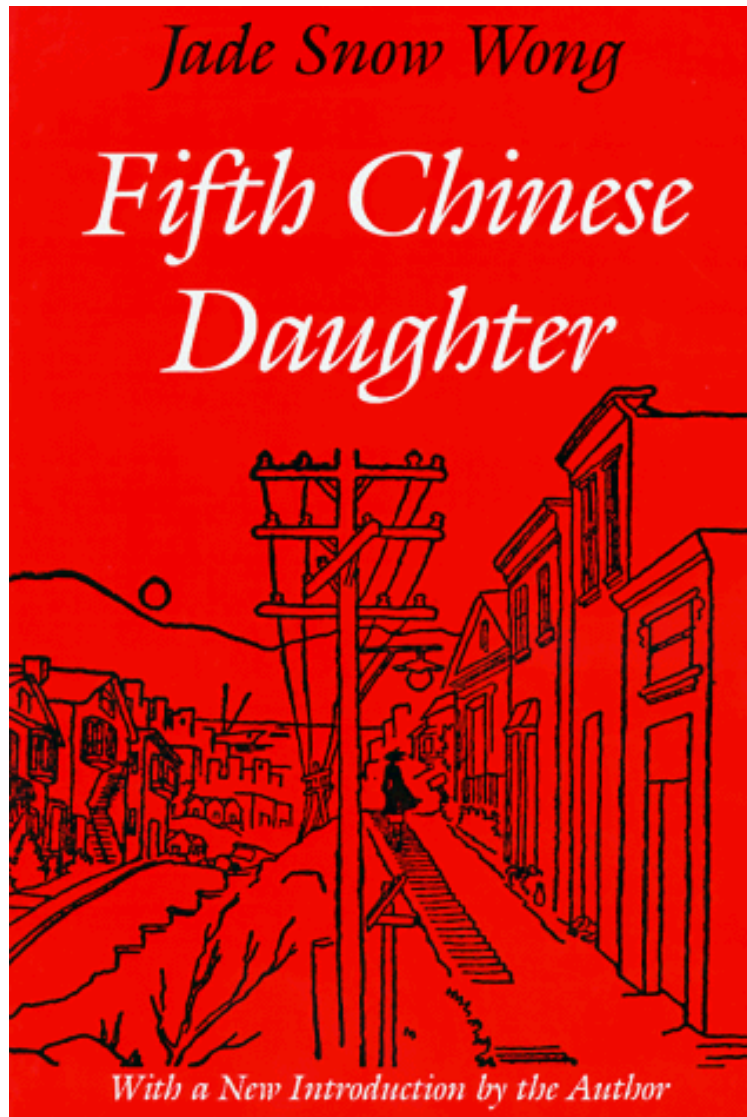


#349522 in Books Jade Snow Wong 1989-05-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .54 x 5.49l, .64
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Fifth Chinese Daughter

Jade Snow Wong : Fifth Chinese Daughter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fifth Chinese Daughter:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A person as well as a femaleBy Peter LakeI first encountered Jade Snow Wong's work in an anthology about cooking that I recently read. One of the chapters of this book was included in that book, and it was so charming, it made me curious to read more. I really enjoyed Fifth Chinese Daughter. The author was born into a traditional, hard-working Chinese family in San Francisco in the 1920s. Her early life was spent

mostly around those of her own race, but once she entered kindergarten, her world opened up considerably. Her parents demanded quite a lot - unquestioning obedience, hard work, little play (it's easy to see where today's so-called Tiger parents got their ideas) and little emotional support. Jade Snow eventually finds other people to help her deal with growing up in two worlds and reconciling them as best she can. You find yourself rooting for her every step of the way - through school (including nine grueling years of Chinese school AFTER regular school), college - which was quite a struggle to get into, the working world, through to her discovery of her life's work. The story is told in the third person, reflecting cultural disregard for the individual, and covers roughly 25 or so years of the author's life. It's a wonderful journey, and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in Chinese-American culture. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Chinese "Mommie Dearest" ?By L. Bruffl like true stories about real people. This fit the bill but was so extremely painful to get through that I almost put it aside. The autocratic, tradition-bound father who falls in love with a teen-age Eurasian beauty and begins a new family after the death of his first wife in childbirth calls all the shots for the entire blended family. The new family is the only one that really matters to the selfish and greedy stepmother. The baby girl who was blamed for the death of her mother becomes the scapegoat for the whole family, especially the stepmother who is perhaps an all-time classic of the evil variety, but the only mother this child has ever known. Her intelligence, ability to escape into reading and learning, and her exclusion from close association with her parents is perhaps what saves her in the end. This provided some real insight into the Chinese family, the problems experienced by immigrants and the difficult role of a young woman faced with a changing world, discrimination and personal betrayal of those closest to her. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Culture through generations. By Customer This is a book that I remember my mother enjoying when I was a preteen. Remembering that, I bought it in Chinatown in San Francisco in my 20s and after reading it I gave it to my friends third daughter. This time I bought it for someone interesting in going to Mills College. I grew up with a school friend who was this generation of Chinese. I was never invited to her home. After reading it years later I felt closer to her. I hope the recipient of this copy is as impressed by it as I was. It is a truly memorable book.

Originally published in 1945 and now reissued with a new introduction by the author, Jade Snow Wongs story is one of struggle and achievements. These memoirs of the authors first twenty-four years are thoughtful, informative, and highly entertaining. They not only portray a young woman and her unique family in San Franciscos Chinatown, but they are rich in the details that light up a world within the world of America. The third-person singular style is rooted in Chinese literary form, reflecting cultural disregard for the individual, yet Jad Snow Wongs story also is typically American. We first meet Jade Snow Wong the child, narrowly confined by the family and factory life, bound to respect and obey her elders while shouldering responsibility for younger brothers and sisters - a solemn child well versed in the proper order of things, who knew that punishment was sure for any infraction of etiquette. Then the schoolgirl caught in confusion between the rigid teaching of her ancestors and the strange ways of her foreign classmates. After that the college student feeling her was toward personal identity in the face of parental indifference or outright opposition. And finally the artist whose early triumphs were doubled by the knowledge that she had at long last won recognition from her family.

"A sensitive and revealing story of a Chinese American girls coming of age in America. It is unique."New York Herald Tribune"A fascinating narrative, not only because of the courage and humour which shine through every page of the book, but also because it shows how the members of a typical Chinese family can adapt themselves to American conditions and take their part in the national life of the United States without losing the essentials of the cultural heritage which they rightly prize."Times Literary Supplement