

# A Story About Pu'er Tea Delivery



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Illustrated by Tanya and her Daughters

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## Chapter 1: Are They Ready Yet?

“Are they ready yet?” the fourteen year old boy asked his mom.

“Not yet. Do you remember what I told you?” the mom asked him.

“Wait until there’s one new tiny leaf and two new bigger leaves,” the boy’s younger sister answered.

“Good, now do you remember what that one little leaf is called?” she asked.

“The bud,” the boy answered. “See, I know just as much as you do about our tea,” he told his sister and gave her a look.

The sister and brother were part of a family of Pu'er tea growers and pickers. Their family had picked leaves from these trees for hundreds of years. Their small village was in the Yi Wu mountains, one of six famous mountains in Yunnan that are full of Pu'er trees. This was the the boy's favorite time of year, the first picking season of the Pu'er trees.

With the spring air, the trees grew fast and soon they were ready to get picked. Some of them were more like bushes than trees. This particular village had two six hundred year old trees and one eight hundred year old tree in their care. These three trees were their pride and joy because the tea from these trees was the best in the area. Usually tea grows on bushes that are pruned every year by picking the fresh leaves that grow on the ends of the branches.

These fresh leaves are what's used to make tea. However, in Yunnan there are some very special tea trees that have grown somewhat wild and are a more of a tree than a bush. These tea trees also have much bigger leaves than the regular tea bushes. In fact, these trees are so special that they are only found in one part of the world, Yunnan.

For the children, this first picking of the tree leaves was especially fun for them because it meant that spring had come and the tea picking season was one of the most exciting times of the year. Their little fingers weren't as fast as picking the tree leaves like their moms' were, but they are learning.