

## A Story Long Ago

by Fan-Wei Chao

"Tell me a story about a long time ago, Grandma," said Juliana.

"What would you like to hear, my sweetie? Would you like to hear a story from when I was a little girl?"

"Yes, that would be awesome, Grandma!"

"Okay! Listen, Juliana, and I will tell you. When I was a little girl, I walked everywhere. There were very few cars in the countryside. My father and I even walked to town to sell things, and we carried our goods on our back."

"That must have been hard, Grandma," said Juliana.

"Well, not always hard. Sometimes, my father bought me an iced tea when we arrived at the local market. It was sweet! I was good at selling my father's products. I even earned some money."

"Tell me more, Grandma."

"There was no television in my home, and we had to cook with coal. It was not so easy. My sister and I took turns cooking every day since I was ten.

You know, I was the second oldest daughter in my family. I had to take care of my younger brothers and sisters."

"Did you have to work all the time, Grandma?"

"Oh, not always. Trust me, we played! My favorite thing to do during break time was to play in the fields. We ran after dragonflies and we tried to catch frogs. We made fishing rods with bamboo sticks and thread. One time, when my friend walked out of the bamboo grove, he even met a snake! We all screamed and ran away. One of us fell into a mud puddle. He was stinky, and oh, his mom was angry!"

"Haha, that's interesting, Grandma!"

"I always climbed the tree behind my house to see far into the distance. I could see the ocean from the tree, too. I dreamed that one day I could own many lands and buy a big house for my parents."

"Well, you have a big house now, Grandma."

"I know. After so many years of hard work, your grandpa and I made it!"

"I want to have a big house, too. Will I make it, Grandma?"

"Of course, you will, Juliana. Just remember: be a good person and follow your heart. God will bless you."

"Be a good person and follow my heart. God will bless me. Thank you, Grandma."