

Abroad

"Today is the thirtieth day of the last month of the lunar calendar, and family reunion, sitting around the table, eating a bowl of steaming hot dumplings, is the warmest time of this cold night."

"Yes, dear audience. Where are you celebrating the New Year now? No matter how far you go, don't forget to go home..."

It is 7 a.m., and the laptop is replaying the video of the Chinese Spring Festival Gala the night before. Lee is having breakfast. The lively singing and dancing sounds in the video are like background music. Lee does not have time to concentrate too much on watching the video. She will review the test later because there is an important mid-term test in the afternoon. However, now she suddenly stops eating and listens to the host's words in a daze: "No matter how far you go, don't forget to go home..."

Her eyes suddenly turned red, tears quickly gathered in her eyes, and immediately dropped on the dining table. Lee calculated the time difference between Canada and China in her mind. Now it should be 8 p.m. Chinese time. She takes a deep breath, wipes the tears off her face, and opens the WeChat to facetime with her Mother.

"Dear, what's the matter? Are you tired of studying?" Lee's mother's face appears on Lee's mobile phone.

"I'm all right. I just miss you a little, and I have a test in the afternoon."

"Well, I do not want to disturb you. Let's stop talking. You have to study hard."

"Mom..." Lee actually wants to say something, but now she does not want to say it.

Lee says goodbye to her mother, and her tears seem to gather again in her eyes. She glances at the happy acts on her laptop, swiftly turns off the video, throws a few mouthfuls into her mouth, and begins to pick up books to review. Everything seems to have never happened. Only a few tears that fell on the table at that time shows Lee's mood.

"Ah, nobody misses me." Lee thought, "maybe I'm sentimental."

In Chinese tradition, reunion with family on New Year's Eve, while eating dumplings, watching the Spring Festival Gala is the happiest time of the year. Old people will look at the harmonious family with great pleasure; young people will put down the tiredness of working for a year and relax their mood; and young children will wear new clothes and excitedly hold red envelopes in their hands - the money was given to the younger generation by their elders, with the intention of blessing in the new year. Home will be very lively; everyone's face will be filled with happy smiles.

However, Lee, a Canadian student who grew up in China, has not gone home for four years to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Since the calendar algorithm of China is different from that of Canada, and there is a time difference of 13 hours. When Chinese New Year comes, it happens that Lee's mid-term tests come in succession. At the busiest time, it is not that Lee does not want to go home, it is that she has to stay in Canada to continue her studies.

Lee has been in Canada for almost four years. When she first came, she was only 16 years old. Lee's English was not good at that time. It could be said that it was very terrible. In fact, she is introverted, a little timid and inferior, and does not like to talk to others. However, she is very self-reliant. When she finds that she cannot overcome a difficulty, she does not like to seek help from others. She will constantly give herself psychological hints and tell herself that she is indestructible because years of growth experience tell herself that everything needs to be solved by herself.

When she was only one year old, she was sent to a homestay by her parents. Then, in kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and high school, she has been living in the dormitory of the school, during which she even changed three different cities to live alone. Both Lee's parents felt that her growing up experience could quickly adapt to a person's life abroad, even Lee also felt that way.

However, when she arrived in Canada, she found that everything was different. Lee's

first three years were in high school in Hamilton. At that time, she had no friends, her English was poor, and she often felt afraid to live in Hamilton. When she first went out to take the bus, she left a shadow on her mind.

In China, when taking buses, passengers get on at the front door and get off at the back door, and drivers stop at every stop. Canada is different. Passengers can get on and off every door, but they have to wait for the last passengers to get off before getting on. Because of this cultural difference, when a bus stopped in front of Lee, Lee got on the bus directly from the front door and just stepped up the steps, she was scolded by the driver: "Get out of here! You are so rude..." Lee panicked and did not know what she had done wrong. She could not even fully understand the driver's words. She could feel that a lot of people were looking at her on the bus. Meanwhile, Lee felt that the sight stabbed at her like many sharp swords, and the driver was like a robber who took away her shield. Hiddenly, Lee also heard other people talking about "Chinese... so rude..."

For all the difficulties Lee has experienced, this seemed probably not a serious matter. After a few weeks, Lee was able to talk about it in a chat without any obstacles, but only she knows how much energy she spent to hold back her tears. She did not want people to talk about "Chinese" anymore. She wanted to explain, but she did not know how to express it in English. Finally, she can only say: "sorry."

In four years of living in Canada, Lee learned many things, she felt that there will be many difficulties in her life, and no one would accompany her all the time. Even though she often feels lonely, she must be a strong person.