

# *Justice Bao*

The Case of the Missing Coins

*Retold by*  
CATHERINE KHOO

*Illustrated by*  
CHEN ZIYUE



Dedicated to my three angels  
Patricia, Pamela and Paulina.  
May you continue to inspire  
your own little angels.  
– Catherine

To my beautiful Mum, Dad and Family.  
– Angeline (Ziyue)

Copyright © 2013 by Catherine Khoo

All rights reserved.

Published in Singapore by Epigram Books  
www.epigrambooks.sg

Illustrations © 2013 by Chen Ziyue

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by  
any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or  
otherwise without written permission of the publisher.

With the support of



National Library Board, Singapore Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Khoo, Catherine.

Justice Bao : The case of the missing coins / retold by  
Catherine Khoo; illustrated by Chen Ziyue. – First edition.  
– Singapore : Epigrams Books, [2013]

pages cm  
ISBN : 978-981-07-5810-3 (paperback)

1. Bao, Zheng, 999-1062 – Juvenile fiction.  
I. Chen, Ziyue. II. Title.

PZ7  
428.6 -- dc23 OCN834215270

Printed by Saik Wah Print Media  
First Edition  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



# *Justice Bao*

## The Case of the Missing Coins

*Retold by*  
CATHERINE KHOO

*Illustrated by*  
CHEN ZIYUE



EPIGRAM BOOKS / SINGAPORE



In the province of Kaifeng, there lived a woodcutter named Xiao Chen. Every morning, even before the sun rose, he would set off into the forest with his trusty old axe.

Xiao Chen would stand all day at his usual spot outside an old teahouse. Sometimes no one would stop to buy the branches he cut and the twigs he collected.

Wang-ma, the kind lady who owned the teahouse, would often take pity on him and offer him some buns. Carefully, Xiao Chen would wrap them in a piece of cloth.

Towards evening, he would head home. The buns he had saved were for his aged mother. It did not matter to him that he went hungry.

Xiao Chen told himself he was strong and there was always tomorrow. Tomorrow he would sell enough firewood to buy some food.



One winter's day, Xiao Chen had an extra large pile of firewood. He hoped to sell it off quickly as he wanted to visit the temple to pray for his mother. The cold bit into him but he gritted his teeth and crouched nearer the wall to shield himself from the falling snow.

"Please, Goddess of Mercy, please let me sell enough to buy some food and vegetables for my mother. She is sick and needs your help," he mumbled.





Renowned for his wisdom and sense of fairness, Justice Bao was a high-ranking magistrate during the Song Dynasty in ancient China. In *The Case of the Missing Coins*, Justice Bao has to decide what to do when a merchant accuses a woodcutter of stealing his money. Should he take the word of the well-dressed merchant or believe the shabby woodcutter who can barely speak for himself?

