

The Ramen Thief

Level 1

3-5

It was a serene afternoon in the Wan family's house. That is until Mia discovered that someone had eaten her afternoon snack. To be specific, ramen.

"AHHHHH!" Mia screamed, "Who ate my ramen!", her high pitched voice pierced through the calm atmosphere. Even her dog, Rus, whimpered in fear.

"What's wrong?" her brother, Derek, called as he texted his friends while sitting in the living room. Mia marched into the living and pinched Derek by his ears and glared at his doe eyes, "Did you know that I wanted to have a snack this afternoon?" she asked vigorously.,

"When do you not want to have a snack?" Derek shrugged, "You have one in the morning, one in the afternoon, for all I know, you have a midnight snack!", he laughed at his joke.

Mia pinched his ear tighter and narrowed her eyes, "Did you eat my snack, DEREK!"

At that moment, their mother came in and her eyes widened. She instantly ran over to Derek and began fussing over him.

Mia knew that her mother would get angry soon so she snuck away carefully while her mother was distracted.

"Don't hurt your brother again!!" her mother screeched after her.

Derek smirked without his mother noticing. Rus tilted his small head at Derek.

Mia's mood was ruined. It may seem like a small deal for others, but for Mia, even a quarter of the ramen meant the world for her.

Mia frowned all afternoon and even through dinner.

Derek on the other hand was delighted. He laughed heartily and never stopped smiling.

As night came, Mia's anger slowly dissipated, but anyone who knew Mia would know that she was going to get revenge.

The next morning Mia got up feeling excited. She got up early and quickly ran downstairs. She knew that Derek was always up early. She carefully tip-toed down the stairs like a spy.

Derek sensed someone coming, but he assumed that it was his mom. When Mia placed her hand on his shoulder, Derek still thought it was his mother.

"Did you eat my ramen?" Mia whispered, "Did you?"

Derek was so scared that he began punching Mia while screaming, "GHOST! MOM! Help!", Mia fell onto the ground dramatically as soon as she heard footsteps nearing them.

“Derek? Mia? What are you doing up so early?” their mom asked. “Go back to sleep!”

Both siblings stared incredulously at their mom. Derek was silently laughing, but Mia was annoyed.

Annoyed at her mother for always favoring Derek, annoyed at Derek for being so sly.

“Rus, you’re the only one who understands me...” Mia sighed as she groomed Rus. “Why can’t I be a dog like you?”

“Lunch is ready,” her dad announced as he entered her room, “Your mom made spaghetti and meatballs! Your favorite!”

“That’s Derek’s favorite, Dad!” Mia heaved, “I thought you knew that I like eggs and tomato noodles!”

Her dad scratched his head before repeating, “Lunch is ready!”

“Dang it!” Mia complained,

After lunch, Mia continued to groom Rus, she started finding crumbs all over his caramel fur.

Mia knew what was in Rus’s fur. She could smell this from around the world. Mia examined the crumbs carefully one last time before exclaiming, “RUS! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ATE MY RAMEN!”