Three Sweaters
The alarm clock rings and Little Chin wakes up.
Chin turns on the radio and listens to the weather forecast:
“Morning clear, afternoon cloudy, evening strong wind.”
She puts on her socks and shoes. Why, isn’t that Mum in the mirror! She’s at the clothes cupboard.
“What are you looking for, Mum?”
“A sweater for you to take to kindergarten.
It may be windy today.”
“Give me all the sweaters in the drawer.” Mum doesn’t understand.
“Two new friends have come to our class, Ying and Ping. They’re just as tall as me. We sit together. Ying can draw a star, Ping can build ‘Tien An Men.’ Their mums go to work early. They won’t know about the wind.”
Mum nods and smiles. She puts three sweaters into Chin’s satchel. One is red, one is green and one is blue.
Chin is pleased and walks quickly to the kindergarten.
There the happy children sing, dance and learn to spell. After the noon nap, dark clouds gather and the wind comes up. Grannies and aunts bring sweaters or jackets for other children, but nobody comes for Ying or Ping.
Chin takes out her three sweaters: the red one for Ying, the blue one for Ping and the green one for herself. "Good child," says the teacher. "So little, but you already know about helping people."
Three Sweaters

Text by Wang Sen
Paintings by Ho Yen-jung

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS
PEKING 1975

Printed in the People's Republic of China