Shanghai Girls By: Lisa See

Hannah Weis

This book is about two sisters named Pearl and May. The main character is Pearl who is twenty- one years old. Pearl is the smart one and May is the beautiful one. She and May live in Shanghai, China. They very wealthy and have servants. They are models and get painted during the day. At night they go out to eat at expensive restaurants.

Their dad is a gambler. One day he loses all of his money. He owes money to the Green Gang. The Green Gang is known for killing people when they don’t follow their promises. He promises the Green Gang that he will pay back all of the money. He finds a man that works for the Green Gang. He has two single sons. Pearl and May are to have arranged marriages. Then after that they will have to go and live in the America with their new husbands. Pearl and May are furious.

A few days before they have to leave for America a bomb goes off in downtown Shanghai. Pearl is lucky and takes cover. May gets a cut on her head. She was having lunch with a man that she really liked. Later they find the man with his head blown off his body. May is devastated.

Will Pearl and May like their new life in America? Will they have any more troubles along the way? Read Shanghai Girls to find out.

Recommendation

I would definitely NOT recommend *Shanghai Girls.* I personally hated this book. This book is historical fiction and adventure.

In this book the author (Lisa See) is very descriptive. This is the only thing that I liked about *Shanghai Girls.* Sometimes, the way that she describes some things can be a little disturbing. Pearl’s Mom’s feet are bound. She says that you could see the puss seeping out between the bandages and that a strong odor filled the room. Gross!

*Shanghai Girls* is also slow paced. You would think that since it is kind of an adventure book that it would be full of action. It is very boring. It is mostly about their day to day life. The only part that was fast paced was when they are trying to escape China and come to the America. So if you like action, you may not like this book.

This book takes place in the past. It’s 1937 in Shanghai, China. In this book they talk a little bit about history. They talk about World War 1. They also talk about how hard it was to get into America. The two girls have to stay at Angel Island for a long time before they are allowed to go to California. The book is 309 pages long. It also has a lot of words per page. So it’s a pretty big book.

In *Shanghai Girls* there are a LOT of characters. Since the girls moved from China to America they have friends from all over. I had to go back and look for the characters a lot. It got a little confusing. You just had to re-read it a few times.

I hated *Shanghai Girls.* Maybe it was just me, so you should read it to find out if you like it. That is my recommendation for *Shanghai Girls.*