Grandma can't see the tiles, a Chinese short story for HSK 2 to 3

Hán Tāo's grandma, eighty-two, asks him to go easy on her at mahjong, because her eyes are bad. Are they?

你会打麻将吗？我有一个麻将的故事！
Nǐ huì dǎ májiàng ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge májiàng de gùshi!
Can you play májiàng (mahjong)? I have a májiàng story!

我奶奶八十二岁了。她住在成都，非常喜欢打麻将。
Wǒ nǎinai bāshí'èr suì le. Tā zhù zài Chéngdū, fēicháng xǐhuan dǎ májiàng.
My grandma is eighty-two. She lives in Chéngdū, and she loves májiàng.

上个月奶奶给我打电话：“我们三缺一，你快来！”
Shàng ge yuè nǎinai gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà: “Wǒmen sān quē yī, nǐ kuài lái!”
Last month Grandma called me: “There are three of us, we need a fourth. Come quick!”

她和两个朋友在等我。她说：“我的眼睛不好了，看不清楚牌。你让着我点儿。”
Tā hé liǎng ge péngyou zài děng wǒ. Tā shuō: “Wǒ de yǎnjing bù hǎo le, kàn bu qīngchu pái. Nǐ ràngzhe wǒ diǎnr.”
She and two friends were waiting for me. She said: “My eyes are bad now. I can't see the tiles well. Go easy on me.”

我想让奶奶高兴，所以我打得又慢又不好。你猜，第一局以后，奶奶说了什么？
Wǒ xiǎng ràng nǎinai gāoxìng, suǒyǐ wǒ dǎ de yòu màn yòu bù hǎo. Nǐ cāi, dì yī jú yǐhòu, nǎinai shuōle shénme?
I wanted to make Grandma happy, so I played slowly and badly. Guess what Grandma said after the first game?

第一局奶奶赢了。我们三个人都给了她十块钱。她说：“我运气好。”
Dì yī jú nǎinai yíng le. Wǒmen sān ge rén dōu gěile tā shí kuài qián. Tā shuō: “Wǒ yùnqi hǎo.”
Grandma won the first game. The three of us each gave her ten kuài. She said: “I was lucky.”

第二局，她把一张牌拿到眼睛前面，问我：“这张是什么？”我告诉了她。她又赢了。
Dì èr jú, tā bǎ yì zhāng pái nádào yǎnjing qiánmiàn, wèn wǒ: “Zhè zhāng shì shénme?” Wǒ gàosule tā. Tā yòu yíng le.
In the second game she held a tile close to her eyes and asked: “What is this one?” I told her. She won again.

这时候，一个硬币从我的口袋里掉出来了，滚到了很远的一把椅子下面。
Zhè shíhou, yí ge yìngbì cóng wǒ de kǒudai li diào chūlai le, gǔndàole hěn yuǎn de yì bǎ yǐzi xiàmiàn.
Then a coin fell out of my pocket and rolled far away, under a chair.

奶奶没有抬头。她说：“你的硬币。在椅子下面。一块的。”
Nǎinai méiyǒu táitóu. Tā shuō: “Nǐ de yìngbì. Zài yǐzi xiàmiàn. Yí kuài de.”
Grandma did not look up. She said: “Your coin. Under the chair. One kuài.”

我说：“奶奶，你不是说你的眼睛不好吗？”她说：“看牌不好。看钱很好。”
Wǒ shuō: “Nǎinai, nǐ bú shì shuō nǐ de yǎnjing bù hǎo ma?” Tā shuō: “Kàn pái bù hǎo. Kàn qián hěn hǎo.”
I said: “Grandma, you said your eyes are bad!” She said: “Bad for tiles. Very good for money.”

所以我不让着她了。我开始认真打。你觉得后来怎么样了？
Suǒyǐ wǒ bú ràngzhe tā le. Wǒ kāishǐ rènzhēn dǎ. Nǐ juéde hòulái zěnmeyàng le?
So I stopped going easy on her. I started to play for real. What do you think happened?

她还是一直赢，而且赢得更快。
Tā háishi yìzhí yíng, érqiě yíng de gèng kuài.
She still kept winning, and faster.

两个小时以后，我输了两百块。我口袋里的钱都没了。
Liǎng ge xiǎoshí yǐhòu, wǒ shūle liǎngbǎi kuài. Wǒ kǒudai li de qián dōu méi le.
After two hours I had lost two hundred kuài. All the money in my pocket was gone.

我说：“奶奶，我没有钱了。”她拿出手机，说：“可以用手机付。”
Wǒ shuō: “Nǎinai, wǒ méiyǒu qián le.” Tā náchū shǒujī, shuō: “Kěyǐ yòng shǒujī fù.”
I said: “Grandma, I have no more money.” She took out her phone and said: “You can pay by phone.”

我说：“不用了，谢谢。”我们就不打了。
Wǒ shuō: “Bú yòng le, xièxie.” Wǒmen jiù bù dǎ le.
I said: “No, thank you.” We stopped playing.

她数了数钱，说：“你是个好孩子。走，奶奶请你吃饭。”
Tā shǔle shǔ qián, shuō: “Nǐ shì ge hǎo háizi. Zǒu, nǎinai qǐng nǐ chī fàn.”
She counted the money and said: “You are a good boy. Come, Grandma will take you to dinner.”

在饭店，她自己看菜单，看得很快。她点了五个菜。
Zài fàndiàn, tā zìjǐ kàn càidān, kàn de hěn kuài. Tā diǎnle wǔ ge cài.
At the restaurant she read the menu by herself, very fast. She ordered five dishes.

菜很好吃。我开始觉得好一点儿了。
Cài hěn hǎochī. Wǒ kāishǐ juéde hǎo yìdiǎnr le.
The food was very good. I started to feel a little better.

买单的时候，她用我的两百块付了钱。
Mǎidān de shíhou, tā yòng wǒ de liǎngbǎi kuài fùle qián.
When the bill came, she paid with my two hundred kuài.

然后她说：“下个星期，多带点儿钱。”
Ránhòu tā shuō: “Xià ge xīngqī, duō dài diǎnr qián.”
Then she said: “Next week, bring more.”

Words in the story

打麻将 dǎ májiàng *to play mahjong*	奶奶 nǎinai *grandma (your dad's mom)*	眼睛 yǎnjing *eyes*
牌 pái *the tiles (of mahjong)*	三缺一 sān quē yī *three of us, one short (mahjong takes four)*	让着 ràngzhe *to go easy on someone*
局 jú *a game, a round*	赢 yíng *to win*	输 shū *to lose*
运气好 yùnqi hǎo *lucky*	硬币 yìngbì *a coin*	口袋 kǒudai *a pocket*
掉 diào *to fall, to drop*	滚 gǔn *to roll*	抬头 táitóu *to look up*
认真 rènzhēn *seriously, for real*	买单 mǎidān *to pay the bill*	

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/grandma-cant-see-the-tiles