



# Paley the Petrified

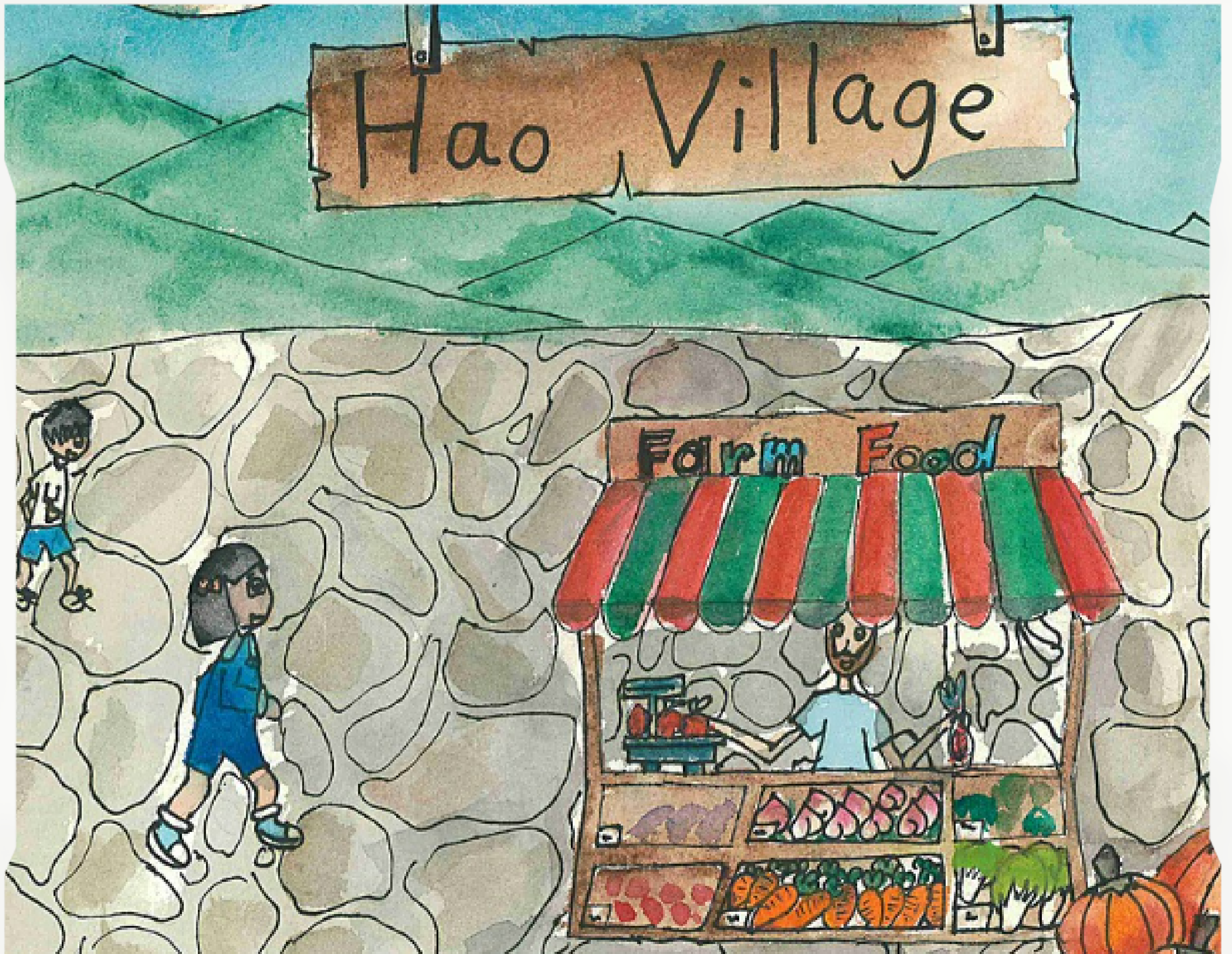


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CANVA STORIES

The sound of laughter filled the air as children ran down the cobbled streets. The smell of fruits and vegetables wafted through the air from the stalls in the village. Hao Village was Paley's safe haven. This was especially significant to Paley as she was a petrified girl.



Her blood ran cold when she crossed the bridge over the river outside Hao. She shook like a leaf when a bee flew past. Her legs wobbled when sharp icicles formed on roofs in winter. Out of all her fears, Paley felt most frightened when she learnt of her brother Plato's illness.

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His face lost its colour and her heart sank seeing Plato in this state. She spent her days wondering how she could comfort him. As she was boiling tea for Plato, she overheard a conversation between her father and Dr. Wang. "It's too dangerous!" father hissed.

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"It's the only cure," Dr. Wang muttered. Paley pressed her ear against the room divider. "I must not put you at risk. It's not right," father murmured. "The laboratory in the cave outside Hao is the only place that holds medicine for Plato," the doctor advised. Instantaneously, the teapot finished boiling.



Paley carefully poured its contents into a porcelain cup. She placed the herbal tea on Plato's bedside table. Poor Plato's cheeks were sunken. Paley thought, "If father won't allow the staff to retrieve the medicine, then surely he wouldn't permit me to do it. I must do it in secret."

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CANVA STORIES

Paley cried when she went to the pool, she screamed when she saw bees, and she hid when chefs chopped ginger with their knives, but the fear of losing her brother was greater. Her breathing was hard as she snuck out of the house and went past Hao's walls.



Paley's hands shook as she crossed the bridge but before she knew it, her foot landed on the other side of the water. An ominous cave stood not far away. Paley entered and immediately noticed a turbulent river roaring before her. "I can do this for Plato," she gulped.

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CANVA STORIES

She hauled a piece of driftwood onto the water and held on for dear life. She was suddenly surrounded by bees. Scared out of her wits, Paley plunged into the river. She was out of reach from the swarm. She propelled through the water and made it to the other side.

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CANVA STORIES

In her peripheral vision, arrows from a trap hurtled towards her! Paley grabbed the driftwood which washed ashore. The arrows did not hit Paley as they hit the driftwood instead. Paley was in a cold sweat as she stumbled towards the laboratory. Glass beakers surrounded her, and a single tube of liquid sat on a table.



"This must be it," gasped Paley. She spotted a rope ladder and climbed back to surface. Paley returned home and Plato took the medication. His skin was no longer pale. "Thanks," Plato croaked. Paley learnt to be courageous and to overcome her fears.