

A Day as a Panda

I woke up. I looked in the mirror. I saw a panda looking directly into my eyes. I was freaked out. How could I become a panda!

I immediately called my Daddy to my room. He almost got a heart attack. "What on earth did you do?" He yelled. "I really don't know!" I cried. "Dad, what shall I do now?" Dad thought awhile and said "If you actually get the time to be a panda, why not be one! Let's immediately let the Calgary Zoo know!"

When he just called 911, the police officers came to our house. The officers kept on asking Daddy where I was from. Daddy said that a panda came to his house itself, but the officer wouldn't believe him at all. They put me in a huge cage and brought me to the panda place at the zoo.

A panda hugged me. "Welcome, my new friend!" he said loudly to me. I couldn't believe my ears at all. I could understand what the panda said. I realized I could understand Pandas' language because I was a panda too! They gave me some bamboo sprouts for the welcome treats, and I was totally grossed out. "Who eats this type of food?" But I decided to try it. "Not bad at all!" At this moment, I remembered that I was a panda, not a human currently. Bamboo sprouts were the favorite food of pandas.

The Pandas introduced themselves to me. They were the family of four: Da Mao, the Daddy panda, Er Shun, the Mommy panda, Jia Pan

Pan and Jia Yue Yue, the baby twins. They gave me a panda name called Jia Mei Mei. That means Canada beautiful.

Daddy and Mommy pandas were from China, just liked my parents. They told me that their hometown was in the beautiful forests in Sichuan, China. There was the ocean of bamboo. It was like paradise there! I hoped that I could go there someday in the future! The baby twins were born in Canada, just liked my younger sister and me. This was why both their names had a “Jia” (the first word of Canada in Chinese name) inside.

The pandas told me that they didn't come to Canada just for fun. They came Canada with big responsibilities. “What is it?” I asked curiously. “Me and my family came to help Canadian know more about China. You see, Canada built an amazing Panda Passage for us. We’re so lucky!” Daddy panda said proudly. “We hope we are the symbol of China and Canada's friendship.” They told me the baby twins were leaving in one year and half, while the parents were staying until 2023. I hope they could stay longer. I knew lots of people from all over Canada to watch Pandas every year. They want to see these amazing creatures which only China has.

The life of a panda was not bad. So many visitors were there each day! Pandas were very shy, so when people saw them, most of the time they showed you their back. Everyone knows that pandas are cute, but they are also very dangerous. A swipe of their fierce paw can bring you

to heaven. Do not worry, they just want to protect themselves. They are very gentle most of time.

At 5:00, the zoo was going to be closed. The visitors were all so sad to leave, especially the kids. “See you next time.” “I will be back next week.” the visitors waved to say bye-bye to us.

“Finally, dinner time!” Jia Pan Pan yelled. The dinner was a nice bunch of bamboo sprouts. I wondered where the zookeepers got those fresh, delicious sprouts from.

Time for bed! This day was so tiring! I felt asleep quickly.

“Hey! Wake up!” I heard a familiar sound calling out to me. I found that it was my Mom waking me up. That moment, I noticed that I was on my bed hugging the little panda plush that my mom bought for me when we visited the zoo last time. He looked just like Jia Pan Pan! I realized I had a dream. Oh, how I missed Jia Pan Pan and the other pandas!

“Mom, can we go to the Calgary Zoo this weekend?” I asked. “I really miss the pandas! Let’s go to Panda Passage again!” Guess what! Mom said yes!

The thirty-minute driving from my home to the zoo was full of excitement. On the whole way, I was asking mom “Are we there?” every five minutes. We were finally there!

For the first time, all the pandas walked to the glass window and acted like they’d seen me or that we were long lost friends. They each gave me a small smile and put their black noses to the glass. When we

left, I could feel a tear coming out of their eyes. "Let's leave." I said sadly. "See you guys next time when I come! Don't forget your human friend! Good bye!" I whispered. My mom was scared. What was she doing?

From this experience, I learned that any type of animal could communicate and become friends, no matter which country they came from and what the culture background they had before. This was one of my greatest experiences and adventures.