

**Book Review: Chinese Cinderella, The secret story of an Unwanted Daughter
By Kuldip**

Chinese Cinderella,
Her name is Adeline Yeh Mah.
What does that mean?
An inspiring story of an unwanted daughter's belief,
To surmount her life's barriers.
And live up her dream.
Now let's take a closer peek
For what she miraculously did.

Being the eighth child in the house,
She was seen as a terrible jinx,
Unwanted and superfluous,
For her mother died after she was born in Tianjian,
And ever since she was robbed of bliss.

What's worse was her Eurasian stepmother (Niang),
With long eyelashes and expensive perfumes,
And a venomous heart that smothers,
Every shred of pleasantness and favored only her own kids.
Picked on by her own brothers and sister,
Unnoticed by her busy father,
Her hope flickered,
But she managed to hang on with the support
Of her Aunt Baba and grandfather YeYe
Thanks Lord they were in good rapport.
And Life again shines on.

A twist in her life suddenly emerged,
Her family soon moved to Shanghai,
When her stepmother became even more domineering,
All her stepchildren were given no pocket money
Not even tram fare. So they went to schools on their feet,
And were mocked mercilessly by their fellow peers.
One by one, the children gave in and begged for some coins from their Niang
Nicknamed as the "Holy of Holies".
But the unwanted yet determined daughter never submitted
And walked to school daily.

At school, she was respected and topped her class.
Surrounded by many friends, she likes to read and finally learnt
That school was her refuge where she gained a sense of worth.
Excelled in creative writing and arithmetic,
For Knowledge was the one thing she yearned.

And being stuck at home was the least she wanted.
She was later elected as the class president,
Receiving warming congratulations and lovely gifts,
While her stepmother was fuming with rage,
Slapped her in the face and sent her away.
She later studied in the boarding schools in Tianjian and then Hong Kong sadly,
Isolated from her beloved Baba and YeYe in her own little world.
But instead of complaining, she read as many books as she could find in the school
libraries.
She wrote a well thought of piece of play and entered an international play writing
competition.
It soon changed her life, this decision,
Of entering this prestigious contest made her an international champion.
Trumpets blowing and drums beating.
The moment of God's blessings,
When she received the very "rare" praise from her dad,
And ventured out the land beyond China to study in Oxford, England.

Chinese Cinderella,
Her name is Adeline Yen Mah.
What more could be told,
A story of courage and faith
In which a girl holds,
Steadfast to her dreams.
And steadily paced herself through the daunting childhood,
Where she received neither parental love nor encouragement.
But quite a lot of devastating disappointments.
She learnt to be brave and overcame all odds,
And eventually she proves her worth.

As an immature girl, I used to think,
How come life is so bitter and bumpy all the way?
But her biography enlightened me.
Not to be afraid of the many failure ahead.

For life is supposed to be a roller coaster ride,
We can only draw our satisfaction and sense of worth after living a life
Rife with experiences.
Or what? You want to end up old
With nothing in your life that impresses you the most?
Let's face it!
Take up your paint brush and fill your life with rainbows and smiles now!

The End