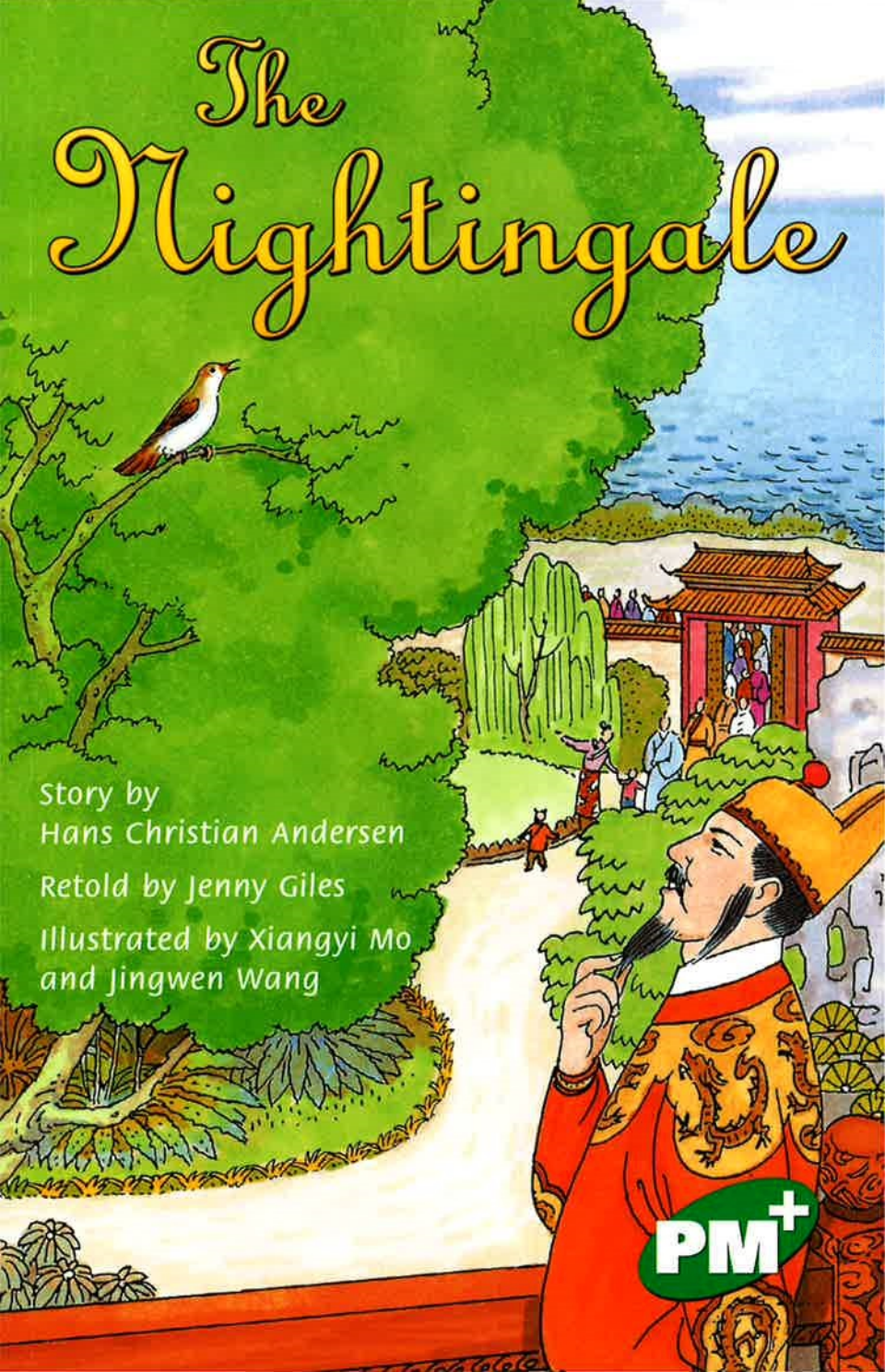
The Nightingale



Story by
Hans Christian Andersen

Retold by Jenny Giles

Illustrated by Xiangyi Mo
and Jingwen Wang

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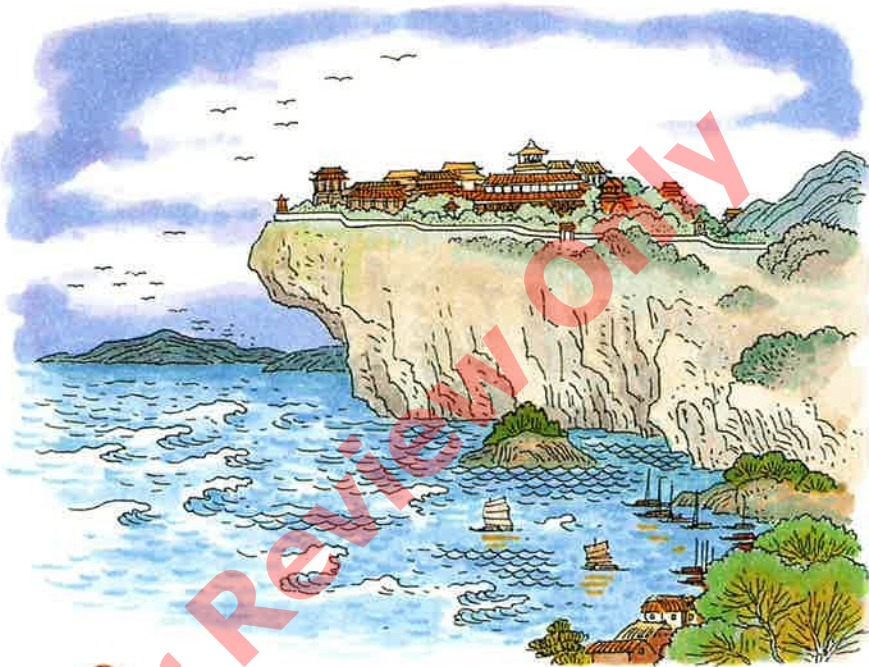
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Chapter One

The Palace by the Sea



Once upon a time, there was a king who lived in a magnificent palace high on a clifftop overlooking the sea. The palace was enormous. It had more than a hundred rooms, all filled with the finest furniture and the most precious ornaments.

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The palace was surrounded by huge gardens, which were planted with all kinds of trees and flowers. The gardens stretched for miles, and no one quite knew where they ended. Not even the king had seen every part of them.

People came from all over the land to admire the splendid palace, and to gaze in wonder at the beautiful gardens.



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Chapter Two

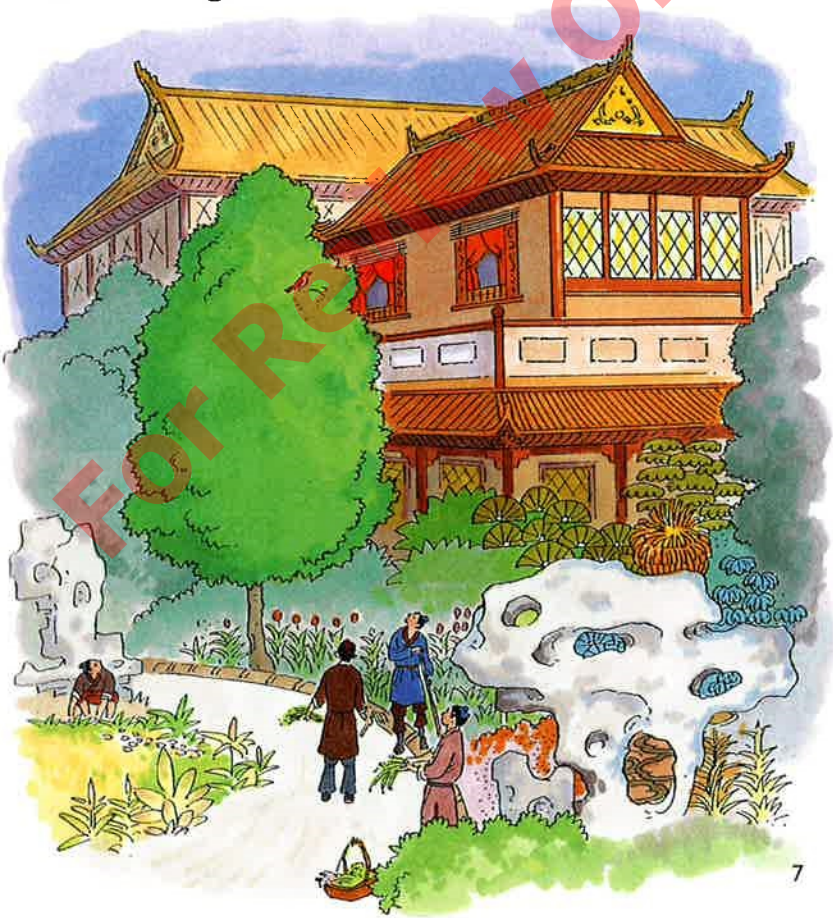
The Nightingale's Song



Early one morning, a nightingale flew into the palace gardens. She darted back and forth, admiring the colourful plants and flowers. After a while, she decided to make her home in a tall tree, which by chance was just outside the king's bedroom window.

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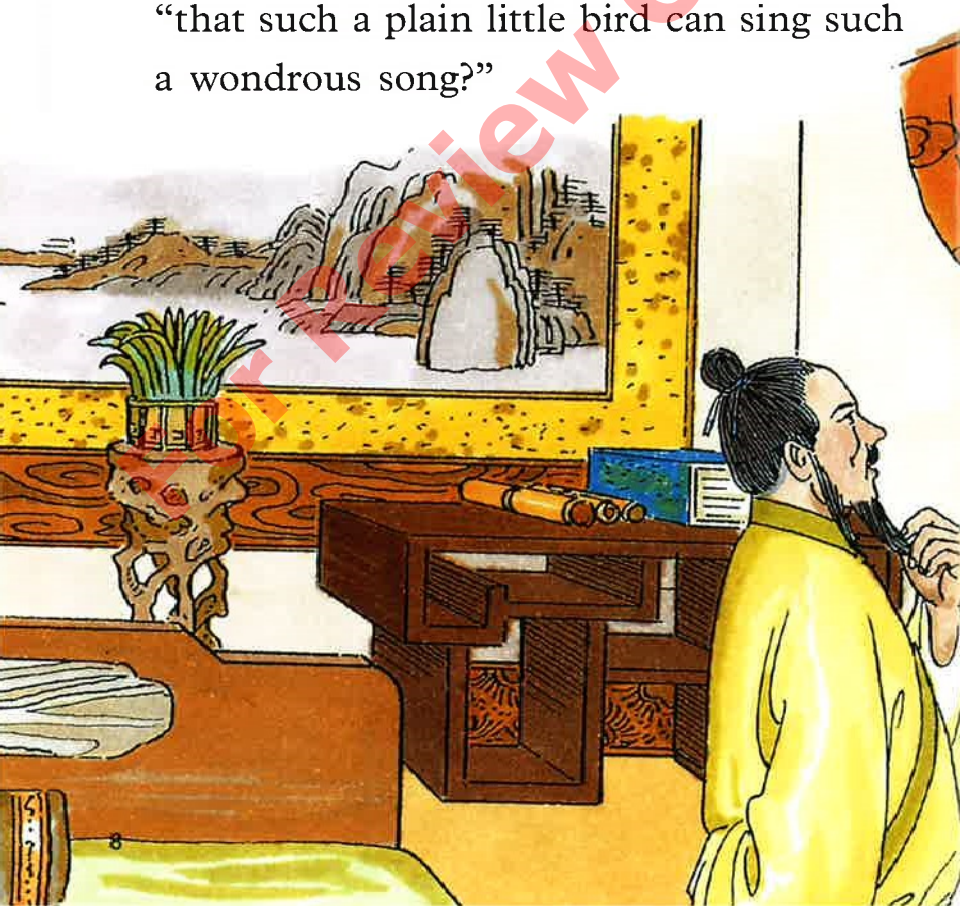
The little brown nightingale perched on a branch, and began to sing her beautiful song. The clear, pure notes sounded so lovely that all the gardeners stopped working, and all the servants stopped scurrying about inside the palace. They stood quite still, and listened with delight.



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The king, who had been sleeping, jumped out of bed and went to the window. The little bird saw him watching her, and so she sang her song again. The sound of it was lovelier than anything the king had ever heard. It brought tears of joy to his eyes.

"How can it be," he said to himself, "that such a plain little bird can sing such a wondrous song?"



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