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Chasing China; A Daughter's Quest For Truth



Synopsis

After an episode of prejudice rocks her usually secure world, Mia hops a plane back to the country of her birth to search for details about her birth parents, and confront the feelings of abandonment she has kept buried throughout her life. What begins as a simple tour of the Chinese orphanage where she spent her first few years quickly becomes complicated as Mia fights to untangle the web of lies that is her finding details. As she follows the red thread back through her motherland, she is enamored by the history and culture of her heritageâstrengthening her resolve to find the truth, even as Chinese officials struggle to keep it buried. With her unwavering spirit of determination, Mia battles the forces stacked against her and faces mystery, danger, a dash of romance, and finally a conclusion that will change her life.

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Customer Reviews

Kay Bratt's first book, *Silent Tears*, was horrifying and mesmerizing at the same time. It was a difficult book to read, but I'm so glad I did. I knew I'd read Kay Bratt's new book *Chasing China* as soon as it was available and absolutely devoured it. The characters are so real, the descriptions and images she has written about were spot on and I saw many of the exact same things she wrote

about during my two visits to China and a Chinese orphanage. She really knows what she's talking about. Because Kay lived in China and interacted with Chinese people there on a regular basis, it was very easy to believe that the characters would have talked and acted in the ways she described in the book. The story of Mia, searching for her birthparents, intertwined with the story of Jax, who is the perfect compliment to Mia, is entertaining and believable. There were a couple of spots in the book that were quite dramatic, and I'm still not sure why some of that drama was in the book as it wasn't fully explained by the conclusion, but it didn't take away from the enjoyment I got from Chasing China. If you have any interest at all in China, adoption or well researched and well written novels, you should read Chasing China!

I loved this book! "Chasing China" is a fast, entertaining read. The relationship between the main character, Mia, and her friend, Jax, is adorable and their romance brings the reader to the sights and country of China. From my perspective as an adoption therapist (and author of *The Adoptive & Foster Parent Guide: How to Heal Your Child's Trauma and Loss*), "Chasing China" is an opportunity for readers to gain insight into the thoughts and feelings of an adoptee. I would recommend this book to any family who has adopted children. Thank you, Kay, for this wonderful book! Carol Lozier, LCSW

I'm finding it hard to know how to rate this book. On the one hand, I liked the characters, and the story of one girl's struggle to find her Chinese birth family was both gripping and moving, right to the last page (not counting the epilogue). On the other hand, I didn't much care for the style, and there were points when I found the jarring POV shifts sufficiently annoying that I just had to put the book down: most of the time the story follows Mia's point of view, and sometimes Jax's, but then some scenes start head-hopping across several minor characters. The inconsistency just bugged me. So... I enjoyed this story, but I didn't thoroughly enjoy the process of reading it. A pity, as it really could have been excellent.

First off, I want to state that I love China. I've been an exchange student there myself, and I love books about China, so I was pretty sure I was going to love this one. I did not. It's terribly written. It's like it's written by a child/preteen for a school project. Still, the most annoying thing in the entire book is the protagonist, Mia. Amount of flaws: 0. Level of perfectness: 1000. She's beautiful, smart, witty, good at music, everyone loves her and so on and so forth. Everyone she meets loves her right away, including her love interest who falls in love with her after just seeing her on the street. Turns

out, the reason she was stolen from her parents is also because she was perfect. Makes me think that the message in this book is: If you're adopted and you're not this perfect, well, then you were abandoned. The entire book is a fairy tale. The author is wearing heavy American glasses, judging China after American standards. This is especially hilarious when she criticize the Chinese welfare-system. (The pot calling the kettle black!) The only good parts is from the orphanage and the children, but that's only a small part at the beginning. Also, if you know Chinese, you'll get annoyed by the pinyin. There's so many mistakes! Proof reading, maybe? In short, it's a quick and easy read, but with a bad story, characters cut out from cardboard, overly romanticized ending with all you can eat cream, sugar and cherry on top. Sweet, but will just make you nauseous.

This is probably one of the poorest written novels I've read in a long time. Normally I'd trudge through it anyway, if the characters are compelling and the story is strong. This is especially true if the book is about something I care about, which is the case with this book. But Chasing China is really a bad book - in all ways a book can be bad. I won't say any more because the other reviews that give it one and two stars pretty thoroughly cover it.

This is the second book of Kay Bratt's that I have read. The first was "Silent Tears: A Journey of Hope in a Chinese Orphanage." "Chasing China" has a different feel to it; not just because it is fiction, but because it is not as intensely emotional as "Silent Tears." "Chasing China" is about a college-aged woman. Mia, returning to the China to find answers about her beginnings. I found a lot of Mia's thoughts to be believable. My daughter, only 7 years old, has had many of the same thoughts Mia has. This book brings to light many of the challenges faced by adoptees as they search out the truth of their first families. When my daughter is a teen, she will be given this book as a help for her to sort out the many emotions she has about her first family. I look forward to other books by Kay Bratt. I bought this book on my Kindle.

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