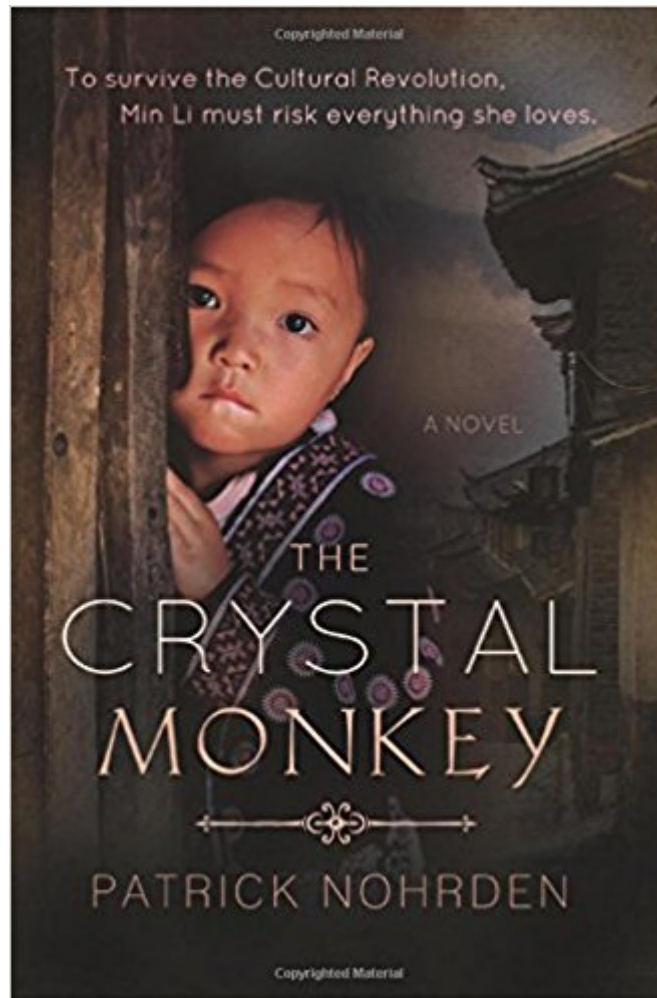




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The Crystal Monkey



Synopsis

Little Min Li believes she lives in the world's greatest nation until the Red Guards terrorize her village. And when her father sells her crystal monkey to buy alcohol, Min Li loses much more than a beloved toy. As she grows up, Min Li must rediscover her hope and courage in order to achieve her greatest dreams. This true-life story will capture your heart!

Book Information

Paperback: 292 pages

Publisher: Sweetwater Books (November 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1462114814

ISBN-13: 978-1462114818

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,180,261 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Customer Reviews

This is a fantastic story on two levels. The plot is compelling and one cannot help but care about the characters, especially Min Li, and what happens to them. The writing draws the reader into China during the cultural revolution. In addition, Nohrden's writing style is both lyrical and subtle. It is easy for the reader to see the world through Min Li's eyes. I was hooked from the very first paragraph.

I really liked learning about Chinese culture from the story. The plot is fast-paced and has a lot of good action. I felt that the story ended too soon. I wanted to follow Min Li to the end of her life. I had some questions about what happened or was going to happen to the characters Overall, I felt I learned a lot about Chinese culture and history and really enjoyed myself.

This is a very interesting book about China and the people you never hear about. I loved it because it gets you so caught up in the every day lives of the family. Easy reading and NO PROFANITY. I

would recommenced this book to everyone.

wonderful book ,love it can hardly wait for more books from him to read

4 STARS This is a fascinating story. I really have not read any books based on a little girl growing up in China. I did not want to put the story down. It was a good glimpse at what life was like. It shows how hard and why students study so long and hard. What different festivals they celebrated. How the different uprising and changes made in political effected families. What happens if your family gets on the wrong side of the government and you became a black family. How the teachers, doctors were taken and uneducated people than became the doctors and teachers. Min Li is the main character in Crystal Monkey. She starts out very young. She is born in a peasant family with a older brother and two younger sisters. She becomes fascinated with a expensive crystal monkey in a little gift shop. The shop owner is retired and does not sell too much and he tells her if it does not sell he will leave it to her in his will. There is only one book that they have to learn from in school and supposedly each house. That is a scary thought of no books. The author is a American who lived in China for years teaching English and is married to a Limin who is Chinese and based his character on. His book in my eyes made sense of what life could have been like in China at that time. Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Is what he based his book on those years and what was life like during that time. I did not want the story to be over. I wanted to know more about Min Li's future. I was given this ebook from Cedar Fort Publishing so I could give a honest review of it and take place on The Crystal Monkey book tour.

Min Li is a young Chinese girl who believes that she lives in the greatest nation, China, and that Americans and capitalism are evil. She is a peasant and, since she feels wealthy, she considers that to be a good thing. At the beginning of the story, she feels that the Red Guards, a militant youth group, are the bright future of China. The Red Guards have become power hungry, though, and one night, her family is required to attend a meeting where she realizes who they really are. That night, she rescues a crystal monkey from Mr. Li's shop, a brave act that would have serious consequences if she was caught. The crystal monkey shows up in her dreams and helps her through some difficult times in her life. She has to hide it and is disappointed when it disappears and she learns the truth of what happened to it. Over the years, her eyes are opened more and more as she learns the truth about her father and the importance of a good education as the key to creating a better life for herself. I loved Min Li! My heart broke a little at some of the things that happened to

her. She's resilient and determined to make a better life for herself. She's almost raped twice by the same boy. The first time, she tried to press charges, but he's the son of a wealthy and influential man and nobody will stop him. After his second attempt, I was hoping he would go away but he makes another appearance and what he wanted at that point made me feel sick so I can't imagine how Min Li felt. Her father is another disappointment to her. He lives away from the family most of the time and is incredibly selfish when he does come around. He doesn't have much use for his family unless he needs them to help him with something. I loved her mother, brother and sisters. They are poor but stick together and work hard to survive. I like that the author included a glossary at the end to help with pronunciations and definitions. I enjoy reading stories about different cultures and this had an authentic feel to it. I wasn't surprised to read later that the author has lived in China. I learned a lot about the Chinese Cultural Revolution and some of it is pretty horrible and difficult to read. This is a fantastic coming-of-age story that will make you feel like you're witnessing history. I was glad to read that the author is working on a sequel. I enjoyed the ending but feel like there is more to Min Li's story so I'm looking forward to reading it! Content: Violence relating to the Red Guards; two rape attempts, neither one too graphic. I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

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