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Ryokan Life sample
NOT FOR SALE

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Ryokan Life
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1. Where are the guests?

Yuka Nakata is a university student. She studies English. Her university is in Tokyo. Yuka is from a small town near Kyoto. In the town, her family own a ryokan. A ryokan is a Japanese-style hotel. Her family's ryokan is very old. Many tourists stay in the ryokan. Summer is very busy, so Yuka helps her family in the ryokan. Some tourists are from other countries, so Yuka talks to them in English. Yuka likes working at the ryokan. She can meet many people, and she can practice her English.

Now, it is August. Yuka is talking to two guests from Australia. The guests are a young man and a young woman. Their names are Ian and Kate.

"Good morning," says Yuka. "What are you going to do today?"

"We are going to go sightseeing in the town," says the man. "Yesterday, we went to Kyoto City, but there were many people. We want to go to a quiet place today. So, we are going to look around the town."

Yuka looks out of the window. "Now, it is very hot and sunny. But later, it will be very windy and rainy. Please take care."

Ian smiles. "It's OK. We will be fine! We will come back around five o'clock. Can we eat dinner around seven?"

"Sure, I will bring you dinner at seven. You can tell me about your day. Have a good time!" says Yuka.

That day, Yuka is very busy. She cleans the rooms, and she helps her mother and the chef prepare food. At around 3:00pm, she looks out of the window. The sky is grey. The wind is strong. It is raining.

It is windy outside, she thinks. Are Ian and Kate OK?

A group of guests comes to check in. Yuka is very busy. She doesn't have time to think about Ian and Kate. After the guests check in, Yuka goes to the kitchen. Her mother and the chef are preparing food.

"Do you need any help?" she asks.

"Yes, please," says the chef. "Can you make the miso soup? There are many guests today."

Yuka makes the soup. There are no windows in the kitchen, so she can't see the weather. After she makes the soup, she helps her mother make some vegetable dishes. Then, she goes out of the kitchen and into the lobby.

She looks out of the window. "Oh no! There is a storm! It is like a typhoon!" The rain and wind are very strong. The sky is dark. She looks at the clock. It is 5:30pm.

She goes to the front desk. She asks the man on the front desk, "Did the Australian man and woman come back?"

"No, not yet," says the man.

"I am worried," says Yuka. "The weather is very bad."

"Maybe they will come back soon," says the man. "The museum closes at five thirty. Maybe they went to the museum."

Yuka helps her mother take food to the guests' rooms. She is very busy. When she stops, she looks at the time. It is 7:30pm. She goes to Ian and Kate's room and knocks on the door. There is no answer. She knocks again.

They are not back yet. Something is wrong. Where did they go today? she thinks.

Yuka goes into the room. She looks at the table. There are some tourist pamphlets on the table. She picks up one of the pamphlets.

Oh no! The temple on the mountain! she thinks. *They went to the big temple on the mountain! The weather is very bad. The mountain is dangerous!*

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