

Chinese Cinderella (Long Essay)

Adeline Yen Mah is a Chinese-American author. Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter was published in 1999. The book has won several awards, including the Children's Literature Council of Southern California Award for Compelling Autobiography in 2000. It is a memoir of her childhood, covering her life until she is fourteen years old.

The narration begins with Adeline winning a silver medal at school, which she proudly shows to Aunt Baba. She tells Aunt Baba that Mother, Agnes, awarded it to her. Born in Tianjin, China, to a wealthy family, Adeline is the fifth child. Her mother passed away due to delivery complications, and Adeline is blamed for this loss. Her family labels her "bad luck" and a curse. She has one sister and three brothers. Her father remarries a year after her birth, and her stepmother, Niang, a strict and controlling woman, makes Adeline's life very challenging.

Adeline's father and stepmother enrol her at Sacred Heart Canossian School, a boarding school in Hong Kong, where she spends much of her early life away from her family. One day, while playing with her friends, the family driver suddenly takes her to a villa on a hill. Nervous and confused, she enters her father's room for the first time. To her surprise, her father congratulates her for winning first prize in an International Playwriting Competition. She is the first Chinese student from Hong Kong to achieve this honour, which comes with a medal and fifty pounds.

Adeline's father explains that his friend, C.Y. Tung, has noticed her achievement and asked if she is related to him, as they share the surname, Yen. Proudly, her father acknowledges her as his daughter. This makes Adeline happy. Encouraged, she asks if she can study in England like her brothers. Her father agrees but insists that she study medicine instead of literature, stating that writing is not a stable career. Although Adeline loves literature, she agrees to her father's condition. Later, Adeline becomes both a doctor and a renowned writer, proving that she can succeed despite her father's doubts.

Adeline's memoir highlights the importance of education, self-belief, and persistence. It demonstrates that no matter how difficult life is, challenges can be overcome with courage and determination. Her journey from a neglected and abused child to a successful doctor and writer serves as an inspiring testament.

Chinese Cinderella (Short essay)

Adeline Yen Mah is a Chinese-American author. Her memoir, *Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*, published in 1999, tells the story of her life until the age of fourteen.

The book describes Adeline's difficult childhood as the fifth child in a wealthy family in Tianjin, China. Her mother dies after giving birth to her, and her father remarries. Adeline spends much of her childhood at Sacred Heart Canossian School, a boarding school in Hong Kong, away from her family.

Adeline's talent brings her recognition when she wins an international playwriting competition. She becomes the first Chinese student from Hong Kong to receive this honour.

Adeline's father, proud of her achievement, agrees to let her study in England but insists she study medicine instead of literature. Although she loves writing, Adeline accepts his condition. *Cinderella*. Later Adeline excels both as a doctor and a writer.

The memoir highlights themes of resilience, education, and self-belief. It shows Adeline's journey from neglect and abuse to great success.