Only vegetables, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

Měi Líng and her coworker Xiǎo Chén promise to eat only vegetables for a whole month. How long will it last?

你喜欢吃蔬菜吗？我有一个蔬菜的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan chī shūcài ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge shūcài de gùshi!
Do you like vegetables? I have a vegetable story!

上个月，我和同事小陈试了试去年夏天的衣服。都太小了！
Shàng ge yuè, wǒ hé tóngshì Xiǎo Chén shìle shì qùnián xiàtiān de yīfu. Dōu tài xiǎo le!
Last month my coworker Xiǎo Chén and I tried on our clothes from last summer. They were all too small!

所以我们说：“这个月我们只吃蔬菜。不吃肉，不喝奶茶，不吃蛋糕。”
Suǒyǐ wǒmen shuō: “Zhège yuè wǒmen zhǐ chī shūcài. Bù chī ròu, bù hē nǎichá, bù chī dàngāo.”
So we said: “This month we eat only vegetables. No meat, no milk tea, no cake.”

第一天还可以。中午我们一起吃蔬菜，还说：“真不错！感觉很好！”
Dì yī tiān hái kěyǐ. Zhōngwǔ wǒmen yìqǐ chī shūcài, hái shuō: “Zhēn búcuò! Gǎnjué hěn hǎo!”
Day one was okay. At lunch we ate vegetables together and even said: “This is good! We feel great!”

第二天就不行了。晚上我躺在床上，太饿了。你猜，我在想什么？
Dì èr tiān jiù bù xíng le. Wǎnshang wǒ tǎng zài chuáng shang, tài è le. Nǐ cāi, wǒ zài xiǎng shénme?
Day two was not okay. At night I lay in bed, so hungry. Guess what I was thinking about?

炸鸡。我家附近有一个炸鸡店，开到很晚。
Zhájī. Wǒ jiā fùjìn yǒu yí ge zhájī diàn, kāi dào hěn wǎn.
Fried chicken. There's a fried chicken shop near my home, and it's open very late.

我对自己说：“不行，美玲，只吃蔬菜。”我吃了一个西红柿，喝了一杯水，看着墙。
Wǒ duì zìjǐ shuō: “Bù xíng, Měi Líng, zhǐ chī shūcài.” Wǒ chīle yí ge xīhóngshì, hēle yì bēi shuǐ, kànzhe qiáng.
I said to myself: “No, Měi Líng. Only vegetables.” I ate a tomato. I drank a glass of water. I looked at the wall.

十点，我穿上外套，对自己说：“我只是出去走走。”
Shí diǎn, wǒ chuānshang wàitào, duì zìjǐ shuō: “Wǒ zhǐshì chūqu zǒuzou.”
At ten o'clock I put on my coat and said to myself: “I'm only going for a walk.”

我走啊走，我的脚自己走到了炸鸡店。我也不知道为什么。
Wǒ zǒu a zǒu, wǒ de jiǎo zìjǐ zǒudàole zhájī diàn. Wǒ yě bù zhīdào wèi shénme.
I walked and walked, and my feet took me to the fried chicken shop on their own. I don't know why.

我进去，看看左边，看看右边。这里没有人认识我。我小声说：“老板，来一份大炸鸡。”
Wǒ jìnqu, kànkan zuǒbian, kànkan yòubian. Zhèli méiyǒu rén rènshi wǒ. Wǒ xiǎoshēng shuō: “Lǎobǎn, lái yí fèn dà zhájī.”
I went in and looked left and right. Nobody there knew me. Very quietly I said: “One big fried chicken, please.”

这时候，门开了，有人进来了。你猜，这个人认识我吗？
Zhè shíhou, mén kāi le, yǒu rén jìnlai le. Nǐ cāi, zhège rén rènshi wǒ ma?
Just then the door opened, and someone came in. Guess: did this person know me?

认识。是小陈！她家也在附近。她穿着大外套，下面是睡衣。
Rènshi. Shì Xiǎo Chén! Tā jiā yě zài fùjìn. Tā chuānzhe dà wàitào, xiàmiàn shì shuìyī.
Yes. It was Xiǎo Chén! She lives nearby too. She had a big coat on, and under it her pajamas.

她看着我，我看着她。我们都没说话。
Tā kànzhe wǒ, wǒ kànzhe tā. Wǒmen dōu méi shuōhuà.
She looked at me. I looked at her. Neither of us said anything.

然后她说：“我只是来买水的。”我说：“我也是。”
Ránhòu tā shuō: “Wǒ zhǐshì lái mǎi shuǐ de.” Wǒ shuō: “Wǒ yě shì.”
Then she said: “I'm only here to buy water.” I said: “Me too.”

这时候，老板大声说：“大炸鸡好了！”他把炸鸡放在我面前。
Zhè shíhou, lǎobǎn dàshēng shuō: “Dà zhájī hǎo le!” Tā bǎ zhájī fàng zài wǒ miànqián.
Just then the man who runs the shop said very loudly: “Big fried chicken, ready!” He put it in front of me.

小陈看看炸鸡，又看看我。
Xiǎo Chén kànkan zhájī, yòu kànkan wǒ.
Xiǎo Chén looked at the chicken. Then she looked at me.

然后她对老板说：“我也来一份。要大的。”
Ránhòu tā duì lǎobǎn shuō: “Wǒ yě lái yí fèn. Yào dà de.”
Then she said to the man: “One for me too. A big one.”

我们坐下来，全吃完了。那是我吃过最好吃的炸鸡。
Wǒmen zuò xiàlai, quán chīwán le. Nà shì wǒ chīguo zuì hǎochī de zhájī.
We sat down and ate it all. It was the best fried chicken I've ever had.

第二天上班，我们又一起吃蔬菜。大家都说：“你们两个真棒！”
Dì èr tiān shàngbān, wǒmen yòu yìqǐ chī shūcài. Dàjiā dōu shuō: “Nǐmen liǎng ge zhēn bàng!”
The next day at work we ate vegetables together again. Everyone said: “You two are amazing!”

对啊。我们白天只吃蔬菜。
Duì a. Wǒmen báitiān zhǐ chī shūcài.
That's right. In the daytime, we eat only vegetables.

Words in the story

蔬菜
shūcài
vegetables

同事
tóngshì
a coworker

试了试
shìle shì
tried on, gave it a try

奶茶
nǎichá
milk tea

蛋糕
dàngāo
cake

还可以
hái kěyǐ
okay, not bad

感觉
gǎnjué
to feel

不行
bù xíng
no good, not allowed

躺
tǎng
to lie down

饿
è
hungry

炸鸡
zhájī
fried chicken

附近
fùjìn
nearby, near

西红柿
xīhóngshì
a tomato

墙
qiáng
a wall

外套
wàitào
a coat

脚
jiǎo
foot, feet

小声
xiǎoshēng
quietly

老板
lǎobǎn
the owner, the man who runs a shop

来一份
lái yí fèn
one (portion) of..., please

睡衣
shuìyī
pajamas

全吃完了
quán chīwán le
ate it all

真棒
zhēn bàng
amazing, great

白天
báitiān
the daytime

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