The stinky tofu under my bed, a Chinese short story for HSK 2

Měi Líng's apartment smells of her stinky tofu dinner, and her neighbor thinks the toilet is broken. Will Měi Líng tell her the truth?

你喜欢臭豆腐吗？我有一个臭豆腐的故事！
Nǐ xǐhuan chòudòufu ma? Wǒ yǒu yí ge chòudòufu de gùshi!
Do you like stinky tofu? I have a stinky tofu story!

我很喜欢臭豆腐。它很臭，可是很好吃。
Wǒ hěn xǐhuan chòudòufu. Tā hěn chòu, kěshì hěn hǎochī.
I love stinky tofu. It smells very bad, but it tastes very good.

一天晚上，我买了一大盒臭豆腐，带回了家。
Yì tiān wǎnshang, wǒ mǎile yí dà hé chòudòufu, dài huíle jiā.
One evening I bought a big box of stinky tofu and took it home.

我吃了一半。很快，我家里都是臭豆腐的味道。
Wǒ chīle yíbàn. Hěn kuài, wǒ jiā li dōu shì chòudòufu de wèidao.
I ate half. Soon my whole home smelled like stinky tofu.

这时候，有人敲门。我开门一看……你猜！
Zhè shíhou, yǒu rén qiāo mén. Wǒ kāi mén yí kàn…… nǐ cāi!
Then someone knocked on my door. I opened it, and... guess who it was!

是我的邻居张奶奶。她很担心。
Shì wǒ de línjū Zhāng nǎinai. Tā hěn dānxīn.
It was my neighbor, Grandma Zhāng. She was worried.

她说：“美玲，好臭啊！我觉得你家的厕所坏了！”
Tā shuō: “Měi Líng, hǎo chòu a! Wǒ juéde nǐ jiā de cèsuǒ huài le!”
She said: “Měi Líng, something smells so bad! I think your toilet is broken!”

我不好意思说那是我的晚饭。所以我说：“是吗？我没闻到。”
Wǒ bù hǎoyìsi shuō nà shì wǒ de wǎnfàn. Suǒyǐ wǒ shuō: “Shì ma? Wǒ méi wéndào.”
I was too embarrassed to say it was my dinner. So I said: “Really? I don't smell anything.”

她说：“别担心，我给你叫师傅。”我能说什么呢？
Tā shuō: “Bié dānxīn, wǒ gěi nǐ jiào shīfu.” Wǒ néng shuō shénme ne?
She said: “Don't worry. I'll call the repairman.” What could I say?

我只有十分钟。我先打开了窗户。
Wǒ zhǐ yǒu shí fēnzhōng. Wǒ xiān dǎkāile chuānghu.
I had ten minutes. First I opened the windows.

然后，不能让师傅看见盒子！你猜，我把它放在哪儿了？
Ránhòu, bù néng ràng shīfu kànjiàn hézi! Nǐ cāi, wǒ bǎ tā fàng zài nǎr le?
Then: the repairman must not see the box! Guess where I put it?

在我的床下面。
Zài wǒ de chuáng xiàmiàn.
Under my bed.

师傅来了。他看厕所看了很久。厕所没问题。
Shīfu lái le. Tā kàn cèsuǒ kànle hěn jiǔ. Cèsuǒ méi wèntí.
The repairman came. He looked at the toilet for a long time. The toilet was fine.

他又看了厨房。厨房也没问题。
Tā yòu kànle chúfáng. Chúfáng yě méi wèntí.
He looked at the kitchen. The kitchen was fine too.

然后，他慢慢走到我的房间。他说：“味道是从这儿来的。”
Ránhòu, tā mànmàn zǒu dào wǒ de fángjiān. Tā shuō: “Wèidao shì cóng zhèr lái de.”
Then he walked slowly to my room. He said: “The smell is coming from here.”

他看了看床下面，拿出了那个盒子。
Tā kànle kàn chuáng xiàmiàn, ná chūle nàge hézi.
He looked under the bed, and he took out the box.

没有人说话。我们三个人都看着那个盒子。
Méiyǒu rén shuōhuà. Wǒmen sān ge rén dōu kànzhe nàge hézi.
Nobody said anything. All three of us looked at the box.

我用很小的声音说：“那是……我的晚饭。”
Wǒ yòng hěn xiǎo de shēngyīn shuō: “Nà shì…… wǒ de wǎnfàn.”
I said, very quietly: “That's... my dinner.”

师傅笑了。张奶奶没有笑。她打开盒子，慢慢吃了一块。
Shīfu xiào le. Zhāng nǎinai méiyǒu xiào. Tā dǎkāi hézi, mànmàn chīle yí kuài.
The repairman laughed. Grandma Zhāng did not laugh. She opened the box and ate one piece, slowly.

然后她看着我说：“不够臭。”
Ránhòu tā kànzhe wǒ shuō: “Bú gòu chòu.”
Then she looked at me and said: “Not stinky enough.”

Words in the story

臭豆腐
chòudòufu
stinky tofu

臭
chòu
smelly, stinky

盒子
hézi
a box

味道
wèidao
a smell (also a taste)

敲门
qiāo mén
to knock on the door

邻居
línjū
neighbor

担心
dānxīn
worried; to worry

厕所
cèsuǒ
toilet, bathroom

坏了
huài le
broken

不好意思
bù hǎoyìsi
embarrassed, too shy to

闻到
wéndào
to smell (something)

师傅
shīfu
a repairman (a polite word for a skilled worker)

窗户
chuānghu
window

床下面
chuáng xiàmiàn
under the bed

拿出
ná chū
to take out

声音
shēngyīn
a voice, a sound

不够
bú gòu
not enough

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/the-stinky-tofu-under-my-bed