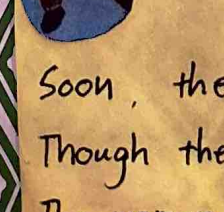
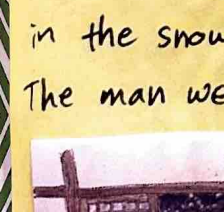
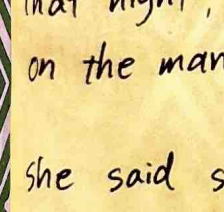


The crane spread its wings and disappeared into the snowy sky. The man never imagined that this small act of kindness would change his life.

Once upon a time, a poor but kind man lived alone in the mountains. One winter day, he found a crane trapped in a hunter's net. Feeling sorry for the bird, the man carefully freed it and let it fly away.

The Crane's Return of a Favor

(Tsuru no Ongeshi)

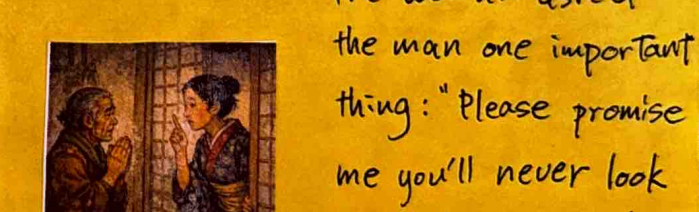


(P1)

The man was left alone once again, but he never forgot the crane's return of a favor - or the importance of keeping promises.

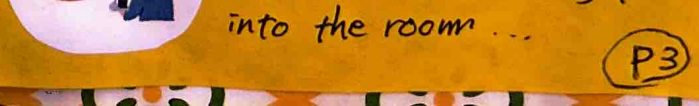
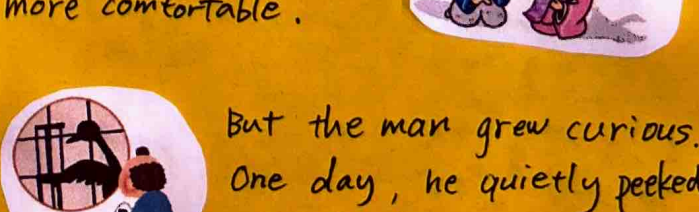
Because he broke his promise, the crane could no longer stay. She thanked him for his kindness and flew away into the sky.

Inside, he saw a crane pulling out her own feathers and weaving them into cloth. The woman was the crane he had saved long ago.



That night, a young woman knocked on the man's door.

She said she had lost her way in the snow and asked for shelter. The man welcomed her into his house.



(P2)

The woman asked the man one important thing: "Please promise me you'll never look into the room while I am weaving."

The man agreed. After several days, the woman gave him a beautiful piece of cloth. It was sold for a high price, and their life became more comfortable.

But the man grew curious. One day, he quietly peeked into the room...

(P3)