

My Two Worlds

By Anne DeArmond

Anne Elizabeth DeArmond is my name,
It's nothing unusual that would make you exclaim.
But I'm sure you would be surprised to know,
That my other name is Li Qiao Guo.

I was born in Zhaoqing, China, near the South China Sea,
And sadly for me, I will never know my family tree.
My Chinese parents had to give me away,
For what reasons, I do not know and cannot say.

I lived in a poor orphanage, with many babies and no luxuries,
Until I was adopted by my new parents, who were not Chinese.
They brought me to America, where I made my new life,
In a land where there is plenty and very little strife.

I live in a big house with everything I need.
I go to great schools and know I will succeed,
But sometimes I wonder what my life would have been,
Had I stayed in Zhaoqing with my Chinese kin.

Would I go to school and learn to read and write Chinese?
Would I eat dumplings and rice and drink Chinese teas?
Or would I live on a farm and work hard to survive,
And worry each day about staying alive?

In America we are blessed with so many opportunities,
We have our families, homes and communities.
But one day I will return to China, because you see,
China will always be a big part of me!