Who is Chéngzi? A Chinese short story for HSK 2

Every Sunday, Hán Tāo's mom calls to ask if he has a girlfriend. One Sunday he says: “I live with Chéngzi.” What will his mom think?

你妈妈喜欢问问题吗？我妈妈非常喜欢！
Nǐ māma xǐhuan wèn wèntí ma? Wǒ māma fēicháng xǐhuan!
Does your mom like asking questions? Mine loves it!

我三十五岁了，还没结婚。我住在成都，跟我的猫一起住，它叫橙子。
Wǒ sānshíwǔ suì le, hái méi jiéhūn. Wǒ zhù zài Chéngdū, gēn wǒ de māo yìqǐ zhù, tā jiào Chéngzi.
I'm thirty-five and not married yet. I live in Chéngdū with my cat. Her name is Chéngzi.

我妈妈每个星期天都给我打电话。
Wǒ māma měi ge xīngqītiān dōu gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà.
My mom calls me every Sunday.

她总是问同一个问题：“有女朋友了吗？”我说没有，她就说一个小时。
Tā zǒngshì wèn tóng yí ge wèntí: “Yǒu nǚpéngyou le ma?” Wǒ shuō méiyǒu, tā jiù shuō yí ge xiǎoshí.
She always asks the same question: “Do you have a girlfriend yet?” I say no, and she talks about it for an hour.

有一个星期天，我很累。她问：“你还是一个人住吗？”我说：“不是，我跟橙子一起住。”你猜，她说什么？
Yǒu yí ge xīngqītiān, wǒ hěn lèi. Tā wèn: “Nǐ háishi yí ge rén zhù ma?” Wǒ shuō: “Bú shì, wǒ gēn Chéngzi yìqǐ zhù.” Nǐ cāi, tā shuō shénme?
One Sunday I was tired. She asked: “Are you still living alone?” I said: “No, I live with Chéngzi.” Guess what she said?

她说：“橙子！名字真好听！你怎么不告诉我？”她太高兴了。
Tā shuō: “Chéngzi! Míngzi zhēn hǎotīng! Nǐ zěnme bú gàosu wǒ?” Tā tài gāoxìng le.
She said: “Chéngzi! What a pretty name! Why didn't you tell me?” She was so happy.

我想说：“妈，橙子是猫。”可是妈妈不喜欢猫，我一直没告诉她。
Wǒ xiǎng shuō: “Mā, Chéngzi shì māo.” Kěshì māma bù xǐhuan māo, wǒ yìzhí méi gàosu tā.
I wanted to say: “Mom, Chéngzi is a cat.” But my mom doesn't like cats, and I had never told her.

她已经开始问了：“她漂亮吗？”我说：“很漂亮。”“她会做饭吗？”我说：“不会，可是她很能吃。”
Tā yǐjīng kāishǐ wèn le: “Tā piàoliang ma?” Wǒ shuō: “Hěn piàoliang.” “Tā huì zuò fàn ma?” Wǒ shuō: “Bú huì, kěshì tā hěn néng chī.”
She was already asking: “Is she pretty?” I said: “Very pretty.” “Can she cook?” I said: “No. But she eats a lot.”

“她做什么工作？”我说：“她不工作，每天睡觉。”妈妈说：“没关系，你给她做饭就行。”
“Tā zuò shénme gōngzuò?” Wǒ shuō: “Tā bù gōngzuò, měi tiān shuìjiào.” Māma shuō: “Méi guānxi, nǐ gěi tā zuò fàn jiù xíng.”
“What does she do for work?” I said: “She doesn't work. She sleeps all day.” My mom said: “That's fine. You can cook for her.”

我想：下个星期天再告诉她吧。可是下个星期天，她还是那么高兴。我还是没说。
Wǒ xiǎng: xià ge xīngqītiān zài gàosu tā ba. Kěshì xià ge xīngqītiān, tā háishi nàme gāoxìng. Wǒ háishi méi shuō.
I thought: I'll tell her next Sunday. But the next Sunday she was still so happy. I still didn't tell her.

然后她说：“星期六回家吃饭吧，带橙子来！我想见见她。”你会怎么办？
Ránhòu tā shuō: “Xīngqīliù huí jiā chī fàn ba, dài Chéngzi lái! Wǒ xiǎng jiànjian tā.” Nǐ huì zěnme bàn?
Then she said: “Come home for dinner on Saturday, and bring Chéngzi! I want to meet her.” What would you do?

星期六，我去了爸爸妈妈家。橙子在我的包里。
Xīngqīliù, wǒ qùle bàba māma jiā. Chéngzi zài wǒ de bāo li.
On Saturday I went to my mom and dad's home. Chéngzi was in my bag.

妈妈开了门，看了看我后面，问：“橙子呢？”
Māma kāile mén, kànle kàn wǒ hòumiàn, wèn: “Chéngzi ne?”
My mom opened the door, looked behind me and asked: “Where's Chéngzi?”

我打开包。橙子出来了，看着我妈妈。
Wǒ dǎkāi bāo. Chéngzi chūlai le, kànzhe wǒ māma.
I opened the bag. Chéngzi came out and looked at my mom.

妈妈看着猫，很久没说话。
Māma kànzhe māo, hěn jiǔ méi shuōhuà.
My mom looked at the cat. For a long time she didn't say anything.

然后她问：“这是橙子？”我说：“对。很漂亮，很能吃，不工作。我说的都是真的。”
Ránhòu tā wèn: “Zhè shì Chéngzi?” Wǒ shuō: “Duì. Hěn piàoliang, hěn néng chī, bù gōngzuò. Wǒ shuō de dōu shì zhēn de.”
Then she asked: “This is Chéngzi?” I said: “Yes. Very pretty, eats a lot, doesn't work. Everything I said was true.”

爸爸笑了很久。妈妈没有笑。
Bàba xiàole hěn jiǔ. Māma méiyǒu xiào.
My dad laughed for a long time. My mom didn't laugh.

可是橙子走到妈妈那儿，坐在她的脚上。妈妈去了厨房，拿来了一条鱼。
Kěshì Chéngzi zǒu dào māma nàr, zuò zài tā de jiǎo shang. Māma qùle chúfáng, nálaile yì tiáo yú.
But Chéngzi walked over to my mom and sat on her feet. My mom went to the kitchen and came back with a fish.

现在妈妈还是每个星期天打电话。她先问：“橙子好吗？吃饭了吗？”然后呢？你猜！
Xiànzài māma háishi měi ge xīngqītiān dǎ diànhuà. Tā xiān wèn: “Chéngzi hǎo ma? Chī fàn le ma?” Ránhòu ne? Nǐ cāi!
Now my mom still calls every Sunday. First she asks: “How is Chéngzi? Has she eaten?” And then? Guess!

然后她问：“橙子有妈妈了吗？”
Ránhòu tā wèn: “Chéngzi yǒu māma le ma?”
Then she asks: “And does Chéngzi have a mom yet?”

Words in the story

结婚 jiéhūn *to get married*	猫 māo *cat*	橙子 Chéngzi *Chéngzi, the cat's name (it means orange, the fruit)*
打电话 dǎ diànhuà *to make a phone call*	总是 zǒngshì *always*	女朋友 nǚpéngyou *girlfriend*
一个人住 yí ge rén zhù *to live alone*	好听 hǎotīng *nice to hear, pretty (a name, a song)*	一直 yìzhí *all along, the whole time*
漂亮 piàoliang *pretty*	很能吃 hěn néng chī *eats a lot*	怎么办 zěnme bàn *what to do*
包 bāo *bag*	脚 jiǎo *foot, feet*	厨房 chúfáng *kitchen*

Hear this story from an AI chatbot: kotokin.com/learn/chinese/stories/who-is-chengzi