

CHAPTER ONE

Thomas meets Patchwork Bear

Thomas sat on his case waiting for a flight attendant. He was looking at all the people.

Some people were waiting to go on a plane; some people were



waiting to meet people coming off planes. Some people had come off planes.

He saw a girl walking towards him. She was holding a cuddly bear.

The girl stopped in front of him.

“Hello, Thomas, you look sad.”

Thomas did not ask how the girl knew his name. He just looked at the bear.

“Are you sad?”

“Yes, I’m waiting for a flight attendant to take me on a plane. My plane is late. Mum and Dad had to go before I left. They’re going to Japan for Dad’s work. I’m going to stay with Uncle Tom and Aunt Susan. I’ve never been there by myself before.”

“This is Patchwork Bear. He’s been with me for a while. He is yours now for as long as you need him.”

She gave Patchwork Bear to Thomas.

“Patchwork is special. He helps sad children. He helped me. Now it’s your turn. You may only keep him while you need him. Then give him to someone sad. You’ll know who.”

She patted Patchwork’s head,
“Goodbye, Patchwork.”

“Why is he special? How will he help?” Thomas asked, but it was too late. The girl was

skipping after a lady in a wheelchair.

The flight attendant came back. “Time to board, Thomas,” she said. “That’s a cuddly bear.”

Thomas enjoyed the flight.

He held Patchwork all the way.

He didn’t know yet why he was special, but it felt good to hold him close.

Thomas was asked to hand out the sweets before the plane landed. He still held Patchwork.

