



## Sam and the Lucky Money

By Karen Chinn, Cornelius Van Wright, Ying-Hwa Hu

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**Sam and the Lucky Money** By Karen Chinn, Cornelius Van Wright, Ying-Hwa Hu

Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money-red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place -- Chinatown! But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced -- until a surprise encounter with a stranger. With vivid watercolor paintings, artists Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets. In her picture book debut, author Karen Chinn tells the affecting story of a child who discovers that sometimes the best gifts come from the heart. Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money-red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place -- Chinatown! But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced -- until a surprise encounter with a stranger. With vivid watercolor paintings, artists Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets. In her picture book debut, author Karen Chinn tells the affecting story of a child who discovers that sometimes the best gifts come from the heart.

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## **Sam and the Lucky Money** By Karen Chinn, Cornelius Van Wright, Ying-Hwa Hu Bibliography

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**Editorial Review**

Amazon.com Review

It's Chinese New Year in Chinatown, and young Sam has four dollars of New Year money burning a hole in his pocket. As he and his mother are milling through the crowded streets--alive with firecrackers, lion dances, and shoppers--Sam accidentally steps on the foot of a homeless man who is buried in a pile of red paper. Flustered, Sam hurries back to his mother, and is soon distracted by the *char siu bao* and other sweets he might buy with his gift money. When he sees fish-tail cookies that remind him of toes, he remembers the old man again, and Sam starts to think of his "lucky money" in a new light. Karen Chinn's winning story is perfectly complemented by the vibrant watercolors of Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu, creators of the award-winning *Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree* and *A House by the River*. Voted "Pick of the Lists" by *American Bookseller*, *Sam and the Lucky Money* succeeds at telling a simple story, while allowing young readers to explore the sights and sounds of an American urban Chinatown during the Chinese New Year. (Ages 4 to 8)

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-Sam receives four bright red envelopes decorated with shiny gold emblems as part of the traditional Chinese New Year celebration, each containing a dollar. As he accompanies his mother through Chinatown, his anticipation of how to spend it diminishes when he realizes that the "lucky money" won't buy as much as he had hoped. His mood is further sobered after an encounter with a man he stumbles upon in the street. He nobly, though not surprisingly, concludes that his four dollars would be best spent on the barefoot stranger. Though the traditional message that it is better to give than to receive will be apparent to adults immediately, it is handled in a genuine, thoughtful manner that will be realistic to children. Detailed descriptions of the sights and sounds of the New Year celebration build in contrast to Sam's growing introspection, becoming even more dramatic and adding to the depth of the story. The illustrators masterfully combine Chinatown's exotic setting with the universal emotions of childhood through expressive portraits of the characters.

*Starr LaTronica, Four County Library System, Vestal, NY*

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Review

"The traditional message that it is better to give than to receive is handled in a genuine, thoughtful manner that will be realistic to children. Detailed descriptions of the sights and sounds of the New Year celebration build in contrast to Sam's growing introspection, becoming even more dramatic and adding to the depth of the story. The illustrators masterfully combine Chinatown's exotic setting with the universal emotions of childhood through expressive portraits of the characters."

*School Library Journal*

"A beautifully told story for all ages about the gift of giving."

*Creative Classroom*

"(Pick of the Lists, American Bookseller Magazine) The subtle blending of cultures in both the illustrations and text engross the reader in the dilemma of a young Chinese-American boy faced with spending his New Year's gift money. On a shopping spree with his mother, he discovers that the ultimate value is giving. The artists' vibrant watercolors embellish this story, which reaches across ethnic boundaries to reaffirm a universal truth."

*American Bookseller*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jessica Jennings:**

Now a day people that Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information especially this Sam and the Lucky Money book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

#### **Maria Tate:**

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because this time you only find guide that need more time to be go through. Sam and the Lucky Money can be your answer as it can be read by an individual who have those short time problems.

#### **Henry McMahan:**

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#### **Marjorie Thompson:**

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