

SUSIE'S FAMILY STORY

by June.w



Christmas Eve of 2020.

A book was born to be,

Inspired by the warmth of Christmas cheer,

Susie's family came to me.

I hope this story spreads joy and light,

To children far and near,

Bringing love and warmth to every heart,

A gift throughout the year.

-June W





PART.018

SEASON 1, EPISODE 10: WHEN SUSIE MET MATRIX

TANYA's Warm-Up Exercises (Goals-Setting Training) (Part 3) REPORTS 2021.1.1 – 2021.1.8: New Year's First Week

The production period is drawing nearer, and while Susie's body feels a bit heavy, there's also a sense of life blossoming within her. It's a peculiar and wonderful feeling. Susie's mother called, expressing her intention to come and live with her to provide care. However, due to the ongoing epidemic, Susie thought it would be best for everyone to minimize contact. She still has a lot of work to tackle this week. Her focus is on identifying problems related to her goals and continuously practicing a sense of security during meditation.

Susie now feels like the happiest pregnant woman in the world. With the weekly guidance from Eggshell's teacher and her consistent practice, she used to think it was just her and her small shop against the world. Now, she's beginning to realize that life holds more possibilities.

Her goal book is prominently displayed in the store, and whenever she has a spare moment, she reviews it. Lawyer Eggshell mentioned yesterday that, in addition to studying law, he also delved into psychology during college. He explained that our brains tend to favor the familiar, and familiarity gives us a comforting feeling.

Therefore, regularly reviewing our daily goals is akin to becoming familiar with the inventory in the store; it embeds them in our subconscious, and our brains naturally find pathways to achieve them. Susie finds this approach quite fitting. Lately, her attention has been laser-focused on achieving her 2021 goals and beyond, making the challenges of life seem less daunting.

The biggest problem Susie faces is the modest daily turnover at her store, which amounts to only a few hundred dollars. Her goal is to double the store's sales for the coming year so that Grandpa Ken can pay off his house loan faster. However, her due date is fast approaching on the 28th of this month, and she can't be at the store all the time. She's also anxious about the possibility of unexpected health issues.

Dr. Rita, her obstetrician, has always been supportive and has offered to hospitalize Susie immediately if she experiences any discomfort after the 2nd of the month, providing easy access to medical care. Therefore, she plans to leave the store on the 22nd, leaving Grandpa Ken to find a temporary replacement.

Susie won't be able to return to work until the end of February. She hopes Paul, her husband, can return to town by March. Paul has already inquired if Susie would like him to return earlier, but she declined. She has been working hard during these months, and Paul also earned income from his Christmas job. Susie had a discussion with Grandma Lucy, their neighbor, about preparing extra meals for her return, so she doesn't have to cook alone. She's ready to cover the expenses and provide remuneration. Grandma Lucy is a delightful grandma, and due to the pandemic, she couldn't spend Christmas and New Year with her daughter.



Susie mulled over this for a while but realized she only had from today, the 2nd, until the 22nd—just 20 days to assist Grandpa Ken with a lot of work. Grandpa Ken isn't tech-savvy, so Susie handles various tasks, including accounting, tax calculations, inventory management, and document preparation. Susie believes she can still be of assistance even when she's not physically at the store. Grandpa Ken will need to bring her the computer, and during this time, Susie plans to complete all the necessary paperwork. She intends to consult Eggshell's lawyer on the 8th for advice on finding a solution within these 20 days.

As Susie's determination to achieve her goals intensifies, she's also pondering the most significant challenges facing Grandpa Ken's store as it strives to double its sales in the upcoming year. Additionally, she's considering the biggest obstacle to Paul's return.

Susie has noticed that customers no longer leave their receipts behind, so she stores them herself, knowing they could still come in handy. While working on a customer's bill, she had an epiphany and jotted down the word "epidemic" with her pen. The pandemic has led to significant changes in the shopping habits of small-town residents.

Closures are frequent, prompting people to stock up from larger supermarkets, treating it almost like wartime rationing. As a result, small local stores, like Grandpa Ken's, have seen a sharp decline in sales. The pandemic has also impacted the wood processing factory where Paul used to work, as it had to halt production. Susie continued to reflect on the situation and whether there were any other challenges she hadn't considered.

As Eggshell's lawyer advised, she needed to list all the problems she could think of. So, she did just that, and more reasons emerged. One issue was that Grandpa Ken's store didn't offer delivery services, unlike the larger supermarkets. Due to the epidemic, many people now needed assistance to collect their purchases, contributing to the decrease in sales. Susie highlighted these issues in her goal book, following the homework set by Lawyer Eggshell this week. It made her chuckle, as she hadn't been this dedicated to homework since high school. But two reasons weren't sufficient. Susie continued marking her goal book, with the aim of having Paul return to work officially on March 21, two months from now. This way, Susie might still have an income that would enable her to send the child to a nearby daycare. Thus, her top priority was to expedite Paul's return to work.

However, the sudden outbreak had disrupted everyone's life, making it a daunting challenge. Despite the challenges, Susie remained determined to identify all the problems during the week, reflecting on her aunt's steadfast approach to problem-solving. She reminded herself of the doctor's meticulous examinations, a reminder from Eggshell's lawyer. Susie was committed to completing this task.

Lawyer Eggshell assigned her a task, providing only a few detailed reminders. He stressed that true security came from within oneself and encouraged Susie to cultivate a sense of security. She found this advice exceptional and noted it down in her goal book using a red pen from the supermarket. As the afternoon rolled on, the store witnessed a gradual increase in customers, mostly familiar faces—long-standing residents who had known Susie for several years. They empathized with her approaching due date and admired her dedication, often helping themselves to items from the small warehouse when shelves ran empty. Susie marveled at their kindness and the sense of community that surrounded her. She believed in the innate goodness of most people.

Later in the afternoon, Grandpa Ken arrived to relieve Susie, offering her a feast of her favorite salmon rice balls, grilled chicken wings, oranges for pregnant women, and various fruit platters. Grandpa Ken gifted her daily, and they shared dinner together before Susie headed home before dark.

