Red flowers, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

A nervous young man with red flowers sits at the next table. Wáng Lěi has to ask who they are for.

你喜欢爱情故事吗？我有一个！
Nǐ xǐhuan àiqíng gùshi ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge!
Do you like love stories? I have one!

我和太太常常去后海旁边的一个小饭馆吃饭。
Wǒ hé tàitai chángcháng qù Hòuhǎi pángbiān de yí ge xiǎo fànguǎn chī fàn.
My wife and I often eat at a little restaurant by Hòuhǎi.

去年的一个星期六晚上，旁边那张桌子坐着一个年轻人。
Qùnián de yí ge xīngqīliù wǎnshang, pángbiān nà zhāng zhuōzi zuòzhe yí ge niánqīng rén.
One Saturday evening last year, a young man was sitting at the next table.

他手里拿着红色的花，看起来很紧张。
Tā shǒu li názhe hóngsè de huā, kàn qǐlai hěn jǐnzhāng.
He had red flowers in his hand, and he looked very nervous.

我问："花！给女朋友的？"他说："不是……"你猜，他还说了什么？
Wǒ wèn: "Huā! Gěi nǚpéngyou de?" Tā shuō: "Bú shì……" Nǐ cāi, tā hái shuōle shénme?
I asked: "Flowers! For your girlfriend?" He said: "No..." Guess what else he said?

"朋友给了我她的电话。今天我们第一次见面。"
"Péngyou gěile wǒ tā de diànhuà. Jīntiān wǒmen dì yī cì jiànmiàn."
"A friend gave me her number. Today we meet for the first time."

他去洗手间了。这时候，一个女孩进来了。她看起来也很紧张。
Tā qù xǐshǒujiān le. Zhè shíhou, yí ge nǚhái jìnlai le. Tā kàn qǐlai yě hěn jǐnzhāng.
He went to the washroom. Just then, a young woman came in. She looked very nervous too.

她站在门口，左看右看。我问她："你在等人吗？"
Tā zhàn zài ménkǒu, zuǒ kàn yòu kàn. Wǒ wèn tā: "Nǐ zài děng rén ma?"
She stood at the door, looking left and right. I asked her: "Are you waiting for someone?"

她说："对，一个我不认识的男人。他要是很无聊，怎么办？"
Tā shuō: "Duì, yí ge wǒ bú rènshi de nánrén. Tā yàoshi hěn wúliáo, zěnme bàn?"
She said: "Yes, a man I don't know. What if he's boring?"

我知道是他！太太看着我，小声说："别说话！"你觉得我说了吗？
Wǒ zhīdào shì tā! Tàitai kànzhe wǒ, xiǎoshēng shuō: "Bié shuōhuà!" Nǐ juéde wǒ shuōle ma?
I knew it was him! My wife looked at me and whispered: "Don't say a word!" Do you think I said anything?

当然说了。"别担心，他人很好。他还有花给你，红色的。"
Dāngrán shuō le. "Bié dānxīn, tā rén hěn hǎo. Tā hái yǒu huā gěi nǐ, hóngsè de."
Of course I did. "Don't worry, he's a nice guy. And he has flowers for you. Red ones."

她问："您怎么知道？"我说："北京人什么都知道。"
Tā wèn: "Nín zěnme zhīdào?" Wǒ shuō: "Běijīng rén shénme dōu zhīdào."
She asked: "How do you know?" I said: "Beijingers know everything."

她笑了，不紧张了。这时候，年轻人回来了。
Tā xiào le, bù jǐnzhāng le. Zhè shíhou, niánqīng rén huílai le.
She laughed, and she wasn't nervous anymore. Just then, the young man came back.

他把红色的花给了她。他们说说笑笑，吃了两个小时。
Tā bǎ hóngsè de huā gěile tā. Tāmen shuōshuō xiàoxiào, chīle liǎng ge xiǎoshí.
He gave her the red flowers. They talked and laughed over dinner for two hours.

我们也吃了两个小时。太太想回家，我说："再来一个菜！"
Wǒmen yě chīle liǎng ge xiǎoshí. Tàitai xiǎng huí jiā, wǒ shuō: "Zài lái yí ge cài!"
We ate for two hours too. My wife wanted to go home. I said: "One more dish!"

他们走的时候，女孩对我说："叔叔，谢谢您！"
Tāmen zǒu de shíhou, nǚhái duì wǒ shuō: "Shūshu, xièxie nín!"
When they left, the young woman said to me: "Thank you, sir!"

年轻人看看她，又看看我："你们认识？"
Niánqīng rén kànkan tā, yòu kànkan wǒ: "Nǐmen rènshi?"
The young man looked at her, then at me: "You two know each other?"

上个星期六，我们又去了那个小饭馆。那个年轻人也在，手里又拿着红色的花。你猜，他今天要做什么？

Shàng ge xīngqīliù, wǒmen yòu qùle nàge xiǎo fànguǎn. Nàge niánqīng rén yě zài, shǒu li yòu názhe hóngsè de huā. Nǐ cāi, tā jīntiān yào zuò shénme?

Last Saturday, we went back to that little restaurant. The young man was there, with red flowers in his hand again. Guess what he was there to do?

我问："又是第一次见面？"他笑了："不是。还是她。今天我要跟她求婚。"

Wǒ wèn: "Yòu shì dì yī cì jiànmiàn?" Tā xiào le: "Bú shì. Háishi tā. Jīntiān wǒ yào gēn tā qiúhūn."

I asked: "Another first date?" He laughed: "No. It's still her. Today I'm asking her to marry me."

"叔叔，这次请您别先告诉她！"

"Shūshu, zhè cì qǐng nín bié xiān gàosu tā!"

"And this time, sir, please don't tell her first!"

Words in the story

爱情故事
àiqíng gùshi
love story

小饭馆
xiǎo fànguǎn
a small restaurant

年轻人
niánqīng rén
young man, young person

红色的花
hóngsè de huā
red flowers

紧张
jǐnzhāng
nervous

第一次见面
dì yī cì jiànmiàn
to meet for the first time

洗手间
xǐshǒujiān
washroom

女孩
nǚhái
girl, young woman

要是……怎么办?
yàoshi…… zěnme bàn?
what if...?

无聊
wúliáo
boring

小声说
xiǎoshēng shuō
to whisper

当然
dāngrán
of course

别担心
bié dānxīn
don't worry

叔叔
shūshu
uncle; how the young speak to a man of their parents' age

求婚
qiúhūn
to ask someone to marry you

别先告诉她
bié xiān gàosu tā
don't tell her first

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