

SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED by Patricia Hutchison

Princess Shaiming gazed out of the palace window at the mist that shrouded the gardens. Turning at her father's voice, she sighed with a deep, unending sadness.

"Shaiming, your mother and I named you 'Sunshine,' but since her death, there is a dark cloud over you," Chao Cheng said sadly. "You no longer play in the courtyard, and I never hear you laugh or sing."

"Oh, Father, I miss Mother so much. I wish someone could take away all my sadness," Shaiming told him, as tears fell from her dark, almond-shaped eyes.

Chao Cheng was a wise man. "I have an idea," he said; "we could hire a boy from the village to be sad for you. Then, maybe you can learn to smile again.

"Oh Father, do you think it would work? I am willing to try anything to feel happy once again," Shaiming said hopefully.

"I will go to the village immediately and bring a boy to live here at the palace. He will be responsible for your sadness," Chao Cheng promised, stroking his daughter's long black hair. "You will see; everything will be better." Chao Cheng left at once.

Shaiming sat looking out her window at the dark, dreary day. "I wish the sun would come out," she said to no one.