

Book review on Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter

By Suzanne Lim

On a bright sundrenched evening, I sat down with a book called Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter. I turned the first page, and the book sucked me into a world of reality, but reality which was like fantasy. The history of Adeline Yen Mah's past began to unwind itself to me ...

The tough childhood that Adeline led,
Made me treasure the book in the depths of my bed.
As a lesson to us who live so fortunately,
To remind us of those who are treated so unjustly.

While I plunged into the book in the dark of the night,
The pages took me to past times and astounding sights.
And as the author revealed her tale to me,
I sent compassion, and sympathy, and my condolences to thee.

The secret story of an unwanted daughter,
Who was made to feel redundant and slaughtered.
On the way of her journey her beloved had to part,
The courage she held at hand shot deep into my heart.

On the first day of school no one brought her,
At the end of the school day no one met her.
In an imposing attempt to find her way home,
She was lost in an immense city alone.

To others she was thought to bring with her bad luck,
Her destiny even demonstrated to her pet duck,
Her relatives made her endure like no one,
And she sought for a way to be someone.

Although in the end this was never much of reality,
Her attempt in trying is comprehended most preciously.
By trying her future might lead to be triumphant,
By not trying it definitely remains as disillusionment.

It was a turn of luck when her Aunt Reine collected her,
And with her cousins Victor and Claudine she made peers.
She was surprised when she learnt they were going abroad,
Time was spent adequately, she couldn't have wanted more

Going to Hong Kong was a treat for her,
Being treated comparatively made her assured.
That she was part of her Aunt Reine's family,
And for once she was looked upon benevolently.

The merry times, the harsh times, it was as if I was there,
Part of her life, her humanity, but dissolved in the air.
Contributing her delights, her anger and woe,
The reality of it all made me question, how can this be so?

The story on its own is nothing at all,
The thoughts that it gives us is what makes us fall.
How the author spun it together so delicately,
Every diminutive detail written so immaculately.

Every event so agonizing but yet very substantial,
Dedicated to us as an encouragement so spiritual.
Reaching deep into us and filling us with love,
Singing out so sweetly like the voice of a dove.

A bestseller's in the world so international,
Not only training our soul but also educational.
Teaching us to understand and empathies as well,
Guiding us purity like the sound of a bell.

Enticing as the book might be,
Written as if the author was talking to me.
Remarkable how she states her thoughts and opinions,
Although she was living in isolation and seclusion.

She herself is the true winner,
Nobody else could be much keener.
In achieving her dreams and finding her way out,
Of pessimistic reality, without any doubts.

She shared with us how she had attained her aim,
How she had completed her way to fame.
She verified to us that if we try,
We will ultimately reach the soaring sky.

She tells us that experiencing discontentment,
Has a greater importance than being exultant.
Able to overcome our failures and fears,
Will lead us to be the finest through all the years.

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