

# A Magic 神笔马良 Brush

James Bean & Gillian Flaherty

上海教育出版社



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詹姆斯·宾 吉莉安·法拉蒂 著

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This play tells the story of a boy called Ma Liang. Ma Liang loves to draw but he cannot afford a brush. He draws in the mud with a stick.

He dreams that an old man gives him a brush. The man tells him to paint for the poor. Ma Liang wakes up with a brush in his hand. He paints a rooster and the picture comes to life. He starts to paint for the poor.

An officer hears about Ma Liang. He tells Ma Liang to paint some gold. Ma Liang refuses and the officer puts him in jail. Ma Liang paints a door and escapes.

The emperor sends soldiers to fetch Ma Liang. He tells Ma Liang to paint some gold. Ma Liang paints a golden mountain surrounded by sea. He paints a ship and some wind. The emperor sets sail. He paints more wind until there is a storm.

The ship sinks and the emperor drowns. Ma Liang continues to paint for the poor.

Main 主要角色  
Characters



Ma Liang



Old painter



Mother



Emperor



Officer





## Act 1

### NARRATOR:

This is the story of a poor boy named  
Ma Liang. He loves to draw and paint  
but he can't afford a brush.

### MA LIANG:

I'm just a simple farm boy  
At work in our farmyard  
I'd love to be an artist  
But life here is so hard





**MA LIANG:**

I love to paint and draw  
But I'm always in a rush  
And I have to use a stick  
Because I do not have a brush  
I draw pictures in the mud  
People say they are the best  
*Ma Liang's mother enters.*

**MOTHER:**

Ma Liang, it's time for bed!  
You really have to rest





**NARRATOR:**

At the end of a busy day, Ma Liang falls asleep and has a strange dream. In the dream an old painter comes and talks to him.

*Ma Liang is asleep on the ground.  
An old man enters.*



**OLD PAINTER:**

Ma Liang! Ma Liang!  
Your pictures are so fine  
You could be a brilliant artist  
If you had a brush like mine

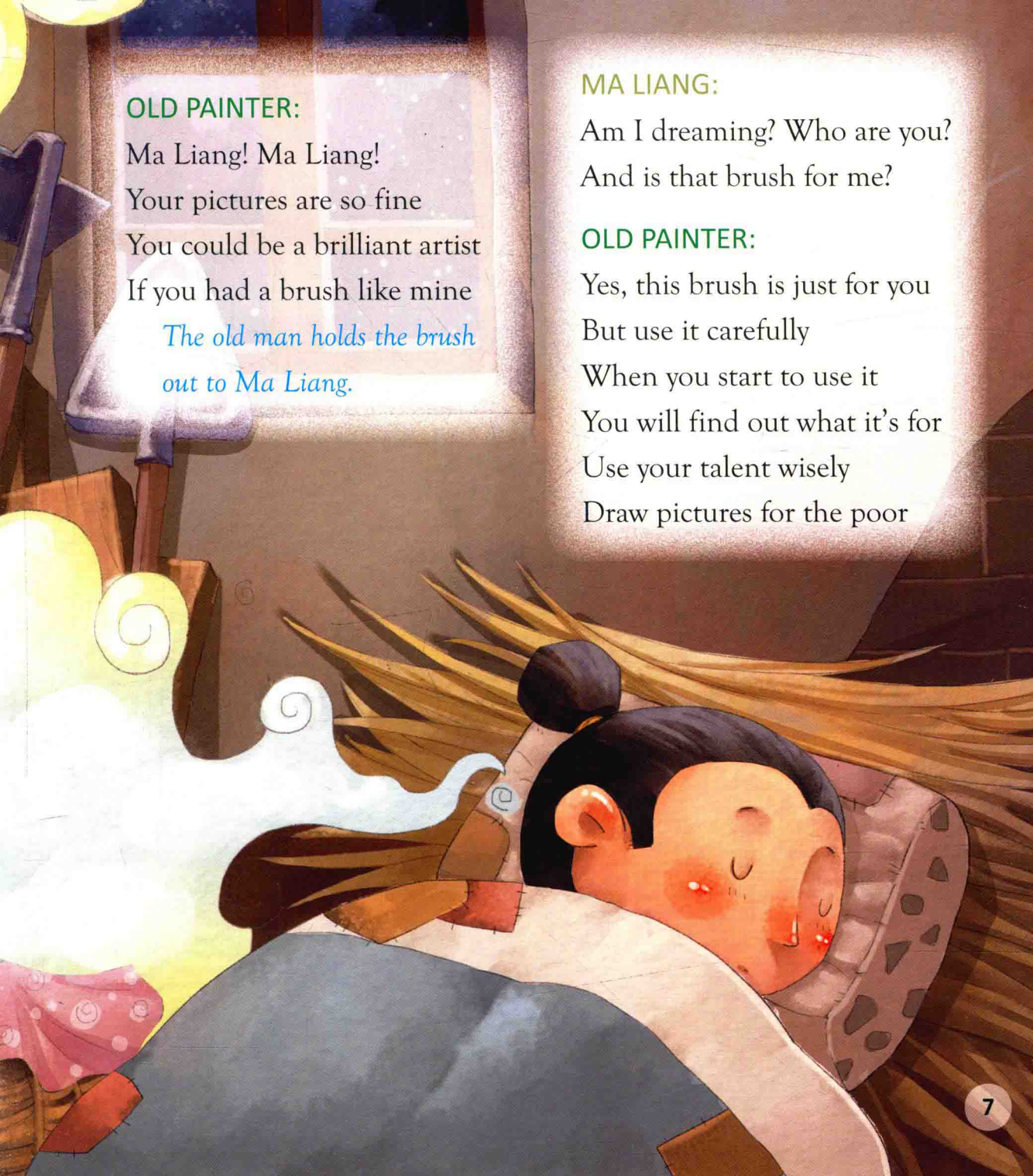
*The old man holds the brush  
out to Ma Liang.*

**MA LIANG:**

Am I dreaming? Who are you?  
And is that brush for me?

**OLD PAINTER:**

Yes, this brush is just for you  
But use it carefully  
When you start to use it  
You will find out what it's for  
Use your talent wisely  
Draw pictures for the poor





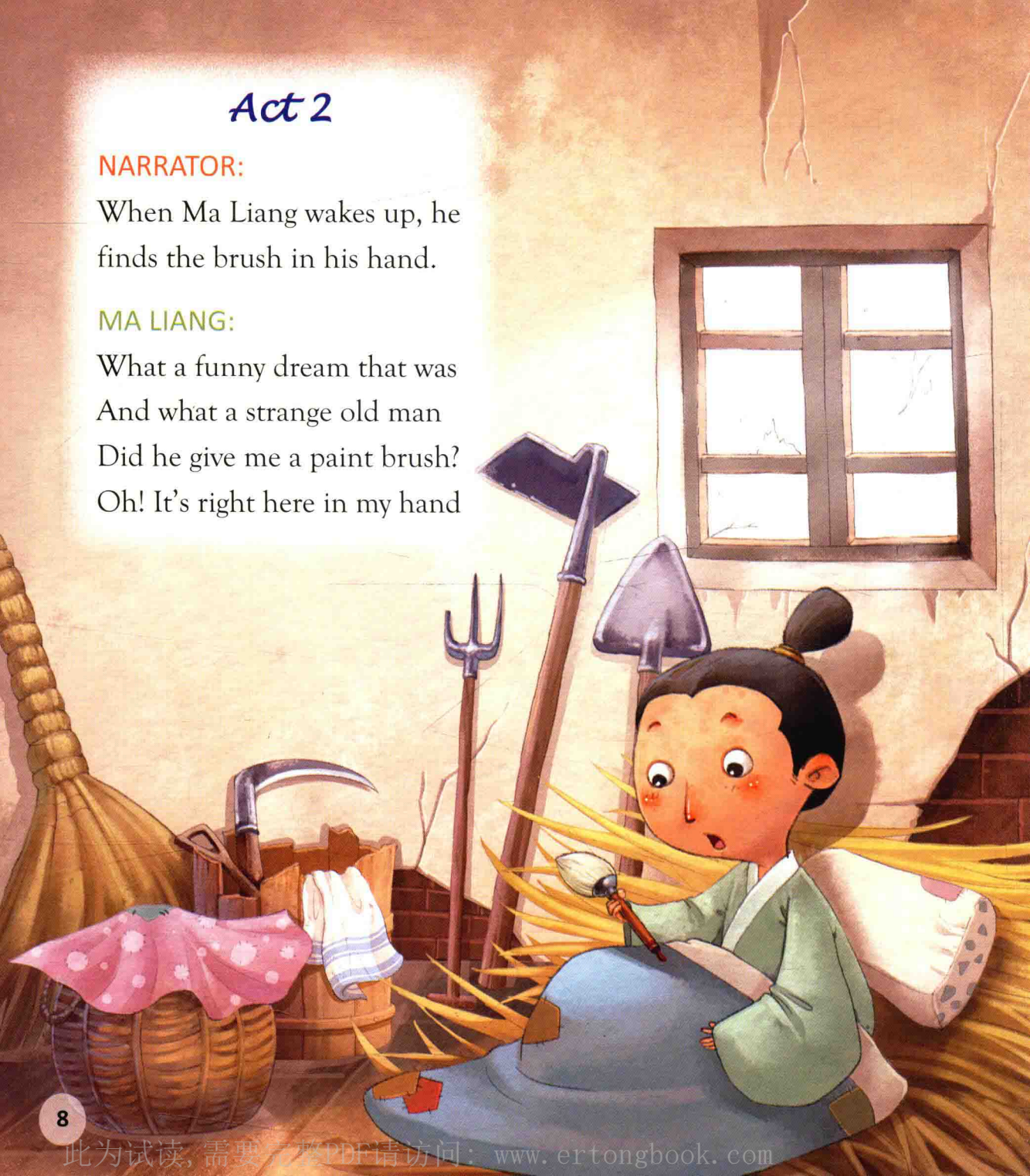
## Act 2

### NARRATOR:

When Ma Liang wakes up, he finds the brush in his hand.

### MA LIANG:

What a funny dream that was  
And what a strange old man  
Did he give me a paint brush?  
Oh! It's right here in my hand





MA LIANG:

A wonderful new paintbrush!  
I can't wait to try it out  
Draw pictures for the poor, he said  
What was that about?







**NARRATOR:**

Ma Liang draws a rooster on the wall. To his surprise it comes alive, jumps down and crows.

*The picture becomes a live rooster!  
It jumps down and crows.*



ROOSTER:

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

*The rooster flies away.*

MA LIANG:

My picture came alive

Was that really what I saw?

If the old man's brush is magic

I can really help the poor







MA LIANG:

Mother! Come and see this  
I'll draw a cow for you  
And when my picture's finished  
You'll see what it can do

*Mother enters. Ma Liang draws  
a cow on the wall. It comes to  
life and says moo.*





COW:

Moo!

MOTHER:

Oh, what a clever boy you are!  
A special thing you've done

MA LIANG:

I'll draw my pictures for the poor  
And I'll help everyone





## Act 3

### NARRATOR:

Ma Liang spent all his days drawing pictures to help the poor. Before long, an officer heard of Ma Liang and his magic brush and came to the village.

*An officer enters.*