It was cheap!, a Chinese short story for HSK 1

Sūn Lán's husband buys anything cheap. One day she needs salt, only salt, and sends him to the store.

你喜欢便宜的东西吗？我爱人很喜欢！
Nǐ xǐhuan piányi de dōngxi ma? Wǒ àiren hěn xǐhuan!
Do you like cheap things? My husband does!

他买东西不问好不好，只问贵不贵。
Tā mǎi dōngxi bú wèn hǎo bu hǎo, zhǐ wèn guì bu guì.
When he buys something, he doesn't ask if it's good. He only asks if it's expensive.

我说：“买两个苹果。”他买回来二十个。他说：“便宜！”
Wǒ shuō: “Mǎi liǎng ge píngguǒ.” Tā mǎi huílai èrshí ge. Tā shuō: “Piányi!”
I say: “Buy two apples.” He comes home with twenty. He says: “They were cheap!”

我说：“买点儿茶。”他买回来十盒茶：“便宜！”
Wǒ shuō: “Mǎi diǎnr chá.” Tā mǎi huílai shí hé chá: “Piányi!”
I say: “Buy some tea.” He comes home with ten boxes of tea: “It was cheap!”

上个星期，我在做饭，家里没有盐了。我说：“去买盐。只买盐！”你猜，他买回来什么？
Shàng ge xīngqī, wǒ zài zuò fàn, jiā li méiyǒu yán le. Wǒ shuō: “Qù mǎi yán. Zhǐ mǎi yán!” Nǐ cāi, tā mǎi huílai shénme?
Last week I was cooking, and we were out of salt. I said: “Go and buy salt. Only salt!” Guess what he brought home?

他去了一个小时。买个盐，去了一个小时！
Tā qùle yí ge xiǎoshí. Mǎi ge yán, qùle yí ge xiǎoshí!
He was gone for an hour. An hour, for salt!

他回来了。我看不见他的脸。
Tā huílai le. Wǒ kàn bu jiàn tā de liǎn.
Then he came home. I couldn't see his face.

我只看见了卫生纸，很多很多卫生纸。
Wǒ zhǐ kànjiànle wèishēngzhǐ, hěn duō hěn duō wèishēngzhǐ.
I could only see toilet paper. Lots and lots of toilet paper.

我问：“这是什么？”他说：“卫生纸！四十卷！”
Wǒ wèn: “Zhè shì shénme?” Tā shuō: “Wèishēngzhǐ! Sìshí juǎn!”
I asked: “What is this?” He said: “Toilet paper! Forty rolls!”

我说：“我们家就两个人。”
Wǒ shuō: “Wǒmen jiā jiù liǎng ge rén.”
I said: “There are only two of us at home.”

他说：“便宜啊！”
Tā shuō: “Piányi a!”
He said: “It was cheap!”

他把卫生纸放在床下面，还有电视后面。
Tā bǎ wèishēngzhǐ fàng zài chuáng xiàmiàn, hái yǒu diànshì hòumiàn.
He put the toilet paper under the bed, and behind the TV.

我说：“好吧。盐呢？”
Wǒ shuō: “Hǎo ba. Yán ne?”
I said: “Okay. And the salt?”

他没说话。
Tā méi shuōhuà.
He didn't say anything.

我又问：“盐呢？”
Wǒ yòu wèn: “Yán ne?”
I asked again: “Where's the salt?”

他说：“盐……太贵了。”
Tā shuō: “Yán…… tài guì le.”
He said: “The salt... was too expensive.”

那天晚上的菜没有盐，一点儿也不好吃。
Nà tiān wǎnshang de cài méiyǒu yán, yìdiǎnr yě bù hǎochī.
That evening the food had no salt. It wasn't good at all.

我爱人都吃完了。他很高兴。
Wǒ àiren dōu chīwán le. Tā hěn gāoxìng.
My husband ate it all. He was very happy.

他看着电视后面的卫生纸。
Tā kànzhe diànshì hòumiàn de wèishēngzhǐ.
He looked at the toilet paper behind the TV.

他说：“四十卷！多便宜啊！”
Tā shuō: “Sìshí juǎn! Duō piányi a!”
He said: “Forty rolls! So cheap!”

Words in the story

便宜 piányi *cheap*	东西 dōngxi *things*	爱人 àiren *husband or wife (an older people's word)*
只 zhǐ *only*	贵 guì *expensive*	买回来 mǎi huílai *to buy and bring home*
盒 hé *box (of)*	盐 yán *salt*	看不见 kàn bu jiàn *can't see*
脸 liǎn *face*	卫生纸 wèishēngzhǐ *toilet paper*	卷 juǎn *roll (of)*
就两个人 jiù liǎng ge rén *only two people*	放在 fàng zài *to put (somewhere)*	床 chuáng *bed*
下面 xiàmiàn *under*	盐呢? yán ne? *and the salt? where's the salt?*	一点儿也不 yìdiǎnr yě bù *not at all*
吃完 chīwán *to eat it all*	多便宜啊 duō piányi a *so cheap!*	你猜 nǐ cāi *guess!*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/it-was-cheap