So Far From the Bamboo Grove

I read The Book “So Far From the Bamboo Grove”, by Yoko Kawashima Watkins. This book was a non-fiction. It is about a young girl Japanese girl and her family escaping their home in Korea. Yoko and her mother and sister had normal lives. Yoko was a very smart young girl who did a lot of extra Curricular activities including ballet, calligraphy, and honors classes. One day her dance school goes to dance for wounded soldiers. After her performance Yoko is asked to go dance for a very badly wounded soldier that couldn’t make the performance. The soldier is all wrapped up in bandages and isn’t recovering very well. Yoko helps his recovery by visiting him often. When the soldier gets out of the hospital he visits Yoko’s family often. One late night he rushes to their house and tells them the anti-Japanese communist army. Yoko’s family is Japanese and they need to escape. They go on a long journey to a train station 9 days away by train, but halfway through their train ride the train is bombed and they decide to make it on foot once they get there they wait a long time to see if their brother is coming eventually they take a train to Japan where Yoko’ mom dies so it’s just her and her older sister. They live by themselves until their brother finally returns home.

Recommendation

This book was a fairly interesting read. I watch a lot of stuff about history but I’ve never heard of a war between Japan and Korea. I liked how the book had some flashbacks but not a lot because flashbacks can mess up a whole book, especially if the reader gets confused. I also liked how it was a pretty simple read. There weren’t a lot of really long words or Confusing sentences. The beginning of the book was very important but it was kind of boring. I also didn’t really like how most of the book is about the girls and their mom. Their brother goes to work at a factory making guns for the army. When the girls and their mom run away it leaves you wondering about what happened to the brother for the greater part of the story. I thought it should’ve said more about the brother and a little less about the girls. The brother actually has a little bit more interesting of a story as he goes along trying to find his family. The girls know where they’re going and the brother doesn’t. He’s just walking and has no idea where he is until he runs into a little house on the mountain side and gets rescued by a Korean family. One thing I did like is how it was based in a different type of culture. The Japanese are very helpful to each other throughout the whole book. It seems like the Japanese always find some way to help a person in need whether is Giving a pregnant mother some food or just sparing some water to your little sister, they always stick together. At the end I like how the brother and his sisters get back together after the sisters have been surviving by themselves for almost a year.