. I have worked day and night to try and provide a safe and welcoming home for our daughter, but it is impossible for her to be happy in the squalor that we have been living in all this time. I have sacrificed myself for your crazy schemes, but I am not willing now to sacrifice her happiness as well. It is time to draw a line under all the anger and upset that seems to follow you like a black cloud all the time. There was a time when I admired you, Shao Bin, and I thought you were a man of high ideas and that you would fight to the end for justice. The last straw is now seeing you working on propaganda for the very people that you say you despise. This is not an honourable position, and what ever you do, you seem to find a way to make it turn into a farce. I have had enough of this, and of the shame that you bring to me with your pointless escapades. That is why I am now compelled to leave you, and I do this in the hope that finally you will come to your senses and work out what is really important in your life. Goodbye, Your ex-wife Meilan.