

MEI LI LOVE SONG/OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

MEI LI (Continued)

Oh, mama I miss you so much. I wish you were here now, mama. I want to tell you of this wonderful man I have met. He is a good man, mama. Kind, smart, handsome. True, he is my teacher, mama, but after all... he is a man. I wish you could meet him, mama. After all your struggles to succeed, to become a nurse in our country, to bring us here to America, that you did not live to see your dream of living in America come true... Oh mama, you are gone now, and I am so alone. I thought he cared about me, mama, but he does not even know I exist, how I feel about him, how long for him.

SHE sobs again. Suddenly, SHE sits up as if someone has entered the room.

MEI LI (Continued)

(searching)

Mama, is that you? Mama, can you hear me? Mama, are you there?

(up music: Mei Li Love Song/Oh Mama, Can You Hear Me?)

MEI LI (Continued)

OH MAMA, HERE I SIT ALONE
WONDERING WHERE YOU ARE
WHY YOU WENT SO FAR AWAY

OH MAMA, I REMEMBER WHEN
SIMPLER DAYS OF JOY
PLAYING GAMES WITH TOYS AND THEN
WHY DID IT HAVE TO END

BUT NOW HE'S APPEARED TO ME
HE HAS COME INTO ME
AND MY LIFE

HE MEANS SO MUCH TO ME
HE'D BE SO GOOD TO ME
AND MY LIFE
AND I WOULD BE A GOOD WIFE

MEI LI (Continued)

IT'S FUNNY HOW FATE COMES TO PASS
YET I FEEL THESE FEELINGS WILL ALWAYS LAST
IT'S A ROUGH WAY DOWN THE LONG
AND WINDING ROAD
WHERE IT STOPS WHO CAN KNOW
I LOVE HIM WITH EVERY BREATH I TAKE
OH MAMA, CAN YOU ME A GOOD WIFE MAKE?

I'D DO MY BEST
YOU COULD DO THE REST
OH MAMA, CAN YOU ME A GOOD WIFE MAKE?

*MEI LI rises from her bed amid
swirling light and music.*

MEI LI (Continued)

OH, THE TIME I REMEMBER OH SO WELL
WHEN MY MOTHER FACED THE TORTURES OF LIVING HELL
THE STRUGGLE SHE FOUGHT
HOPED COULD BE WON
BUT MAMA, IT COULDN'T BE DONE

YOU KNEW THE END WAS NEAR
AS A NURSE OF THIRTY YEARS
YET YOUR SECRET YOU KEPT SO WELL INSIDE
STILL AS THE HOUR DREW
YOU CALLED ME CLOSE TO YOU
AND KISSED ME ONCE MORE BEFORE YOU DIED

OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE
OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE

TO THE SICK YOU ALWAYS WERE A FRIEND
YOU LABORED LONG LIKE BAMBOO IN THE WIND
TO WORK AT BREAK OF DAWN
THROUGH THE NIGHT YOU CARRIED ON
A HERO TO THE VERY END

HOW SPLENDID WERE THE DAYS
WITH YOUR WARM AND WINNING WAYS
SO MANY ILLS YOU CURED EXCEPT YOUR OWN
THEN SHADOWS FILLED THE ROOM
AS YOU BRUSHED THE HAND OF DOOM
AND I WAS LEFT TO FACE THIS WORLD ALONE

MEI LI (Continued)

OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE
OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE

YOUR SMILE IT WAS LIKE A RAY OF SUN
LIFE WTH YOU IT ALWAYS SEEMED SO FUN
YOU DANCED IN THE LIVING ROOM HALL
LIKE A QUEEN DANCED AT HER BALL
AND YOUR CHILDREN WERE YOUR ROYAL GUARD

YOUR LAUGHTER YOUR JOYS
YOUR SONGS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS
YOUR LOVE IT MADE OUR HOUSE SO SAFE AND WARM
YET NOW IN DEAD OF NIGHT
WHEN I SEEK YOUR GUIDING LIGHT
I PRAY TO FIND YOUR SHELTER FROM THE STORM

MEI LI (Continued)

OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE
OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE

OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, ARE YOU THERE
OH MAMA, CAN YOU HEAR ME
OH MAMA, I KNOW YOU'RE THERE

(end song)