Asia Book Report

I read the book Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah. This is a true autobiography of an unwanted daughter living in China. The author writes her story of when she was a girl. Adeline Yen Mah was an unwanted child for her whole life, and all that she yearned for was the love from her family. During childbirth, Adeline’s mother died. She was blamed for the death, and considered bad luck. Her older siblings were very cruel to her for her whole life, and her father paid very little attention to his youngest daughter. A year after her mother had died; Adeline’s father remarried a seventeen-year-old Eurasian woman whom they were supposed to call Niang, which is the Chinese term for mother. Niang gave birth to two children after she married Adeline’s father, and she favored her kids more than her stepchildren. Anything that her two children wanted, they received. They had the latest fashions in clothes and haircuts, and they received the best schooling. On the other hand, Adeline and her three siblings were forced to wear traditional Chinese clothing, and the boys had to shave their heads in a Monk-style haircut. Adeline was by far treated the worst among all of the children. Her only escape from her dreadful home was school. Adeline loved school, and she was most often the top student in her class. She skipped two grades, and still excelled above the older children. Adeline worked extremely hard in school, and the main reason for this was to receive more attention from her father. It seemed that when she did well in school, her father praised her. Praise and love from her family is all that Adeline yearned for as a young child, and she still does as an adult.

Recommendation

Chinese Cinderella was a very good book. It is not my most favorite book I have ever read, but I did enjoy reading it. It was very sad to read about, and it made me think about what it would be like if I was Adeline. She was a very brave little girl, and I don’t think I could have been as courageous as her. My favorite part in this book was when Adeline was taking care of her little duckling that a family friend had given to her as a present. She cared for that little duck with all her heart, and she made she that no harm would come to it. I think that think book could have been a little bit more descriptive in some parts, because I was confused a few times about the different locations.

I would recommend this book to anyone. It is very interesting to learn about what life is like for someone else in a different country. If you like books that have some history in it, then I think you will like this book. There are a lot of political conflicts that happen in China that are mentioned in this book. Chinese Cinderella was kind of a slow-paced book, so if you like action books, then this isn’t the book for you. I did enjoy this book by Adeline Yen Mah, and I hope you do too! ☺