

**XUN GUAN**  
**Episode #5 Transcript**  
Written by Gabrielle Mirabella  
Music by Ernie Bird

*“KIDS LISTEN” ADVERTISEMENT*

*INTRO MUSIC.*

**GABRIELLE:** Hello! And welcome to another episode of “What *will* she do next?” I’m your host Gabrielle Mirabella and together with composer Ernie Bird, (**ERNIE:** Hello!) we’ve created a podcast that celebrates some of our *favorite* historical women! On today’s episode one young woman learns what it takes to be a leader. This episode was written & narrated by myself with music & production by Ernie Bird (**ERNIE:** Hello!) Today’s very special guest star is Film & Stage actor Austin Ku. (**AUSTIN:** Hello there!) And playing today’s leading role we have ...(**NIKI:** Niki Badua)

**GABRIELLE & ERNIE:** Enjoy!

**GABRIELLE:** Are you feeling...stuck? Does the challenge presented before you seem pretty “unsolvable”? Or, perhaps, like many of us right now, you feel confined; with no place to go, no room to grow? Well, don’t worry, you’re not alone.

Join us, as we investigate seemingly “impossible” situations from the lives of history’s most famous women, and ask ourselves...what *will* she do next?

*THEME SONG PLAYS:*

*“What will she do next?  
What will she do next?  
Her aim is true but will she see it through?  
Oh, what will she do... next?”*

**GABRIELLE:** Today’s historical woman: Xun Guan. Teenage warrior leader.

**WARRIOR 1:** Hurry now! We’re surrounded!

**WARRIOR 2:** *There must be a decision at once!*

**GABRIELLE:** Now, before she gets too “stuck”, let’s *quickly* see where she’s coming from...

Xun Guan was born in China in the year 303 CE. During this time women’s roles were mainly restricted to the family home, leaving young girls with little time to run and play outside; but Xun

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Guan was deeply drawn to nature, and when given a chance, she snuck from her home to run through the hills and play warrior in secret.

**XUN GUAN:** Stand back, enemy! You will not destroy my city! For I am the greatest warrior of all time!

**GABRIELLE:** Unbeknownst to the young fighter, her father, Xun Song, who acted as mayor of their city, *did* notice his daughter's fiery-spirit. And hoping to encourage her passions, he gifted her with her very own horse.

*Horse neighs!*

**XUN GUAN:** She's beautiful! Thank you, Father!

**FATHER:** And, what will you name her, young warrior?

**XUN GUAN:** Well, she's strong and proud like a goddess. So, I'll name her *Nüwa!*

*Nüwa neighs!*

**FATHER:** I think she likes it!

*They laugh.*

**GABRIELLE:** As Xun Guan and Nüwa spent their days riding, her Father watched on, his eyes flicking towards the horizon. There had been whispers of a rebel army gathering just outside their city, and he was unsure if his small army could defend themselves if the enemy chose to strike.

**XUN GUAN:** There's no need to worry, Father!

**GABRIELLE:** She insisted.

**XUN GUAN:** If they come, I will fight!

**GABRIELLE:** Her father smiled, knowing her determination matched that of any grown man.

**FATHER:** You are young. And, you have so much to learn.

**XUN GUAN:** Then, teach me! How do I become a warrior?

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*TRAINING MUSIC BEGINS!*

**FATHER:** To become a warrior, you must first become a *leader*. And, you will start by leading Nüwa.

**XUN GUAN:** But, I already know how to ride!

**FATHER:** Yes. But, can you hit that target with your bow and arrow at the same time?

**XUN GUAN:** ....That may take some practice...Let's go, girl!

*Clip-clop!*

*XUN GUAN SINGS.*

**XUN GUAN:** *(as they ride)*  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
LIKE A BEAT AND A DRUM, YOU AND I, KEEPING TIME AS ONE.  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
LET THE ENEMY COME. WE WILL *FIGHT*. THEY WILL RUN!

WHEN I JUMP, YOU JUMP.  
WHEN YOU PULL, I PULL.  
IF I LEAN, YOU LEAN.  
IF YOU FREEZE, I'LL SHOUT!

**XUN GUAN:** Faster, Nüwa!

*Nüwa neighs!*

**XUN GUAN:**  
WE RIDE, WE FIGHT, WE LEAP, WE FLY, ALL "DO", NO "TRY",  
WE KEEP ON RIDING.  
THEN I AIM SLOWLY, AND YOU BREATHE, KNOWING,  
WHEN I RELEASE MY ARROW  
THE CITY'S IN OUR CONTROL.

**XUN GUAN:** I see the target...keep steady, girl...keep steady....keep....

*Nuwa neighs!*

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*Swoosh! (The target is missed)*

**XUN GUAN:** *Nüwa!* I had that! Why did you lurch, we could have//...?!!

**FATHER:** *(cutting her off)* On the battlefield there is no room for blame! Especially from the leader.

**XUN GUAN:** Sorry, girl. Go again?

*Nüwa neighs!*  
*Clip Clop!*

**XUN GUAN:** *(as they ride)*  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
LIKE A BIRD AND THE SKY, YOU AND I, FLYING HIGH AS ONE.  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
LET IT ALL HURRY BY, OUR PURSUIT HAS BEGUN.

WHEN I JUMP, YOU JUMP.  
WHEN YOU PULL, I PULL.  
IF I LEAN, YOU LEAN.  
IF YOU SCARE, I'LL SHOUT!

**XUN GUAN:** You're doing great!

*Nüwa neighs!*

**XUN GUAN:**  
WE RIDE, WE FIGHT, WE LEAP, WE FLY, THIS IS OUR TIME,  
TO KEEP ON RIDING.  
THEN I AIM SLOWLY, AND YOU BREATHE, KNOWING,  
WHEN I RELEASE MY ARROW  
THE CITY'S IN OUR CONTROL.

**XUN GUAN:** I'm with you, now ...almost there...almost there...

*A dog barks!*

**XUN GUAN:** *(frightened)* Ah!!

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*Swoosh! (The target is missed)*

**XUN GUAN:** *Bad dog!!* You scared my horse!

**FATHER:** And, were you not also afraid?

**XUN GUAN:** *No way!* A leader never shows fear!

**FATHER:** But, without fear, where will she find compassion?

**XUN GUAN:**

HOW CAN I KEEP MY FAMILY SECURE?  
HAVE I BIT OFF MORE THAN I CAN CHEW?  
WHY SHOULD I FEEL SO READY AND SURE?  
THERE'S SO MUCH I STILL CANNOT DO.  
SHOULD I LET THEM DOWN? SHOULD I WALK AWAY?  
CAN ONE GIRL CHANGE THE WORLD ANYWAY?  
TELL ME TRUE, WILL YOU BE BY MY SIDE WHEN I NEED YOU?

**FATHER:** Very good, you two! You've got it!

**XUN GUAN:** We have?

*Nüwa neighs, "We have?"*

**FATHER:** A leader cannot succeed without her people; much like a rider and her horse.

**XUN GUAN:** How about it, girl? One more time?

*Nüwa neighs!*  
*Clip Clop!*

**XUN GUAN:** *(back to riding)*

IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
LIKE AN ARROW AND BOW, YOU AND I, GOING FAR AS ONE.  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM.  
NOW I FINALLY KNOW, HOW OUR GOAL WILL BE WON!

WHEN I JUMP, YOU JUMP.  
WHEN YOU PULL, I PULL.

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IF I LEAN, YOU LEAN.  
IF YOU NEED, I'LL SHOUT!

**XUN GUAN:** We've got this!!

*Nuwa neighs in response!*

**XUN GUAN:**  
WE RIDE, WE FIGHT, WE LEAP, WE FLY, WITH YOU BY MY SIDE  
WE'LL KEEP ON RIDING.  
THEN I AIM SLOWLY, AND YOU BREATHE, KNOWING,  
(THAT) WHEN I RELEASE MY ARROW  
THE CITY'S IN OUR CONTROL.

**XUN GUAN:** (*very sure*) This is it...a little closer...done!

*Swoosh!*  
*Hitting wood!*

**FATHER:** You've hit the target!

**XUN GUAN:** Yes!! Did you hear that?... Nüwa? We did it! ...Girl, what's wrong?

*The growing sounds of horses, yelling, swords!*

**WARRIOR 1:** Hurry now! We're surrounded!

*Sounds of commotion.*

**XUN GUAN:** Father, what's happened?

**FATHER:** The rebels have surrounded the city.

**WARRIOR 2:** What do we do?

**FATHER:** Please, remain calm.

**WARRIOR 1:** There's too many of them!

**WARRIOR 2:** *What do we do??*

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*Even greater commotion.*

**FATHER:** Silence! Please! Listen! Everyone! Please!

*FATHER fades as commotion grows.*

*TRANSITION MUSIC.*

**GABRIELLE:** Standing high on tip-toe, Xun Guan could see her Father's face amid the sea of men.

*Commotion continues.*

**FATHER:** *(firm)* Enough!

*Commotion stops.*

**FATHER:** There *is* a solution. Someone must break through the enemy camp, and seek help in the neighboring town.

*Grumbles!*

**WARRIOR 1:** It's absurd! No man can sneak by unnoticed!

**WARRIOR 2:** And, who would volunteer for such a position?

**WARRIOR 1:** Don't look at me!

**WARRIOR 2:** *Well, don't look at me!*

*THEY grumble at each other.*  
*Commotion.*

**NARRATOR:** Xun Guan grew frightened by the anxious crowd. She tore herself from the meeting and flew to the stables.

**XUN GUAN:** Nüwa, if someone doesn't ride for help, we'll be captured! Oh, I just wish things would go back to normal! I wish we could ride together in the field, like always.

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*Nüwa neighs!*

**XUN GUAN:**-What? You think we should ride for help?

*Nüwa neighs!*

**XUN GUAN:** But you should have heard them! They say 'no man can do it'! ...Oh, girl... What will I do?

*UPBEAT MUSIC.*

**GABRIELLE:** Good question Xun Guan... What *will* you do?  
Before we find out, let's first take a look at her options....  
Will Xun Guan choose option 1?:

**XUN GUAN:** This is silly! I'm only thirteen! Someone older will figure this out.

**GABRIELLE:** Or, will she choose option 2?:

**XUN GUAN:** My city is definitely gonna lose. Maybe I'll join the other side!

**GABRIELLE:** Or, will she choose option 3?:

**XUN GUAN:** This isn't my decision alone. If I have you, I know I can do this.

**GABRIELLE:** Now that we can clearly see her options, which one do YOU think she will choose? Take a moment to think it over...

*THINKING MUSIC.*

**GABRIELLE:** Alright, got your answer? Now, let's find out which option Xun Guan will choose...

**XUN GUAN:** I will be your warrior, Father!

*Shocked commotion!*

**WARRIOR 1:** *Xun Guan??*

**WARRIOR 2:** She's a child! She can't lead this mission!



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**FATHER:** Are you sure? You'll be all alone out there.

**XUN GUAN:** But, I won't be alone. I'll have Nüwa.

*Nüwa neighs!*  
*Clip clop!*

**XUN GUAN:** *(quietly)*  
WE RIDE, WE FIGHT, WE LEAP, WE FLY, WE CAN PASS BY...

*Sounds of a heartbeat.*

**XUN GUAN:**  
....IF WE KEEP ON RIDING.  
THEN I AIM SLOWLY, AND YOU BREATHE, KNOWING,  
THAT WHEN I RELEASE MY ARROW...

*Swoosh!*  
*Hitting wood!*

**WARRIOR 1:** There's a letter here on this arrow!

**WARRIOR 2:** What does it say?

**FATHER:** It's Xun Guan. She's reached the other side! *Help is coming!*

**XUN GUAN:**  
THE CITY'S IN OUR CONTROL! IN CONTROL!  
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, I'LL KEEP ON RIDING!  
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, I WON'T STOP FIGHTING!  
IN PERFECT RHYTHM. PERFECT RHYTHM.

**NARRATOR:** Xun Guan was faced with a seemingly impossible situation. But, instead of facing the problem alone, she asked for help. Thus, leading her community to safety.

So, the next time you find yourself feeling "stuck", I wonder...what will *you* do next?

*KIDS CORNER MUSIC.*

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**GABRIELLE:** At the end of every episode we will be featuring a very special guest star...*you!*  
Today we have Leonardo from Pennsylvania.

**GABRIELLE & ERNIE:** Hi, Leonardo!

**GABRIELLE:** Tell us all about your favorite historical woman!

**LEONARDO:** Joan of Arc was born in 1412 in France. When she was twelve she had a dream where she led the French in a battle against the English and took the king to be crowned. After winning the battle she took Charles to become king. She went to court and was found guilty. After her death she was found to be innocent. Joan of Arc inspired and helped to build women's rights like fighting in war and leading an army.

*End of Episode.*