

MY STORY

**The early version of misunderstandings between Liang and Lotus—
The melody later turns into their love song...**

Lotus: That's a very beautiful bird, but where is your painting?

Liang: That is my painting. It came to life and flew up there, just like when I was a child.

Lotus: Stop teasing me!

Liang: I told you, it's the magic in the brush.

Lotus: There's no magic in that brush! I should know, because I returned it to you, not your father, and I tried it out first and it didn't do anything. *[Lotus takes his hand and speaks to him very sincerely.]* Listen to me. You must stop making up stories and be satisfied with what you can really do.

Liang: Perhaps I will paint for other travelers and save my money and move to a bigger town, and when I'm rich enough, I shall go to Court and marry the Princess.

Lotus: Money! Court! The Princess! That's all you can think of! Well, I know the Court, and it's an awful place where everyone dresses in gold but lives in fear. And your Princess may be pretty, but she's the worst person I ever knew. Except, of course, for her father.

Liang: *[sarcastically]* Oh, of course. You're on very close terms with the Emperor.

Lotus *[blurting out]* He wants to marry me!

Liang: What! A little mud hen like you?

Lotus: *[wounded]* Well that's a lot more possible than a magic paintbrush--

Lotus: *[laughing]* THAT IS QUITE A STORY,
YOU PAINT WHAT COMES TO LIFE???

Liang: YOU'VE TOLD A SILLIER STORY—
THE EMPEROR WANTS YOU, WANTS YOU FOR A WIFE??

Lotus: There's a guardsman looking for me to take me back to the court!

Liang: There's a guardsman all right—He paid me to paint a new bridle for his horse—but he wasn't looking for you! *[Lotus gasps.]*

Liang: I'VE TOLD YOU MY STORY;
AND ALL I'VE TOLD IS TRUE!
YOU MUST BELIEVE IN MY STORY;
[somewhat aside]: I'D LIKE TO TRY BELIEVING IN YOU!)

Lotus: I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY,

Lotus: IN A QUIET VILLAGE I'D BE ON MY O-OWN—

Liang: IN A QUIET VILLAGE I'D NEVER BECOME KNO-OWN;

Lotus and Liang together, annoyed: YOU WANT SOMETHING ELSE, I SEE!!

BOTH:

I THOUGHT I COULD PICTURE / I COULD PICTURE
THE LIFE I'D LIVE WITH YOU!
BUT I/YOU CAN'T PAINT THAT PICTURE—
AND THAT STORY CAN'T COME TRUE!

I WISH I COULD PICTURE
THE LIFE I'D LIVE WITH YOU,
BUT I/YOU CAN'T PAINT THAT PICTURE—
SO THAT STORY CAN'T COME TRUE! *[End of song]*

[They argue again, Lotus says "Go away! Liang bows sarcastically "My pleasure, your Highness" and disappears into the bushes. Just then, there is the sound of someone in the bushes. He is returning!

"I'm sorry!" she blurts out as the bushes part. "That's nice," says the Imperial Guard, "but I don't think it will help much." And he snatches her up onto his horse. As she struggles uselessly, the little bundle of all she had in the world goes flying into the bushes.]