

The Reading Tree

**KHOO KIM CHOO
TRAN DAC TRUNG**

The Reading Tree



For children everywhere.

-Khoo Kim Choo

To Dad, for giving me a love of reading.

-Tran Dac Trung

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Once upon a time, there was a happy little tree. His parents sang to him and told him many stories. They told him about his grandparents and his great-grandparents.

They sang about birds that built nests and laid eggs on their branches. They spoke about storms and floods, and when the rain did not fall for a long, long time. The little tree always listened in awe. He was too young to have seen any of these things.



One day, a little boy came by and sat next to the little tree. He had a book and began to read it aloud.

The little tree listened very carefully. *I like this story*, he thought to himself and decided to make friends with the little boy.

"Hello," whispered the tree.

The little boy looked up in surprise. "Oh, I didn't know trees could talk!"

"Ah, but we can! People don't know this because they are always rushing about. You have to be very quiet to hear us."

"My name is Meng," the little boy said.

"Hello, Meng. I am Little Tree. I enjoyed listening to you read. Will you read to me every day?"

The little boy was delighted. "Of course, Little Tree. I'll be happy to."

And so, Meng came by with wonderful books to read.



This is a story of a little tree,
a little boy, lots of wonderful books
and a beautiful friendship.



Dr Khoo Kim Choo is a pioneer in the field of early childhood development and education in Singapore. For over 35 years, she has been involved in various educational roles both locally and abroad. She is the founder of Preschool for Multiple Intelligences and the author of *House by the Woods*, *Going Downtown* and *Whose Cat Is That?*



Tran Dac Trung is a marketing executive who considers picture book illustrating his one true passion. He has illustrated picture books and stories for children in Singapore, Vietnam and the UK. He is the illustrator of *Lang Liêu: The Prince and the Precious Rice Cakes*, a picture book that is part of the Asia's Lost Legends series published by Epigram Books.

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