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Daisy Comes Home

Mary Chapman

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Brett, Jan. *Daisy Comes Home*. Illustrated by Jan Brett. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002. ISBN 039923618X. \$16.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Mary Chapman

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Picture books

Subject: Chickens--Juvenile fiction; Chickens--Fiction; China--Fiction; Books--Reviews

Although Mei Mei thinks her six hens are the happiest in China, Daisy, the smallest hen, is not happy. The other hens constantly pick on Daisy and won't let her sleep on the perch at night. One evening Daisy leaves the henhouse and sleeps in a market basket sitting beside the Li River. While she sleeps the river rises and the basket floats out on to the Li River. Daisy awakes to the world of the river and meets with many adventures that test her courage and survival skills.

Brett was inspired to write and illustrate this story after she traveled to China, her daughter-in-law's birthplace. Brett's watercolor illustrations, depicting the exotic, lush landscape and life along the Li River, are true to her style—detailed and colorful. There is much to discover on each page. Bamboo-framed corners and Chinese designs border the text. The unusual mountains in the background whimsically take on the shape of animals and will enchant young children. Painted with vibrant colors, every picture has so much detail that readers can see each feather on the hens and each individual fruit and vegetable in the market baskets. Daisy's lively story carries themes about kindness, bravery, and self-esteem that children will understand and appreciate.