

An Amazing Panda Adventure

By Wendy Sun

There once was a girl named Lucy, who lived in China. Lucy loved animals, especially pandas. Her parents weren't too interested in animals though. They were more interested in her grades. Lucy was a girl who didn't do too well on her tests. If she asked for something such as a pet, her parents would frequently say that if she got a good grade on a test or report card, she could get it. Usually, when her parents said that, Lucy thought, "Oh! I just wish they would stop talking gibberish."

Lucy had a little brother who loved to get her into trouble. One time Lucy was trying to sneak out of the house and her brother caught her. She told him if he would not tell, she'd clean his room for a month. He didn't tell, but Lucy had tricked him. He tried to tell his mom later, but she didn't believe him. He never trusted Lucy again.

One day, Lucy got an F minus (F-) on her test. She felt horrible! Were her parents ever going to let her have anything again? She had never gotten such a bad grade! She tried to calm down, but couldn't. A lot of worried thoughts filled her mind. She was so stressed out that she couldn't take her mind off of it. The teacher walked to her desk to ask why she looked so stressed out. Lucy pointed to the grade and opened her mouth to speak, but no words came out. The teacher nodded and explained why Lucy got an F minus. Lucy was not convinced: How was she going to explain it to her parents? But the teacher had more to say, "If you can do well on your homework in the future, then I will change your grade."

"Blah, blah, blah, yadda, yadda, yadda, future," thought Lucy, "Is that all she says?"

Later in the day, the class went on a field trip to the Beijing Forest. Lucy lost her interest, so she didn't follow her classmates and got lost. While she was wandering around looking for her group, she heard a noise, as if someone was crying. As she stepped forward, the noise grew louder and louder.

Finally, she saw a baby panda crying. He looked at Lucy and pointed to a wounded panda. The injured panda was much bigger than the baby. Was this his mom? Lucy called for help as loud as she could, but it was helpless. She had to get them to a hospital quick! But how? Lucy motioned for them to wait. She looked around to see if there was anything or anyone that could help her. Lucy found a cell phone on the ground and dialed 9-1-1. She told the operator a panda was hurt and she was in the Beijing Forest. Lucy went back to the spot where she found the pandas. To her delight, they were still there! Three minutes later, Lucy heard a siren. The ambulance was here! The baby panda and his mom were safe in the hospital.

When Lucy returned home, she got a phone call asking if she would like to keep the baby panda. Lucy's answer was yes, but what would her parents say? Once Lucy told her mom and dad what happened, they agreed to let her have it, but with one condition: She HAS to keep up on her grades. Lucy's brother overheard the conversation and was so upset that he said he was going to get her. Lucy didn't worry about that though; she was so excited that nothing could upset her.

A few days later, the baby panda arrived. Lucy wanted to go to the store right away to buy the panda some bamboo shoots and a cage. When she was getting ready to go, the panda jumped into her pocket and laughed quietly. Once Lucy got to the store, she started searching for bamboo shoots and a cage. After she finished getting the items, Lucy reached into her pocket,

but there was no money. She tried her other pocket but pulled out her panda instead. Lucy realized that she forgot her purse! But Lucy's panda reached into his pocket and pulled out a twenty-dollar bill. Lucy gave the money to the clerk. On the way home, Lucy thanked the panda for giving her money. If he hadn't given her twenty dollars, she would be in big trouble!

Lucy attempted to feed the panda bamboo shoots at home, but he refused to eat. Instead, he crawled to the kitchen and tried to get some rice and chives from the dining table. Lucy helped him carry the food to his two-foot tall cage. Slowly and carefully, she put him and his food in the cage. The panda began devouring it quickly. Lucy also made a bed for the panda. After the delicious meal, he crawled onto his bed and slept. Lucy was so tired that she laid on her bed and drifted away in her sleep.

The next morning Lucy was alarmed to find the baby panda missing! The house key was also missing! In the cage, there was a note saying a mad scientist kidnapped the panda and hurt his mom who was trying to save the baby. There was no name on it. It just said: Love, Your Partner. Since it was a Saturday, all the scientists' offices were closed. Lucy decided to go there during the night. When the night finally came, Lucy got dressed and just as she was about to open the door, her brother caught her. Lucy begged him not to tell, but he just said that this would be the last time he would let her go and she had to clean his room for a month for real. He took a picture of her and left.

Lucy rushed out of the door. She ran all the way to the science building. Lucy was surprised to see a flashing red light shooting out from a window. Lucy went into the building. When she got to the floor from which the red light was coming, all she could see in the room was a crying panda and a flashing light. Once the baby panda saw her, he smiled, jumped off the table and into her pocket. Lucy and the panda were trying to escape when they heard footsteps growing louder and louder. Oh no! She was trapped with her shivering panda in her pocket. The stranger looked furious! He locked them in the office. What were they going to do?

Suddenly, the panda leaped out of Lucy's pocket and pushed a silver button on the wall with his pointer finger. The wall seemed to have slid in. Lucy and the panda decided to go in. She found out that it was a lab and the mad scientist's name was Dr. Sneakviel, but how was she going to tell the police? She found a solution very quickly: a phone. But when she tried to dial 9-1-1, the phone refused to work. She wondered why. The baby panda climbed up a chair and typed something onto the computer. He nodded at Lucy as if he wanted her to call again. Lucy dialed again. This time it worked!

The mad scientist who kidnapped the baby panda and injured his mother was arrested. Lucy's name hit the headlines in the newspapers. "I might as well start cleaning," Lucy said to herself. After saying that, Lucy found herself picking up a sock from underneath her brother's dresser: "A month-long cleaning adventure is ahead of me..."