My landlady, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

Lín Fēng's landlady never smiles. One Sunday evening she knocks on his door. What does she want?

你怕你的房东吗？我有一个房东的故事！
Nǐ pà nǐ de fángdōng ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge fángdōng de gùshi!
Are you afraid of your landlord? I have a story about my landlady!

我在广州租房子。我的房东住在楼下，六十岁左右，从来不笑。
Wǒ zài Guǎngzhōu zū fángzi. Wǒ de fángdōng zhù zài lóuxià, liùshí suì zuǒyòu, cónglái bú xiào.
I rent a room in Guǎngzhōu. My landlady lives downstairs. She's about sixty, and she never smiles.

我搬进来那天，她给我的身份证拍了一张照片，只说了一句话：“每个月一号交房租。”
Wǒ bān jìnlai nà tiān, tā gěi wǒ de shēnfènzhèng pāile yì zhāng zhàopiàn, zhǐ shuōle yí jù huà: “Měi ge yuè yī hào jiāo fángzū.”
The day I moved in, she took a photo of my ID card and said only one thing: “Pay the rent on the first of every month.”

我有点儿怕她。有一个星期天晚上，有人敲我的门。是她。
Wǒ yǒudiǎnr pà tā. Yǒu yí ge xīngqītiān wǎnshang, yǒu rén qiāo wǒ de mén. Shì tā.
I was a little afraid of her. Then one Sunday evening, someone knocked on my door. It was her.

我想：完了，房租要涨了。你猜，她来做什么？
Wǒ xiǎng: wán le, fángzū yào zhǎng le. Nǐ cāi, tā lái zuò shénme?
I thought: oh no, the rent is going up. Guess what she came for?

她手里拿着一大碗汤，说：“你太瘦了。喝吧。”然后就下楼了。
Tā shǒu lǐ názhe yí dà wǎn tāng, shuō: “Nǐ tài shòu le. Hē ba.” Ránhòu jiù xià lóu le.
She had a big bowl of soup in her hands. She said: “You're too thin. Drink this.” Then she went back downstairs.

汤非常好喝，比我做的好喝多了。
Tāng fēicháng hǎohē, bǐ wǒ zuò de hǎohē duō le.
The soup was very good. Much better than my own cooking.

下个星期天，她又来敲门。又是汤。她说：“还是太瘦。”
Xià ge xīngqītiān, tā yòu lái qiāo mén. Yòu shì tāng. Tā shuō: “Háishi tài shòu.”
The next Sunday she knocked again. Soup again. She said: “Still too thin.”

从那以后，每个星期天她都送一碗汤来。她从来不进门，也从来不笑。
Cóng nà yǐhòu, měi ge xīngqītiān tā dōu sòng yì wǎn tāng lái. Tā cónglái bú jìn mén, yě cónglái bú xiào.
After that, she brought me a bowl of soup every Sunday. She never came in, and she never smiled.

我在电话里告诉了妈妈。妈妈说：“小心！她给你汤，一定是想要什么。”
Wǒ zài diànhuà lǐ gàosule māma. Māma shuō: “Xiǎoxīn! Tā gěi nǐ tāng, yídìng shì xiǎng yào shénme.”
I told my mom on the phone. My mom said: “Be careful! If she gives you soup, she must want something.”

可是房租没涨。那她想要什么呢？你觉得呢？
Kěshì fángzū méi zhǎng. Nà tā xiǎng yào shénme ne? Nǐ juéde ne?
But the rent did not go up. So what did she want? What do you think?

两个月以后，我知道了。那个星期天，她拿来了汤，还有一张照片。
Liǎng ge yuè yǐhòu, wǒ zhīdào le. Nàge xīngqītiān, tā nálaile tāng, hái yǒu yì zhāng zhàopiàn.
Two months later, I found out. That Sunday she brought the soup, and a photo too.

她说：“这是我哥哥的女儿，二十四岁，在银行上班。是个很好的姑娘。”
Tā shuō: “Zhè shì wǒ gēge de nǚ'ér, èrshísì suì, zài yínháng shàngbān. Shì ge hěn hǎo de gūniang.”
She said: “This is my brother's daughter. She's twenty-four and works at a bank. A very good girl.”

我不知道说什么，就说：“汤很好喝。”
Wǒ bù zhīdào shuō shénme, jiù shuō: “Tāng hěn hǎohē.”
I didn't know what to say. So I said: “The soup is very good.”

下个星期天，又是汤，又是一张照片：“这是她和她的狗。你喜欢狗吗？”
Xià ge xīngqītiān, yòu shì tāng, yòu shì yì zhāng zhàopiàn: “Zhè shì tā hé tā de gǒu. Nǐ xǐhuan gǒu ma?”
The next Sunday: soup again, and one more photo. “This is her with her dog. Do you like dogs?”

再下一个星期天，我一开门，房东旁边站着一个年轻的女孩子。
Zài xià yí ge xīngqītiān, wǒ yì kāi mén, fángdōng pángbiān zhànzhe yí ge niánqīng de nǚháizi.
The Sunday after that, I opened the door, and next to my landlady stood a young woman.

房东说：“这就是我哥哥的女儿。你们聊吧。”她把汤给我，就下楼了。
Fángdōng shuō: “Zhè jiù shì wǒ gēge de nǚ'ér. Nǐmen liáo ba.” Tā bǎ tāng gěi wǒ, jiù xià lóu le.
My landlady said: “This is my brother's daughter. Talk.” She gave me the soup and went downstairs.

我很紧张。她笑着说：“我认识你。我姑姑每个星期天都给我看你的照片。”
Wǒ hěn jǐnzhāng. Tā xiàozhe shuō: “Wǒ rènshi nǐ. Wǒ gūgu měi ge xīngqītiān dōu gěi wǒ kàn nǐ de zhàopiàn.”
I was very nervous. She laughed and said: “I know you. My aunt shows me your photo every Sunday.”

我问：“我的照片？什么照片？”你猜是哪张？
Wǒ wèn: “Wǒ de zhàopiàn? Shénme zhàopiàn?” Nǐ cāi shì nǎ zhāng?
I asked: “My photo? What photo?” Guess which one!

她说：“你身份证上的那张。别担心，你本人好看多了。”
Tā shuō: “Nǐ shēnfènzhèng shang de nà zhāng. Bié dānxīn, nǐ běnrén hǎokàn duō le.”
She said: “The one on your ID card. Don't worry, you look much better in person.”

Words in the story

房东 fángdōng *landlord, landlady*	租房子 zū fángzi *to rent a place to live*	楼下 lóuxià *downstairs*
左右 zuǒyòu *about (after a number)*	搬进来 bān jìnlai *to move in*	身份证 shēnfènzhèng *ID card*
拍照片 pāi zhàopiàn *to take a photo*	交房租 jiāo fángzū *to pay the rent*	敲门 qiāo mén *to knock on the door*
完了 wán le *oh no, that's it*	涨 zhǎng *to go up (a price)*	汤 tāng *soup*
瘦 shòu *thin*	小心 xiǎoxīn *be careful*	一定 yídìng *must, surely*
银行 yínháng *bank*	姑娘 gūniang *girl, young woman*	聊 liáo *to chat*
紧张 jǐnzhāng *nervous*	姑姑 gūgu *aunt (your father's sister)*	本人 běnrén *in person, yourself*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/my-landlady