

Don't Tell Daddy, Don't Tell Granny

1.

For some time past my Dad's car has been filled with waste paper.
It smells horrible in his car.
We have to sit in a crouched position because of the small space.

2.

Dad stops the car whenever he finds waste paper while driving.
Then, he puts the useless scrap paper in the car.
What happened to my dad?

3.

Dad always drives out at ten o'clock at night and comes back home in the middle of the night.
Mysteriously, he returns before midnight just like Cinderella.
I have no idea where he has been every night.

I was really curious.
Tonight, I sneaked into his car and followed him.

4.

Hiding in the car filled with waste paper, I almost sneezed.
My dad drove on a winding road for a while.
Then, the car entered a dark and narrow alley.
Where are we now?

5.

Dad opened the door and started to unload the waste paper from the car.
Oh, my goodness!
What am I going to do now?
I made myself small, sitting with my legs tightly together.
And then, I started counting to myself.
'One, two...'
"Kim Minji! What on earth are you doing here?"

Ugh, I only counted to two.....

I was caught.

6.

In a dark yard, I was able to vaguely see waste paper neatly piled up high.

Over there, there was a small room at the end of the yard.

7.

"Dad, where are we?"

"Well, an old lady lives here, who picks up waste paper."

"You mean the old lady who picks up the scrap paper on the streets?"

8.

"Minji, do you like grandma?"

"Grandma? My grandma? Of course, I like her."

"That's right. Minji likes Grandma. But, well, I didn't like my grandma."

9.

My grandma wore a plastic bag on her waist and wandered around to pick up empty bottles.

Village kids teased her by saying

"Dirty garbage granny! Dirty garbage granny!"

My grandma was ill every night and said,

"My back hurts! How painfully it hurts!"

I wouldn't even listen to her moaning.

When she called to me on the street,

I was ashamed of her and ran away.

But she put her crumpled money into my hand on my birthday.

She said, "My sweetheart, buy some books and pencils with this money for yourself."

10.

My dad didn't say anything while driving back home.

"Dad, how did you know the old lady who picks up waste paper?"

"I happened to see her pulling a handcart one night in the rain.
It seemed that she was in danger between the cars speeding so fast.
So I helped her pull the handcart.
She thanked me and grabbed me by the hand.
Then she gave me a handful of parched rice candies just like my grandma did to me."
Since that night, Dad has put waste paper in his car whenever he finds some on the roads.
He wanted to give it to the old lady.

"Dad, how come you give it to her in secret?"

"Well, just because..."

11.

A few days later, I sneaked in the old lady's yard again with my dad.
"Dad, can she pull the handcart safely if we hang this sign on here?"
"That would be much better!"
My dad tightly attached a glow-in-the-dark triangle sign to her handcart.
"Dad, please put this notice on, too."

Watch out!

An old lady is driving.

I made this notice to put on the handcart. I also covered it with a plastic cover to keep it dry in the rain.

12.

Suddenly, the lights in the old lady's room were turned on. "Who is there?"
"Oh, Min-ji. She is awake! Let's go quickly!" Dad held my hand and we ran, quietly but quickly.

"Dad, let's put some air in the tire of her handcart next time!"

"Oh, you noticed it, too?"

"Yes, I did, Dad."

13.

Wow! Dad and I telepathically shared the same thought._

14.

I went to the old lady's house with my dad again.

Dad and I pumped up the handcart tire secretly, not letting the granny be aware of it.

15.

In the dark night sky are parched rice candies twinkling