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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP  
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First published in 2022

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-277208-4 (paperback)

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural,  
recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests.  
The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental  
regulations of the country of origin.

For Oswin.  
With thanks to Helen,  
for harmonizing on this 'song'  
— C.A.

For Diana, a panda fan  
— F.W.


'Where words fail, music speaks'  
*Hans Christian Andersen*

*a song*  
*in the*  
**MIST**

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Chi is hiding.  
If you're quiet, if you're quick,  
you might just see her.


Between conifer trees and bamboo leaves.  
A shy panda bear.



Chi loves to listen.  
Being silent brings sounds to her ears.

The swish of bamboo.  
The chitter of tiny birds.

This illustration depicts a panda, Chi, in a bamboo forest. She is shown in two positions: one on the left, partially hidden behind bamboo stalks, and another at the bottom center, looking towards the right. The forest is filled with green bamboo stalks and leaves. Numerous small yellow birds are perched on bamboo branches, with pink and red dashed lines radiating from them, representing sound waves. Large, flowing yellow and orange lines sweep across the upper half of the scene, suggesting a breeze or the movement of sound. The overall style is soft and painterly.



But today, something new.

This illustration shows a panda sitting and eating bamboo leaves. The panda is rendered in a soft, textured style with white fur and dark patches. The bamboo leaves are green and detailed. A prominent, wavy orange line with a speckled texture flows across the upper right portion of the image, set against a light, textured background. The overall mood is calm and focused.

Gentle, sweet, the air made musical.

It floats on the breeze,  
curls around trees,



makes a bridge  
over the water . . .



. . . and brings Chi to a little house.



Carefully she creeps,  
as near as she dare,  
closer to the sound.

Until she finds it.

A boy  
who blows breath  
through a piece of bamboo.



He stops.  
He has seen her.

