I know you, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

A good-looking man moves into Měi Líng's building, and every morning on the stairs she says nothing. So she practices a hello at home.

你认识你的邻居吗？我有一个新邻居的故事！
Nǐ rènshi nǐ de línjū ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge xīn línjū de gùshi!
Do you know your neighbors? I have a story about a new neighbor!

上个月，我们楼搬来了一个年轻男人。他很高，也很帅。
Shàng ge yuè, wǒmen lóu bānláile yí ge niánqīng nánrén. Tā hěn gāo, yě hěn shuài.
Last month a young man moved into my building. He is tall, and very good-looking.

每天早上，我都在楼梯上看见他。我每天都想跟他说点儿什么，可是每天都什么也没说。
Měi tiān zǎoshang, wǒ dōu zài lóutī shang kànjiàn tā. Wǒ měi tiān dōu xiǎng gēn tā shuō diǎnr shénme, kěshì měi tiān dōu shénme yě méi shuō.
I see him every morning on the stairs. Every day I want to say something to him, and every day I say nothing.

所以我在家练习：“你好！我是美玲。你是新来的吗？”很简单！
Suǒyǐ wǒ zài jiā liànxí: “Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ shì Měi Líng. Nǐ shì xīn lái de ma?” Hěn jiǎndān!
So at home I practiced: “Hello! I'm Měi Líng. Are you new here?” Easy!

第二天早上，他又在楼梯上。我开口了……你猜，我说了什么？
Dì èr tiān zǎoshang, tā yòu zài lóutī shang. Wǒ kāikǒu le…… Nǐ cāi, wǒ shuōle shénme?
The next morning, there he was on the stairs again. I opened my mouth... Guess what I said?

我说：“你好！我是新来的。你是美玲吗？”
Wǒ shuō: “Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ shì xīn lái de. Nǐ shì Měi Líng ma?”
I said: “Hello! I'm new here. Are you Měi Líng?”

他笑了，说：“我不是美玲。你是。”
Tā xiào le, shuō: “Wǒ bú shì Měi Líng. Nǐ shì.”
He laughed and said: “I'm not Měi Líng. You are.”

我很不好意思。然后我想：等一下，他怎么知道我是美玲？你觉得呢？
Wǒ hěn bù hǎoyìsi. Ránhòu wǒ xiǎng: děng yíxià, tā zěnme zhīdào wǒ shì Měi Líng? Nǐ juéde ne?
I was so embarrassed. Then I thought: wait. How does he know I'm Měi Líng? What do you think?

我问了他。他说：“哦，你的事，我知道很多。”
Wǒ wènle tā. Tā shuō: “Ò, nǐ de shì, wǒ zhīdào hěn duō.”
I asked him. He said: “Oh, I know a lot about you.”

“你花九块钱买了一把椅子，是玩具椅子。”
“Nǐ huā jiǔ kuài qián mǎile yì bǎ yǐzi, shì wánjù yǐzi.”
“You paid nine kuài for a chair, and it was a toy chair.”

“你在床下面放过臭豆腐。”
“Nǐ zài chuáng xiàmiàn fàngguo chòudòufu.”
“You once put stinky tofu under your bed.”

“你给一个小男孩糖，他才叫你‘姐姐’。”
“Nǐ gěi yí ge xiǎo nánhái táng, tā cái jiào nǐ ‘jiějie’.”
“And you give a little boy candy, or he won't call you ‘jiějie’, big sister.”

我的脸红极了。我问：“你从哪儿知道的？”你猜！
Wǒ de liǎn hóng jí le. Wǒ wèn: “Nǐ cóng nǎr zhīdào de?” Nǐ cāi!
My face went bright red. I asked: “Where did you hear all that?” Guess!

他说：“我奶奶告诉我的。她就住在你旁边。”张奶奶！
Tā shuō: “Wǒ nǎinai gàosu wǒ de. Tā jiù zhù zài nǐ pángbiān.” Zhāng nǎinai!
He said: “My grandma told me. She lives right next door to you.” Grandma Zhāng!

他说：“我每个星期天都去她家吃饭。她一个晚上都在说你。”
Tā shuō: “Wǒ měi ge xīngqītiān dōu qù tā jiā chī fàn. Tā yí ge wǎnshang dōu zài shuō nǐ.”
He said: “I eat at her home every Sunday. She talks about you all evening.”

那天晚上，我去敲张奶奶的门。我问：“您为什么把我的事都告诉他？”
Nà tiān wǎnshang, wǒ qù qiāo Zhāng nǎinai de mén. Wǒ wèn: “Nín wèi shénme bǎ wǒ de shì dōu gàosu tā?”
That evening I knocked on Grandma Zhāng's door. I asked: “Why do you tell him everything about me?”

她没说对不起。她说：“他三十岁，工作很好，没有女朋友。我在帮你啊！”
Tā méi shuō duìbuqǐ. Tā shuō: “Tā sānshí suì, gōngzuò hěn hǎo, méiyǒu nǚpéngyou. Wǒ zài bāng nǐ a!”
She didn't say sorry. She said: “He is thirty, he has a good job and no girlfriend. I'm helping you!”

我说：“帮我？现在他觉得我很奇怪！”
Wǒ shuō: “Bāng wǒ? Xiànzài tā juéde wǒ hěn qíguài!”
I said: “Helping me? Now he thinks I'm very strange!”

她说：“不会。上个星期天他问我：‘奶奶，美玲还有别的故事吗？’所以这个星期天，你也来吃饭。”
Tā shuō: “Bú huì. Shàng ge xīngqītiān tā wèn wǒ: ‘Nǎinai, Měi Líng hái yǒu bié de gùshi ma?’ Suǒyǐ zhège xīngqītiān, nǐ yě lái chī fàn.”
She said: “No, he doesn't. Last Sunday he asked me: ‘Grandma, does Měi Líng have any more stories?’ So this Sunday, you're coming to dinner too.”

我说：“好，我去。可是这次，我的故事我自己讲。”
Wǒ shuō: “Hǎo, wǒ qù. Kěshì zhè cì, wǒ de gùshi wǒ zìjǐ jiǎng.”
I said: “Okay, I'll come. But this time, I'll tell my stories myself.”

Words in the story

邻居 línjū *a neighbor*	搬来 bānlái *to move in*	年轻 niánqīng *young*
帅 shuài *good-looking (a man)*	楼梯 lóutī *the stairs*	练习 liànxí *to practice*
新来的 xīn lái de *new here*	简单 jiǎndān *easy, simple*	开口 kāikǒu *to open your mouth, start to speak*
不好意思 bù hǎoyìsi *embarrassed*	花 huā *to spend (money)*	玩具 wánjù *a toy*
臭豆腐 chòudòufu *stinky tofu*	糖 táng *candy*	姐姐 jiějie *big sister: what a child calls a young woman*
脸红 liǎn hóng *to go red in the face*	从哪儿知道的 cóng nǎr zhīdào de *where did you hear it*	告诉 gàosu *to tell*
敲门 qiāo mén *to knock on the door*	女朋友 nǚpéngyou *a girlfriend*	奇怪 qíguài *strange*
讲故事 jiǎng gùshi *to tell a story*		

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/i-know-you