

“Julia’s Story” Transcript

Introduction

(guitar music, voice over)

Ann: How has Julia changed our lives?

Sig: Well, she’s changed it—well, I mean I just can’t imagine our family without her now, at this point, because it’s been pretty important to us and pretty important to her (laughs).

Gracie: She is very smart, I think, because she is learning so quickly, like, she’ll remember stuff really well.

A Decision

(guitar music)

Sig: They say there are maybe 120,000 girls that are abandoned every year in China and maybe 10,000-15,000 adoptions, something small. And most of them go through Guan-Jo, which is the city where all of the paperwork is organized... I guess the ball starts rolling when they give you a date of when you’ll be traveling.

A Journey

(guitar music)

Gracie: We didn’t go to the orphanage, we went to the adoption office, and they just came out and—they called your name and you just went up there and they gave you a baby and then they left. So it was kind of like, whoa, okay, like, what do we do now?

Ann: They always hand the child over to the mother and, you know, she just fell into my little arms and looked up at me, just looked... So we just went out into the hall and were able to find her caregivers that she had at the orphanage and we had both of them write a little note for Julia in this book, in Chinese, so we don’t know what it says, but (laughter)—

Sig: Well, here it says, “Zhan Ming Yi is a very lovely baby. She likes smile and touch all the things which she thinks is very interested...” So when we go back someday we can maybe find these people or at least visit the place she lived her first several months.

Coming Home

(guitar music)

Ann: She has proven to be just very physically competent—at climbing and, just physically competent at doing things, at using small utensils, at taking on big things, you know, getting what she needs, however she needs to, by climbing, moving things to get on top of things...

Julia: Bike?

Ann: It's like a bike?

Julia: Yeah!

Ann: Oh, that's interesting! That is kind of like riding a bike. But you kind of have to spread your legs, huh? (laughter)... Yeah, fine motor-skills are really well-tuned.

Sig: Ann thinks she'll be a surgeon, she has such precision with her small fingers.

Looking Forward

(guitar music)

Julia: Hi!

Sig: That's for the birds. Hi.

Julia: Hi Daddy!

Sig: Hi Julia. Do you want to help feed the birds?

Julia: Yeah!

Sig: I wish her just no restrictions, that she has the freedom to know herself and develop herself in a way that is as she wants to be.

Gracie: I'm really not sure what she's gonna do and what she's gonna be like. I really can't imagine.

(guitar music, end)