

HANG LI PO

The Tale of the First Peranakan



Retold by
Catherine Khoo

Illustrated by
Arai Kreva

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Long ago, a ship sailed to the shores of what is now Malaysia. When it arrived, women and men of Chinese nobility stepped off the vessel, eager to greet the sultan of Malacca.

Among them was a young girl named Li Po. Kind and clever, she had been hand-picked by the emperor of China to marry the sultan.




Li Po was excited to make her home in a new land.
But as she walked through the crowds of people,
she heard whispers: “The sultan cannot marry her.
She is a foreigner!”



Li Po was hurt.

Just then, the sultan stepped forward. Li Po greeted him in Malay. This impressed the sultan very much. He announced that a grand palace was to be built for his new bride.





When Li Po marries the sultan
of Malacca, the people are
unwilling to accept her as their
princess. But this doesn't stop
Li Po from embracing her new
culture—in ways that are both
unique and clever. Will the
people accept her now?

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