

Name _____

The Crane Wife



This timeless story begins with a poor, kind-hearted man named Yasunari. Yasunari lived alone by the sea, making his living as a fisherman. Despite his meager existence, he was content and always willing to help those in need.

One cold winter's night, while Yasunari was repairing his fishing nets by the moonlight, he heard a soft, melodic song. Following the enchanting tune, he stumbled upon a beautiful white crane caught in his nets. The crane's feathers glistened in the pale moonlight, and its eyes held a deep, sorrowful gaze.

Filled with compassion, Yasunari carefully freed the crane from his net and watched it soar into the night sky. As the crane flew away, a single feather fell to the ground. Yasunari picked it up and noticed it was not just any feather—it was a pure white feather of extraordinary beauty.

The following day, Yasunari returned to his daily routine of fishing but found that he was unable to catch any fish. Days turned into weeks, and still, his nets remained empty. Frustration gnawed at him, and he began to worry about his future. Then, one evening, as Yasunari sat by the shore, a beautiful woman appeared before him. She was dressed in elegant white robes, and her grace was unmatched. Yasunari recognized her immediately—it was the crane he had rescued.