

Alyssa Cheng

December 14, 2007

Dear Ms. Adeline Yen Mah,

*Chinese Cinderella* has brought me to utterly change my perspective on life. Everyone can strive to succeed with determination which is overcoming hardships. Looking at my life, I too can overcome hardships. You also brought me closer to knowing about my grandmother's life who had overcome hardships in her life.

While reading this book, I painted a picture in my mind; a picture that uses the colors black, red and white. The black represents terrible things that had happened, and the red represents for hope, love, and care. Finally, the white represents strong will. Through this picture, I made a dash of color (black, red, and white) any time something in the book happened. For example, when your duck, P.L.T. died I drew a black mark. But, on the other hand I drew a red mark when you became class leader and your dad recognized you. I also drew a white mark for you when you stood up for Susan your little sister.

Through your book, it brought me closer to my grandmother. My grandmother and I always had a special relationship but she was so quiet about her past. She never really talked about it. She bottled it up all inside of her. Through this book, I understand why my grandmother kept quiet about her past. My mom and I were reading this book when she pointed out to me that you were born around the same time as my grandmother was! That was not the only thing that is common between you and my grandmother. Like you, my grandmother was an unwanted child. She was given away by her own father when she was six years old.

My grandmother was born in Thailand. She was given away because her family did not want girls in the family and because a fortune teller said she will bring bad luck to her family. Like you, you were unwanted because your family thought you brought bad luck because your mother had died after she gave birth to you. My grandmother was determined to have a better adult life by teaching herself to read and write. Like you, you set a goal to be the top student in the class in order to make your father proud. My grandmother was very strong will. She taught herself to read and write without any help from others. Like you, you stood up for your little sister, Susan when your step-mother was beating Susan up.

Even though I do not know much about my grandmother's past, I suspect that she had a hard life like you. Your book encourages me to try and write a book about my grandmother's life some day.

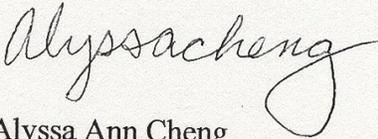
I also want to be more like you. I want to be able to stand up to what I think is right and not to be afraid to make mistakes. You helped me to stand up for myself and help myself make my own decisions. Most importantly, you have taught me to stick with the rules no matter how hard

things are. You knew how to behave even though others put you down. You have many desirable traits. Even if you didn't have it you worked for it and did everything to achieve it.

At the end of your book, my painting was full of black, red, and white lines. But the one with the most was the red lines then the white and lastly black. For whenever some thing bad happens something good happens too. There is a famous quote that says when one door closes two doors opens.

Thank you for everything and for providing me with this book to inspire and help me understand things better. Thank you sincerely from my heart. I would like to add that your book doesn't only help children that are unwanted; it also helps other people understand the unwanted children better.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyssacheng". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large loop at the end of the word.

Alyssa Ann Cheng