

Bao's Monologue

15.

MAI:
I'm sorry Anh.

CHINH:
I'm sorry Em.

BAO:
The Mekong has nine rivers, named for dragons. One of Vietnam's ancient kings was a dragon named Lac Long Quân. Lac Long ruled over the land near the sea. He wanted to live underwater, so he turned into a dragon. When his people needed their King, they would call upon him and he would come back to the land.

Lac Long fell in love with a beautiful mountain fairy, named Âu Co. They married, and she gave birth to a pouch filled with one hundred eggs. After seven days, each egg hatched into a child.

Though Lac Long and Âu Co were deeply in love, they came from different worlds. Lac Long missed the sea, and Âu Co missed the mountains. They separated, each taking fifty children, and promised to help each other when needed. The children became the rulers of the Hundred Viet, the tribes of Vietnam, that still exist today. No matter where you are, Vietnamese always keep this promise to love and protect one another.

It's time to rest, children. When you wake up, we'll be in the Mekong. }

*Bao closes his eyes. Mai makes sure he is asleep.
She climbs on top of the wheel base of the truck.*

MAI:
Anh Chinh!

CHINH:
What?

MAI:
Where are your rubber bands?

CHINH:
Why?

MAI:
I need them. For the pig.

CHINH:
I thought you were afraid of the pig.