

## *A Tale of Creativity and Courage*

Despite grave illness, a 10-year-old adoptee from China continues to create fantastic stories of adventure that encourage others to come into the light.

Like the characters in her stories, Kara Siert has a battle to fight. Adopted through Holt as an infant from Mother's Love Orphanage in Nanning, China, the 9-year-old was in the midst of a prolific writing spree when her parents, Linda and Ward, moved the family to England last summer. Her father, an RN on active duty with the Air Force, is a member of the 48th Medical Operations Squadron stationed at RAF Lakenheath.

Kara was writing about her own imaginary land of Cunburra where the Great Buffalo King helps horses battle the Evil Lady of the Sea. She was writing about Nancy, who adopts animals and receives the aid of snakes in the evil place of Closed Door Land. She was writing about love and forgiveness and a personal relationship with God.

Meanwhile, Kara's right arm was hurting, and although she told herself it was growing pains, somehow she knew it was something more. Not just a bruise. Not just a muscle ache.

Finally, the pain got so intense her parents took her to the medical clinic. An X-ray revealed a massive tumor. Seven weeks later, the results of a biopsy gave the awful diagnosis of bone cancer. Soon chemotherapy began and she was too sick to write anymore.

Now 10, she's had part of her upper arm bone replaced by a titanium rod. She's been through 10 months of rigorous chemotherapy. She's lost her hair.

But Kara, who looks at life from the bright side, has much to be thankful for. Her cancer is responding to treatment.

Furthermore, she is already the published author of a book, *Tales of Cunburra and Other Stories*, an impressive 237 pages of fantasy and faith, which can be purchased through the Holt website using amazon.com ([www.holtinternational.org/shopping/](http://www.holtinternational.org/shopping/)). With the help of the children's charity Dreams Come True and Arima Publishing, Kara's dream to become published was realized. Thanks to her parents, her doctors and her own indomitable spirit, she is writing again.

Kara has struggled with nausea and weight loss from the chemotherapy. Due to the tendons in her shoulder being removed, she can no longer raise her upper arm by itself. She can never again lift anything heavy. She must now contend with heart damage from one of the drugs used to treat her cancer.

As she battles her way through a baffling land of obstacles with the God-given gift of imagination and faith, Kara Siert has become a heroine in her own drama—and is proving to be an inspiration to others. ■



Kara Siert, 10, holds a copy of her book.