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Double Luck: Memoirs Of A Chinese Orphan



Synopsis

Born in 1944, he found a way to make his dreams of freedom come true.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 212 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (March 1, 2001)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #155,213 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political #231 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #259 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Customer Reviews

I loved Double Luck: Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan because the boy, Chi Fa, was so brave and he never stopped believing in his lifelong dream. Chi Fa and all the people in the book were so real I felt I knew them well. After his parents died, Chi Fa's life was one hard adventure after another. He endured being cold and nearly starving, having to move every time he found a place to sleep, and risking his life to flee the Communist takeover of China. Through everything, he remained a kind person who remembered the people who had loved him. When Chi Fa wished on the Orphan Star in the sky, I very much wanted his dream to come true. It was exciting for me to read from one chapter to the next and I didn't want to put the book down. I intend to lend the book to my teacher and I hope she will ask our librarian to get a copy for my school.

I just finished reading this book. I could not put it down. As a former teacher, I would have definitely read this to my class with a discussion to follow each reading. Hopefully, the children would get the message of perserverance, hope, hardship and injustice which was overcome to accomplish a

dream. My only disappointment was that I want to know more about Chi Fa's life when he arrived in America. What kinds of things he did to succeed, how his past impacted his foundation of success and something more of his family life as it is today. Sadly, the book only covered his pre-America days. I am hoping for another book by this author.

DOUBLE LUCK is an exciting story for teens and preteens. It is the true tale of a child who had to find his own way in a hostile world and who made his dream come true. Little LuChiFa was born in Eastern China in the Kangsu Province in 1941, the Year of the Snake. After his parents died, he was shuffled among relatives and friends until he became one mouth too many to feed and he was sold for 500 pounds of rice to a Communist Chief as a slave. LuChiFa was five years old. Among the tortures he bore was being hung upside down by his pigtail. The pain was excruciating. Ironically it was the Communist Chief who gave him his nickname of Double Luck. The cruel man was not to know that one day his jest would truly become Double Luck and the little Chinese boy's dream of coming to America where he could live an independent life would come true. The preparation of this book was a three-way undertaking. A literary agent, Karen Grencik, and Rebecca White, an established author of children's books and editor of the magazine A NEW DAY, collaborated with LuChiFa and the result is this true story of double luck. collaborated with LuChiFa

Lu Chi Fa and Becky White have collaborated on an incredible piece of juvenile literature that will bring hope and inspiration to any child who has ever felt victimized by a cruel adult world. In this biographical saga that takes the reader from the turbulent times of the Communist takeover in the China of the 1940's to the present day, Double Luck, as the author is known throughout his childhood, tells his simple, honest story through the eyes of a starving orphan. This work is replete with lush imagery laced with a love of nature and oriental culture and tradition. Lu Chi Fa's eyes seem to be focused ever upward in a world where he is surrounded by those who want him to be invisible, enslaved, or suppressed; and as he looks skyward, he finds cloud dragons of hope that take him away to a future full of dreams, starlit skies of night that comfort him with his ancestors, and radiant colors of every hue that paint a canvas of a bright and hopeful future he knows one day will come to pass. The language is simple, yet rich in texture and imagery, filled with allegorical lessons on character virtues that come to Chi Fa as he faces each new challenge or crisis. This format lends itself well to oral reading to primary age children as well as being thoroughly enjoyable reading for older juvenile readers. Although some of the imagery is at times repetitive (e.g. "dragon clouds" and "sliver of moon"), the frequent use of such images underscores the importance of

nature in oriental thinking and culture, and consequently will not be lost on the young reader. Chi Fa's indomitable spirit, as so tenderly and skillfully portrayed in this moving story, will serve as an inspiration to anyone who has ever felt victimized, regardless of circumstance or situation. I highly recommend this book to juvenile and adult reader alike.

Every day we hear about the countless children of the world who have no parents, no homes and who suffer the pain of constant hunger. Lu Chi Fa and Becky White have brought one of those children vividly to life in Double Luck: Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan. The orphan boy, Chi Fa, is anything BUT a tragic character. His optimism, his love of life and the joy he derives from simple things, such as tasting a peach for the first time, light up every page. He shows maturity and courage far beyond his years as he faces many life-threatening situations. Along with the story of a remarkably courageous boy, we are given descriptions of a beautiful country and an insight into the customs of the Chinese people. I read the book aloud to my 8 and 10-year-old granddaughters in just two days because they kept insisting on "just one more chapter". All of us enjoyed a truly exciting book with memorable characters. It would be almost impossible to read Double Luck, Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan without being personally uplifted.

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