

Susie's Cat

Susie lived in a tall apartment building in Hong Kong.

Her best friend was a cat named Bitsy.

Susie named her Bitsy because she was so small – “Itsy Bitsy.”

Her parents were busy and sometimes could not sit and talk to her.

Her brother, Jeff, growled at her when he was annoyed.

He was annoyed a lot.

Susie didn't mean to annoy him but she did.

When she talked to Jeff, if he made a noise, she would say, “Now I have to start all over again.”

That made Jeff growl at her and walk away.

And it made Susie sad.

But Susie's cat Bitsy always listened, never growled and did not walk away.

Bitsy let Susie carry her around the apartment.

Bitsy even sat still while Susie dressed her up in doll clothes.

And Susie told Bitsy about all the things she liked and all the things she didn't like.

Susie loved all living things, except her brother – at least right then.

Her father caught a Preying Mantis and put it in a jar with twigs and leaves to walk on.

Susie said, I think it is hungry. What do they eat?

Her father said, “They eat other insects.”

That made Susie very sad. She folded her hands and said, “Little Mantis, let's pray.”

“Dear God, help me to stop eating all the other insects, amen.”

When she found out that meat came from animals, she was not hungry for meat any more.

When Susie's family went back to America from Hong Kong they decided to bring Bitsy.

But Bitsy could not go in the airplane with Susie.

Bitsy had to get into a cage and fly in a different airplane.

Susie's grandma and grandpa met Bitsy at the airport.

But Bitsy did not know them and Bitsy was very scared from riding in the airplane.

When Susie arrived at her grandma and grandpa's house, Bitsy was hiding.

But when Susie called to her, Bitsy came out of her hiding place.

They were both very glad to be together again.

They were best friends.