

September 7, 2023

204 results



Steven Davidson

12 reviews

September 7, 2023

Do you know what's special about books like this? It's raw and it's so personalized, we all relate to the characters and their hurdles. One instance is J, a strong-willed empowered woman with courage and knows what she wants. She is inspirational, especially to our time surrounded by people with their judgments. This teaches us to grow a part of us like her, as courageous and steadfast.

It's one of the most genuine and sincere stories I've read, I will probably re-read this again with a ready heart.



Shirley Barnett
12 reviews

September 7, 2023

The Education of Jennie Wang gives me a nostalgic feeling, even when it is dated, it gives me a feeling that I am involved. The characters are so genuine, each having distinct attitudes making them each special in their own ways. It is not a typical story that we long a happy ending, it doesn't even give a hint where and how it will end. A new and thrilling book, a story of resistance and courage. We all need to meet J because we all have been like her at some point in our life.

Highly recommended!



Donald Fowler
11 reviews

September 7, 2023

A compelling book that opens our eyes to contemporary issues that need to be in the spotlight. Jennie Wang made sure that we feel the characters and can relate to their experiences, even to the point we want to get inside and be in the same setting as the characters. I love the fact that J also highlighted the stories of the other characters, it made us feel their presence and impact on the life of J.

Such a timeless story! This book deserves recognition.



Anna Campos
12 reviews

September 7, 2023

The book gave me a long ride in the early life of Wang, and it made me feel a mixture of thrill and relief at the same time. The story was happening so fast, I didn't go get a grasp of all the events but the feelings remained and stacked up. Even though it was heavy, the author made it lighter. The book gave us an education about the history of the cultural revolution, and the importance of education.

An eye-opening book, this generation should definitely read this!



Anthony Howell

11 reviews

September 7, 2023

The book *The Education of Jennie Wang* is a book based on real events— keeping a record of the happenings in her diaries and memoirs. This is a story aimed at everyone, for it is a fair mix of relationships of families and character growth. It focuses on various social issues that are also relevant in today's time. I love this book, the writing techniques that are used and the use of language fits the mood of the story.

In addition, it also made use of illustrations that added more depth to the stories and gave readers a vision to picture out the characters and the events. Overall, a compelling book that is both informative and full of life realizations.



Sandra Luna

11 reviews

September 7, 2023

A story so genuine and tragic, this book is not just a simple memoir, it's a timeless masterpiece. Jennie Wang pulled off an amazing novel with a lot of stories and lessons to offer. This may be a book about her, but the way the book is written made me feel like she wanted us to see a young

girl on her own adventure and not just the polished person she has become.

I admire the way of writing, it's a mix between reading a private letter and feeling like you've been where the author described. I can imagine Shanghai in all its glory even though I have never been there. I can see the characters, their expressions as they struggle, and the little details the author wished to come across.

A great read, this book is phenomenal, given more recognition and it might just become the most well-liked memoirs of the 20th century.



Margaret Schultz

11 reviews

September 7, 2023

A beautiful story of education, resistance, and the importance of pulling through the destruction that is thrown in your way. The main character thrives on society that has placed a man's value on his money and status, said society is facing a threat caused by cultural revolution and she has to make sure that not only will she get through the revolution, but she must also maintain an educated person.

What I love about J is her ability to not get sidetracked, she has a goal and she aims for it, there may be people and events that try to hinder her path but she finds support from both her peers and herself. This book sends such a powerful message and I'm glad I'm able to see it.

Many praises to the author for giving us a powerful historical perception and profound experience from a scarred time. I really enjoyed reading about China's culture and compared it to what we see today.



Betty Walsh
15 reviews
1 follower

September 7, 2023

Jennie Wang, a student from Shanghai was determined to take her education into her own hands when a tragic occurrence fell upon their community. The book is an intertwined set of stories that all involve J, the stories really had their impacts on the main character and you can see how she changed in accordance to what stories the people around her led.

I think the best thing about the book is that J is not only the main character, when someone's story is told she shares the spotlight and becomes a side character for the character, and she takes it as a lesson. A story so genuine and tragic, this book is not just a simple memoir, it's a timeless masterpiece.



Matthew Sims

12 reviews

September 7, 2023

The memoir of Jennie Wang exceeded all the expectations I had for it. J's story is inspiring, it starts with the narration of events that lead to the cultural revolution, the trials J faced while getting through a society wherein your status matters more than anything.

From the start you can see that the main character is smart, she is determined and passionate and will do anything it takes to reach her goals, in this case- a proper education. Following her journey was amazing, I got to also meet relevant people in her life and understood why she had to meet them in the end, the book was J's whole character development, and I'm glad I read through it.

If I could rate this book, I would give it 4 stars out of 5. It's beautiful enough as it is, with the right mixture of sentimental and factual yet

there were small scenes I didn't feel should be included. Overall, a great book and one that should be read by a lot more people.



Nancy Bowman
13 reviews

September 7, 2023

A story about dedication amidst tragedy, Jennie Wang really pieced together an amazing work of literature that stands out among the rest. *The Education of Jennie Wang* is inspiring and relevant even in today's youth.

The story takes place in the 1960s, burdened by the death of her teacher, and being kicked out of school, J decided to take her education into her own hands and attain the highest possible form of education. The author describes the sequence of events clearly, with each scene unfolding just as easily as the last one with her way of words. I especially love how even if the author experienced what the main character did firsthand, the narration was done as if we are seeing J take on this adventure without knowing what will happen next.

I love the plot, the writing style, and overall impact of this book, a work that needs to be recognized and praised. Kudos to the author for pulling off such a marvelous book!



Lisa Banks
14 reviews

September 7, 2023

I don't know what to say about this book. I literally cannot gather my emotions to write them down at first. After reading the first page I already expected this to be good but that still blew me away with how engaging and impactful it was.

We are all flawed creatures, all of us. But being flawed doesn't mean hopelessness. It doesn't mean forsaken. No one said to give up. We shouldn't be suffering while our mouths are close and conforming to what they want. We don't need to let our questions pending and leave them behind. We have so much power than we allow ourselves to think. We have the potential to fight if we only knew how to speak for what we believe is right. There's a reason why they don't look for teenagers for guidance on fraught issues and prevalent affairs in our society. Because

youth are the powerful pawns. That's why you should treasure your education for it is the only foundation that no one can ever steal.



Daniel Dean
9 reviews

September 7, 2023

It really does a good job of giving a wide scope of China's Culture. After reading this, you will walk away with significantly more knowledge and awareness. I'm madly in love and I will never stop talking about how dear and close this book is to my heart. I am running out of ways to look for anything that will make me hate this book. And I bet you wouldn't be a hole in it too.

This has shed light on problems that the Chinese had experienced to a great extent. Whether socially, politically, in culture, or in morals. It just didn't show me a new perspective but a reflection of the darker side of reality.

It is definitely an eye-opener. Can you imagine a high schooler joining activism rather than going to school? It is just unbelievable but it often happens to a lot of countries.



Christopher Gilbert
10 reviews

September 7, 2023

"I will not let the mistakes of government policy stop my education! If school will never open, I will have to complete my own education one way or another, sooner or later to the highest level attainable. No one shall stop me."

J is someone you wouldn't want to underestimate. Her willingness to learn is anomalous. I am ashamed as I do not enjoy learning as much as she does. We do have a few common qualities and one of them is our love for books. She shows her strong desire to learn English and explore literature, despite the Cultural Revolution in their country which resulted in the shutting down of schools, she didn't lose hope and continue to seek knowledge with the help of everyone close to her heart.

Other than the political aspect tackled in the story, it also emphasizes the roles of men and women in society. There's great stress or emphasis on patriarchy, whereas dividing societal rights, privileges, and power primarily along the lines of sex, results in the oppression of women and privileging men.



Karen Little
12 reviews

September 6, 2023

This story happened in 1966, where gangs of teenagers in red armbands and military fatigues roamed the streets of Beijing and Shanghai and raided the houses of those with "bourgeois" clothes or reactionary haircuts. "Imperialist" street signs were torn down. These Red Guards destroyed paintings, books, and furniture; all were items that they viewed as part of the Four Olds. Books before were as valuable as gold and even the families' long-kept genealogy books were burned to ashes. All these vicious tortures have led to people committing suicide. After J's entanglement in her teacher's suicide, she had stopped getting involved in any student activism for she was caged in guilt and what happened made a scar in her heart. Behind those smiles, we have our own battles to fight. Behind those scars is the untold story of survival.

A book that you would want to share with anyone. To have it at night and read it in a warm bed with the windows open while the stars are shining bright.



Charles Williamson
13 reviews

September 6, 2023

"It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop." -
Confucius

With our current situation, this book will definitely motivate us to continue and move forward against all odds. What happened in 1966 was very similar to our situation right now, whereas students were deprived of education because of the on-going crisis of COVID-19. The coronavirus pandemic has turned the spotlight on one of the problems that haven't been resolved until now: making education accessible to all, under any circumstances. Although distance learning is a self-paced one, keeping the students to push throughout is another issue. To some, education is not their priority right now. Others are forced to work to provide even one meal for a day, but finances are just a factor, and internet accessibility is just part of a bigger problem. It's so sad that students were being left behind.

This is a book that will speak to us to continue despite everything that is happening across the globe. Just like how J strives to educate herself and continue to look for a reason to learn, we will also get through this.



Sarah Fields

11 reviews

September 6, 2023

One thing that I like in this book is the friendship between J and Klever. They were best of best friends who helped each other to learn and never thought of competing with each other. Neither of the two came to the point where they get jealous of the other's accomplishments. Both of them were at the top of their schools. They never failed to maintain a decent record, hence, their intelligence earn a respect from their teachers. But a long dream turned into a nightmare after the schools were shut down. They thought that if they wouldn't budge a bit and just go with the flow they will be left behind uneducated just like her other peers. And together, hand in hand, they educate themselves.

There is the kind of people you ought to befriend with. Those who will lift you and help you to get through your problems. Because a friend in need is a friend indeed. A lot of people walk in and out of your life, they come and go whenever they want, but those who leave imprints in your heart are the ones you should treasure for life. But most of all, a friend is someone who stayed with you during the worst seasons of your life.



Thomas Harvey
8 reviews

September 6, 2023

This is a book that speaks about J, a young woman in Shanghai who was deprived of education at an early age because of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 that leads to the termination of a hundred schools around the country. But together with her family and relatives, friends, and teachers who helped her to the best of their ability, she was able to get through it. She has sought knowledge from her cradle and will continue till her grave. Her passion to learn leads her to where she is right now.

I was impressed by Jennie Wang's writing. All are accurately written in detail. And her storytelling will unconsciously drown you in. There are only a few books that catch my eyes and flutter my heart, one of them is "The Education of Jennie Wang".



Joseph Jensen
11 reviews

September 6, 2023

A book that will take you to its country itself. It is a fascinating narrative perspective of Jennie Wang's life during the '60s. The story mainly focuses on how the Cultural Revolution has affected the education of J. It was Mao's goal to preserve Chinese communism from the remnants of the capitalist, he has earned the admiration of his countrymen, thus, Red Guards were formed as part of the Cultural Revolution. But as one person after another turns dead after dark, the revolution drew the ire of the world.

Some classical pieces of literature and other books from various authors were also mentioned in the story. An information-packed story filled with historical data. A great reference book or source for those who are studying or interested in China's history while in the hands of Mao Zedong. These are full of first-hand information that could make a different impact on your paper.

It took me only a few pages to get into the story and the moment I did, I couldn't stop. Such an amazing book! I wish I had read it sooner.



Jessica Marquez
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

This memoir tells us about Jennie Wang's life story written in her notebooks of journals and diaries. It narrates her life during the Cultural Revolution in 1966, and how it affected her academic pursuits. J is worthy of imitation, who shows young people how to live with integrity, optimism, hope, determination, and compassion. She plays a vital part in her reader's positive development.

I loved the idea of accentuating the fact that war isn't all about men but women, children and elders also have crucial roles in the whole process. What kept me turning pages, rather, were the characters 'lives and the short, well-crafted scenes. This is a story full of information. A great read for those who easily get bored with history books but is interested to read one in the future. In this book, you will never find a single page that will bore you out.



Richard Montgomery
13 reviews

September 6, 2023

You will hate the Red Guards for a million reasons but those youth might only play along to survive. Because victims during the Cultural Revolution were often paraded publicly, placards hanging around their necks with forced apologies for their alleged crimes against Mao's ideology. Some were swept up in the Cultural Revolution because they are given the power they never had before. They are encouraged to do things that are beyond laws; to resist authority and destroy things. But their actions cannot justify the death of millions of people. Millions of others suffered imprisonment, seizure of property, torture and general humiliation. And the root of all this, the culprit, is Mao Zedong.

It is truly a horrifying event in Chinese history. Mao Zedong's goal is to establish a communist community. But behind the smokescreen of a fictitious mass movement, it was all for the political power. There had been so many books published in this time period and I must say that I've read a pretty decent amount of stories. But this one rose above my heap of books.



William Oliver
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

There are cultural stories in J's memoir, but that's not really what the book is all about. It's about women in wartime. How the students survive without education, which was their only weapon in their time. In history class, we were always told about a war led by men, it's true, but what we didn't know is how women fight in the revolution. And this is the untold story of the home front.

The Red Guards came to search J's house for three long days and nights. They took all their valuable things and took her mother out in the public to humiliate her. They criticize their bourgeoisie's lifestyle and display the material objects that were found in their household to justify their search.

When the Red Guards asked J to criticize her mother she made it without hesitation. I just can't believe that she got entailed in those who shamed her mother. But when the Red Guards coerce PoPo (J's Mom Nanny) to admit all the crimes made by the lady and she defending her instead. J was ready to get mortified that day, to go through self-criticism, or to confess in public but because she conformed to the Red Guards, they let her go.

Considering her intelligence, the Red Guards asked her to write all of Teacher Wang's wrongdoings, she even helped them to write big letter posters to disgrace the teacher for they all hated the teacher herself as well as her class and grading system.

She made a decision which she can never tell whether it is going to warm her heart or burn down her house. In the end, she regretted it all.



Susan Welch
16 reviews

September 6, 2023

After reading the introductory, I was amazed that this book was based on over 50 journals and diaries. I have always wanted to write one for myself but I sometimes get lazy to get up from my bed and write. It's nearly unbelievable that she was able to keep a ton of notebooks with her life story in them for years, but she did it anyway.

The conflict begins with the announcement of the mass movement, the Cultural Revolution, where students are divided into "Rouge et Noir", which means red or black. Wherein the people born in and came from a family of the proletariat are considered to be red, while the black puppets are those children born from the parents of landlords, affluent-peasants, counter-revolutionaries, criminals, right-wing politicians, and nonconformist, where J is considered to be one.

Labeling people as "proletariat" and "bourgeoisie", whilst treating them differently is unbelievable. These labels shouldn't exist. There shouldn't be a barrier because we are all equal.



Barbara Weber

10 reviews

September 6, 2023

There's a sea of books, films, and television series that portray other ways of living. But this autobiography of Jennie Wang is what I lived for.

Jennie Wang never gets a hold of a fancy dress. She never dared to wear anything that would make her look like a bourgeoisie because girls or women in their generation were taught to be thrifty and simple. To them, simplicity is valued as a virtue. And once you were caught with valuable things, you would possibly get beaten up.

After the instigation of the Cultural Revolution in China, People were categorized into "proletariat" "capitalists" or "bourgeoisie", these people and even those with honorable reputation; party officials, teachers, intellectuals, or those within the higher level of the hierarchy were publicly humiliated, beaten and in some cases murdered or driven to suicide after vicious struggle sessions.

You really get a sense of how the Red Guards took over the lives of the Chinese people. And to what extent their manipulation can get. They gradually caused divisions within communities, scaring people into humiliation and tortures.



Elizabeth Fuller
10 reviews

September 6, 2023

What I like about this book is it talks about cultural norms and traditions that are brass-bound and adamant. While the country is in plight because of the Cultural Revolution, she goes through a battle of going against the grain and standing up for her morals and beliefs. Her parents remain heavily involved in their children's marital decisions. This traditional practice of arranged marriage is out of her league. I believe that we don't really need to find a man to ensure our financial security similarly in the past, or face pressure to marry workers and farmers to prove their socialist values during Mao's era. Because arranged marriages are cruel, per se, people deserve to choose who they marry and a chance to love whom their hearts desire.

This is a story that will take you to another country in a swift of a page.



David Bishop
17 reviews

September 6, 2023

This is a story that we can somehow all relate to. Because we are all in the same storm, just riding a different boat. As we all know, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has infected nearly every continent, forced countries into states of emergency, sent individuals into varying levels of quarantine and isolation and shuttered businesses and schools. But there's an unheard story that also deserves attention: the youth rising to meet the threat of this pandemic. This is an awfully similar situation to what happened to J (Jennie Wang) in 1966. The Cultural Revolution in China has led to a massive closure of educational institutions across the country. But this conflict didn't stop J to learn, she didn't lose her hope. Her love for books didn't disappear simply because of one predicament she encountered, thus, this challenged her to survive more than everyone else to continue her education.

It is a privilege to read this book. I will be gushing about this novel for some time to come.



Linda Burton
6 reviews

September 6, 2023

A historical moment that ended Jennie Wang's school education in China. In May 1966, communist leader Mao Zedong believed that their current leaders were leading them in the wrong direction, and in order to reassert his authority over the Chinese government, he introduced his ideology of the Cultural Revolution. The movement escalated swiftly as the students were influenced by Mao and formed paramilitary groups called the Red Guards to attack and harass members of the intellectual population such as teachers, celebrities and bourgeoisie.

Her size and age are the sole indications that she hasn't been around for years but she bravely pointed out the wrongdoings of their government. It's an honor to read a story of a woman who stepped into the heart of this space, and showed us what it looks like to lead with courage and incredible moral clarity.

It really has a special place in my heart for it was truly beautiful. I don't think I'll be able to adequately put into words the power in which this novel has moved me. If you are into something historical with a touch of life story in it, this is the book for you.



Michael Vega

10 reviews

September 6, 2023

This book is all about Jennie Wang, a fierce girl who continues to pursue her education notwithstanding their situation back then. She encountered a dilemma that made a hearth in her heart and a storm brewing in her soul. At a very young age, she was captivated in literature. She always shows intrigue in reading books to gain knowledge and understanding. Not until Mao Zedong inaugurated the "The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution", this decade-long period of political and social chaos caused the closure of schools in her time. During this revolution, Mao honors the Red Guards of the position of revolutionary force. He urges them to challenge the status quo, education system, social values, and hierarchy power of the people which ensues the Red Guards of raiding each and everyone's house, taking all the valuable things while beating and humiliating the family members. This bewildering complexity and almost unfathomable brutality don't make sense of everything that occurred during the period.

I absolutely loved Jennie Wang's autobiography. Even after reading this, it was hard for me to congregate my emotions into one because of its beautiful and vivid story. I felt like I was with J through all of her terrible experiences and I just wanted to shelter her and everyone else from it all.



Jennifer Garrett

13 reviews

September 6, 2023

My favorite books have a pretty exclusive list and it usually takes me a while to decide whether a book fits that list or not but this was an instant favorite.

A very detailed description of what you all need to know about China's political convulsion. J, our main character shows us her passion to learn despite the on-going Cultural Revolution in their country, which resulted in all students dropping out of school. In 1966, this revolution was launched by Mao Zedong, and his goal to preserve Chinese communism by purging remnants of capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society catalyzed the bloodiest era of Chinese history.

J is the best fit for a role model to the scholars in our society today. Because just like in her times, we also encountered a crisis that becomes a hindrance to our education. This pandemic has made a huge impact on our lives, but it didn't stop us and resort to another solution which is the new normal learning. Her pursuit of knowledge is never-ending. This should all be the root of inspiration to all students out there because the day you stop seeking knowledge is the day you stop growing.



Patricia Mccoy
13 reviews

September 6, 2023

I have never heard much about the cultural revolution, and this book really educated me on it. Not only does it give us a look at Jennie Wang's life, it also gives us a history lesson around China and the world where your status mattered. I really felt for the characters, especially J's willingness to pursue her academic career.

The plot of this book is not unlike other memoirs. It gives us a rundown of Jennie Wang and where she learns certain things at certain points in life, but she retells her story in a special way, not only adding practical moments but significant emotional moments in her life.

This book is one of a kind, it takes you on an amazing ride through the ordeals of people during the cultural revolution and really shocks you with the untwisting of events. A great read, recommended to everyone who enjoys plot-driven memoirs.



John Singh
7 reviews

September 6, 2023

A story about resistance, hardships and the importance of education. J is from a place where the most important thing is status. She is strong-willed and gives high regard to her education. Throughout the book you see her change and how the choices she made and its consequences affected her in a good or bad way.

I almost felt bad while reading some scenes as they are so personal and it's like reading a page of someone's personal notes. I rooted for a lot of characters, and I love how the book showed their wills and choices without being out of character.

One of the most sincere and heartfelt memoirs I read. This book moved me to tears a lot of times, and I still feel a pang when I remember the characters that have fallen to tragedy.



Robert Lynch
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

This book could pass off as a timeless classic. A book that can compete with Dickens and a lot of notable authors. This book is really descriptive, with the narration clear and flowing naturally. I love how it's like I'm reading a diary, and there are raw emotions to every character.

I think J is an amazing character. She strives to complete her education despite the tragedies that befell her and the drive to continue so really inspired her. The character dynamic didn't seem forced at all and I can see that they were based on real people.

To say that I loved this book is an understatement, I'm captivated by this book and every page of it is addicting and full of things to learn. It's a great read and one that I will always remember!



Mary Hanson
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

The genuineness of this book is off the charts. Jennie Wang is an amazing author, and this book has moved me to tears every chance it gets. I love the characters, I love the plot, I love the writing style, everything about this book is perfect and I loved every second of reading it.

The story is about a girl who decides to teach herself when the school she's in is closed due to the revolution in China, she makes a lot of decisions and she questions a lot of her choices but in the end, she makes it through. I have formed a lot of emotional attachments with the characters, and it really drove me crazy when something tragic happened to them.

Overall, these are my favorite memoirs at the moment. I need more books like this from the author, and I hope to read more if her works for this book really grabbed my interest.



James Obrien
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

Reading this book was like reading a diary. The author pours so many emotions in not just one but all of the characters that you really feel as though you live amongst them and not just trapped in the main character's point of view.

This book starts in Shanghai at the height of the Cultural Revolution. People are separated by their status and most schools closed due to the effect the revolution left. J, from a very young age, is a passionate learner and when the chance to study left her, she decided that she should take it into her own hands.

Not only is this book educational, but it's also entertaining and heart-wrenching. This is unlike any memoirs I have read and I look forward to reading more books from this author.



Helen Watkins

9 reviews

September 6, 2023

If you're looking for a fast-paced memoir, with obstacles and a strong female lead, this book is for you. I love how the main character prioritized her education, she is headstrong but still has the senses to think before acting. The stories that we're told around her really help build her character, and how she dealt with social norms is really inspiring.

The interaction between the characters is so natural, some tragedies make you grieve because of how the other characters react, the bond I had with the book is unlike any other and I love how it feels close to me.

Plotwise, the book is ok, but with the way the author wrote, it takes a normal memoir to a whole new level.

10/10, highly recommended. I'm so glad I've been recommended this book since I wouldn't have read it otherwise, this book is phenomenal and worthy of every praise.



Donald Perkins
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

J is a strong character unlike any other, she pursues her education amidst the disasters that come her way. Jennie Wang created a fast-paced classic memoir that is so unique, it deserves its own genre. Though there are scenes that I couldn't help but skip, I loved the entirety of the book.

The book starts off strong, introducing the characters and the events that led up to the revolution. J is stuck in a world where status matters, and she must acquaint herself with the right people, and climb to society by a good marriage. J is torn between standing up against this practice or keeping a good image, and until the end her knowledgeable instincts saved her.

This book is perfect for people who want to read a memoir but want it to be just as eventful as a nonfiction book. This book offers quality that can't be measured, and I'm so glad I'm able to read this.



Betty Williamson
11 reviews

September 6, 2023

A brilliant work, the main character is a modernist, and she goes to lengths to continue her education despite all odds. J lives in a small town in Shanghai and when her education is threatened by a revolution, she works hard to uphold her values and push through the prying eyes of society.

At first, the book didn't tempt me, I don't read a lot of memoirs and this was one that I have no expectations upon diving. Not long after reading through, I realized that this book is actually quite engaging, especially how the author writes in a diary-like way.

A book worthy of praise, how the stories in this book weave together is amazing, and I enjoyed reading all of it.



Mark Berry
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

A literary masterpiece. From a very young age, the author is shown to have a fascination for reading at a very young age. I related to the main character because I also love reading, and I can not fathom a world where it is taken away from me.

The book's main purpose is to show how the main character took her education into her own hands, how she struggled with her decisions and tried to do her best to live in a society ruled by status and power. J is a strong female lead, she is the head of her time and really questions laws that were actually destructive.



Karen Harvey
13 reviews

September 6, 2023

A girl from Shanghai takes her education on her own hands after the terrors of the cultural revolution forced the schools shut. The Education of Jennie Wang is addictive and nostalgic to a time that I never lived in. The author is great at delivering words and turning them into scenes that can easily be imagined.

I connected with the characters easily, I was empathetic, happy, and grieving for the characters in the story as if I haven't only known them from the pages in the book. I was rooting for J throughout the whole book, I admired her intellect and how she chased for education despite all the obstacles.

This book made me realize the privilege I have of being able to attend school and learn, this book opens up a discussion that should be had and I'm hoping for more people to read this book.



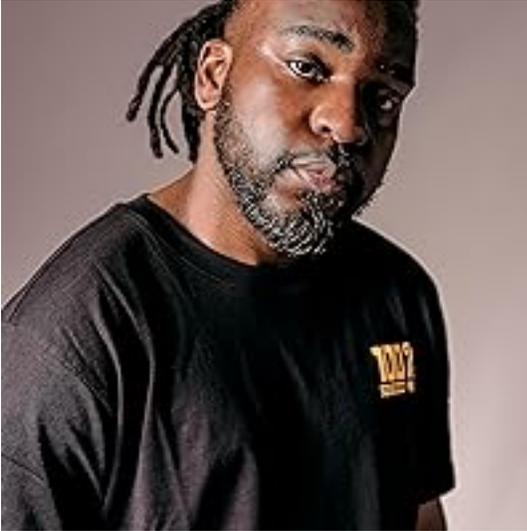
Paul Delgado
14 reviews

September 6, 2023

I've always admired the raw details about memoirs. This book has unique qualities that make it memorable. This book takes place when arranged marriages were still a thing, and people with status will do what it takes to stay in power. So those who are less were abused and faced violence regularly.

What I love about this book is how it doesn't promise a good ending or any ending at all. It only wishes for us to see the struggles the author had with her education and choices during a time of crisis. She meets people and they are also highlighted in the book, not just as a side character but also with a story of their own.

Overall, I think this book must be discovered by more people, it's new and relevant, and it tackles the issues that are still relevant in today's generation.



Daniel Ray
16 reviews

September 6, 2023

A relevant piece that takes you on a time travel to the cultural revolution of China. J is the literary representation of Jennie Wang, and despite being the author of the piece, there are angles of the book that you can feel as though J is described by other people rather than herself.

The characters are very realistic, probably because they're based on real characters but I love how the author gave them stories instead of being just a side character for J's story. I can really tell that the author put her soul into the work, as when I read the book, I feel the sincerity of the characters.

A piece that will go down in history, it's new and timeless, something that intrigues the mind and makes you look at Education in a more alarming light. I loved this book and I recommend it to everyone.



Nancy Rios
16 reviews

September 6, 2023

A phenomenal work that lets you peek in the curtains of the cultural revolution and contemporary issues that need more attention. This book really affects the reader in such a way that you want to be inside of the book and be more significant to the characters. The writing is so vivid, I can see myself in every place the author describes.

I love the main character, not only is she strong intellectually, she is driven and determined to reach her goals. Despite the times she is haunted by her past choices, and the decisions she has to make, you can really tell how she does what she thinks is best.

A book this generation needs to talk about, it is in line with Anne Frank and other notable memoirs.



Christopher Jacobs
15 reviews

September 6, 2023

This book really takes you into the depths of Jennie Wang's earlier life, as if you were thrown in a time machine and were there to witness it firsthand. The plot of this book is fast-paced, a lot of horrible things happen, and the events that lead to a number of tragedies are properly fleshed out as not to leave the reader confused.

I found J to be one of my favorite contemporary protagonists now, she's a mirror of the author thrown in a third perspective, and through it, you can see the personality of the author take over a lot of times while still not drawing attention away from the main character. I love how cautious she is, and how she uses her knowledge to get away from tragedy.

A book with a lot of lessons, worthy of every time I spent on it. I would definitely reread this over and over as this book really left an impact on me.



Lisa Chapman
16 reviews

September 6, 2023

An outstanding look at education and the obstacles are thrown by the cultural revolution. J is a character who was forced to take her education into her own hands when the schools shut down due to the revolution. She makes her way into the world through her wisdom and helps from those around her.

The writing style of this book is picturesque, it's like being there to witness the events firsthand, the author draws her experience and retells it impeccably. I love how J doesn't let the obstacles get to her even when she has to make a choice to betray societal norms or stick to traditional ways.

This book is really eye-opening, a perfect read for those who want to know more about China's history and want a great character to root for.



David Hudson
14 reviews

September 6, 2023

A phenomenal and remarkable book. Even though the events that are presented are heavy experiences, it is written in such a way that it is reassuring you that it will lead to somewhere. You need to read further to find it out.

Jennie Wang also made use of illustrations that helped in giving us a vision and perception of the setting and the characters that are involved in the events. I find it interesting, and I really allot time to stare at the illustrations and show appreciation to them.

A brilliant way of writing, it made use of striking language that adds intensity and extent to the events of the stories. Wang shined the spotlight on the life of each character and their different personalities with this masterpiece.



Dorothy Armstrong
12 reviews

September 6, 2023

A girl who is coated with strength, courage, and a lot of self-awareness, this resembles the main character of *The Education* by Jennie Wang. What I really look forward to every time I span the pages of this book is how J will face the hiccups of her life along the way. Will she be able to withstand the problems? Will she be able to keep her courage until the end?

Nevertheless, the author did not disappoint. The way it made us simple words, yet all leave a significant impact on its readers. Remarkable style of writing, it made us know the characters and get a glimpse of their emotions and deep desires.

Overall, what a great book for the people who seek self-help books and sight books of real stories and events.



Margaret Duncan
4 reviews

September 6, 2023

To be simple was virtue itself. This line is embedded unceremoniously in the middle of a page-long paragraph from *The Education of Jennie Wang*. It seems simple but can spark a significant impact on its readers. People are not defined by what others see them, but they are seen to what they do and what their soul's most authentic intentions are.

I love this book; it is a story that I never get tired of following. There are times it gets heavy, but it just pulls me to read more and more. The way it was written developed a connection to me. It felt so familiar, and the feelings of the characters were transparent which makes me so fragile. Overall, it is an awe-inspiring book of passion, life lessons, and relationships with families and friends.



William Vasquez
11 reviews

September 6, 2023

Over fifty books and diaries, Jennie Wang was able to write an inspirational book dedicated to everyone. This is not just an ordinary story, but a story closest to her. I admire her for having the courage to share something as personal as this in order to share knowledge and impart life lessons.

The author made us use different techniques of writing and added a hint of illustrations that I find interesting. This all makes the book exceptional and distinct from all other memoirs. From the different social issues to personal problems and handling them each one by one, I say Wang did not disappoint us and gave us such an interesting book to read and share with others as well.



Bobby Weaver
15 reviews

September 5, 2023

Diaries and memoirs are one's best friend, especially when the world seems so confusing and you have no one to open up to. This may seem cliché to all, but these kinds of writings are the ones closest to my heart, and I admire the courage of those people who would share what their heart says to people in order to inspire and make a stand.

Jennie Wang is inspirational; her story is something that one should tell to the world. She tells it with striking language that makes the narrative more deep and eloquent. The way she writes it, the illustrations all add up to the excellent and exceptional book. This book is really commendable, especially to the young.



Alexis Daniels
11 reviews

September 5, 2023

Salient lines, impressive life lessons. *The Education of Jennie Wang* enlightens us to how important and valuable dreams and goals are. In line with this, it is also much important that we dedicate ourselves to our goals and align our actions with them.

One thing that I can comment on how the author writes the story is that she tries to make the readers feel light amidst the heavy discussions and situations the characters are in. This helps to be able to allow them to continue reading, absorbing the life lessons that are taught without being able to feel such heavy encounters. I like this kind of writing, and this does not make the plot less of what it is, but rather it gives weight to it.

Commendable writing skills, I find it ironic and interesting that the book was written in a "third eye," as what they call it, is distant but closest to her heart—recommending this to others!



Kayla Garza
15 reviews

September 5, 2023

A striking and inspirational book, the way the book is written is exceptional. It is personalized and covers a broad aspect of reality, showing various social issues that are of equal relevance today.

The Education of Jennie Wang has taught us to dream and make that dream a reality by putting action to it. To reach the highest level of education attainable may be a small thing for others in this time but seeing the context and the world in their time, that seemed ambitious and impossible.

Commendable writing skills, I find it ironic and interesting that the book was written in a "third eye," as what they call it, is distant but closest to her heart—recommending this to others!



Mason Soto
16 reviews

September 5, 2023

One great thing that *The Education of Jennie Wang* has made us realize is that our knowledge is the strength that will empower us, and no one will ever take it away. To be able to be successful, one should use the given knowledge in the appropriate manner, along with self-growth, character, and the experiences we have.

There is no question on the style of writing; it was emotional and had a deep sense of educating and raising awareness on several issues. The author made use of vivid words and descriptions that add depth to the writing. This will be an excellent book for different kinds of people, and many will appreciate the life lessons that they will get from reading this book.



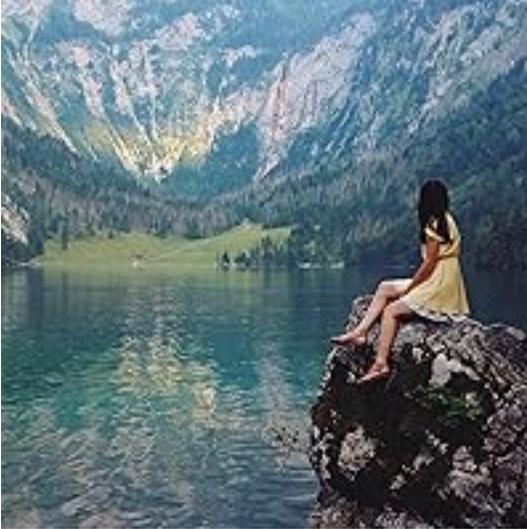
Philip Stephens
14 reviews

September 5, 2023

"What you store in your brain, no one could take away."

This is one of the highlighted lines in the book and is something valuable to ponder on. Jennie Wang has taught us that in this world full of people who steal and cheat all the way to the top, your knowledge is something they can't take away from us. Along with this knowledge is our life experiences and our principles we have that we instill in our hearts.

With these things, character and wisdom are sculpted over time. Your best stories will come from overcoming your greatest struggles, and you'll inspire a lot of people, and at the end of the day, you'll grow to be an intuitive and independent woman.



Marie Schmidt
13 reviews

September 5, 2023

Even though there is a big-time gap between today and the setting of the book, it has a deep connection. The youth of today should be able to come across this book to understand the different social issues that are partially resolved or still ongoing at all.

What I find ironic is that it is not written from the first point of view, as what diaries and memoirs are. Still, it is written in a technique wherein the author speaks up from afar, pointing at the events and the characters, and I think it added to the perfection of the book.

Jennie Wang did not disappoint us, and it made us appreciate more of what we have today and makes us understand the evolution of how various social issues rose and slowly minimized. Kudos to the writer!



Louis Nichols
16 reviews

September 5, 2023

I am still dipping my toes into fiction books and books like this, finding what works for me and what doesn't, but this book is definitely my cup of tea.

The Education of Jennie Wang is a book for everyone. Whether you had a dark past or you had problems with your family and friends, this book communicates with you in a way you cannot understand. It has been different reading at first, for it is dated and does not have the regular routines anymore, but it gets more interesting as I read further.

People are going to search for this book and will search for books of the same genre because it has a way of getting into your heart and shifts your perspective to social issues and self-growth. Worth the read!



Charlotte Rice
14 reviews

September 5, 2023

Different, and eloquent book by Jennie Wang entitled, *The Education of Jennie Wang*. Even though it is not a fiction book people would love to imagine with, it is indeed a story everyone would love to listen to. The story gives us the value of education and several social issues within society.

The line of events in this book is heavy, and It made me both eager to get my hands on it at the same time terrified, but the author made it light and really worked! This one is a must-read. How that author made use of words, and played with them, added depth to the happenings of the book and made it more authentic and vivid. Like how the students are very much assertive in listening to her adventure, people are going to look for these stories as they read yours.



Brittany Meyer
13 reviews

September 5, 2023

What interests me is that these old diaries and memoirs give us a glimpse of what happened in their time and what they are facing during their era. The book of Jennie Wang had made us travel from today's time to something that happened years ago, and it recalls what social issues also are evident. The way the author played with words and techniques in writing added more to the depth of the story and added more character.

A very informative as well as an emotional book, this paves the way for diaries being too wordy into something that is valuable and needs to be cherished. Stories like these deserve more recognition and should be shared with people. I did not regret opening this book!



Thomas Andrews
6 reviews

September 5, 2023

A compelling book.

What I adore about this book by Jennie Wang is that she narrates the story from a certain distance, showing us that even though we have a dark past, we could always move forward and continue with our lives until we would be able to tell our own stories with confidence and full of lessons.

Going back to each of our stories will be less painful for us as we are already grown up because of the lessons that our past brought to us. Nevertheless, the use of vivid language has successfully given me a glance at what their life looks like, what the characters feel, and how the settings are flash.

The events were sequenced accordingly and stated with coherence and consistency.

This is a book that is worth reading!



Joseph Riley
14 reviews

September 5, 2023

Often, books like these where there is a narration of events in a journal or diaries and written in the first person. This is as if the reader is the one who lives the life in the story to capture the emotions. However, *The Education of Jennie Wang* is written in a unique manner as it is written from afar. I find this impressive, and it is really a good technique. Having to make the reader feel distant yet so close to the story.

The outline of the story was well-written. The characters were all distinct from each other, and all of them were factors of how J had grown. This is an enrapturing book, the vivid language has successfully transported me into her world, and this should be shared with other people for them to know the life of J.

An extremely powerful book and can empower women and dreamers out there.



Isabella Salazar
16 reviews

September 5, 2023

The first few lines of the book got me hooked up. Ever wonder how a girl dreams despite the chaos in her past? The way Jennie Wang made it personalized made me realize a deep connection with it as if I was there when it happened. It has been her destiny to be able to go back to her notebooks that had been kept safe and be able to tell the story to others, and I am grateful that I have come across this book.

Even though it was painful for her to recall those memories, she kept it in her mind that her weakness can be a strength and inspiration for others. A fascinating book, with such inspirational notes from the author, I will definitely recommend this!



Beverly Boyd

15 reviews

August 31, 2023

How far can you go to make your dream into reality? Are you willing to make sacrifices and taking risks?

This is a captivating and inspiring story of a young woman who at a young age had faced life with great courage. With the school closed leaving many students uneducated after the 1966 Cultural revolution, J aspires to complete her education no matter what. She lived up to her nanny PoPo's wise words to study hard, to keep reading books because the knowledge that is stored in your brain will never be taken. This was during the Red guard's operation on raiding houses and taking valuables, torturing and humiliating Chinese peasants.

J's character imposes a strong sense of responsibility and discipline as she worked her way towards completing her education through her own efforts. With the help of her family, friends, and her Uncle Earnest, she became an accomplished woman bearing a highly rational mind.

The story also presented a rich historical background of China in the '60s and its cultural norms and thoughts practiced by the people. Well-written and very detailed work, and exhibits professionalism. Great work! Highly recommended.



Natalie Mills
12 reviews

August 31, 2023

It portrays the life of a good student and her journey for self-educating herself; following her passion for literature and learning the English language. A story of struggles and sacrifices, tragedy, and family and friendship, and China's early transition in the '60s.

One of the main conflicts in the story is continuing her education with the school closed as the Cultural Revolution suddenly changed things. Destruction of old norms and thoughts. But with her own efforts and willingness to learn, with the people around to support her and with her Uncle Earnest's help for teaching her English, she made it. Of course there were many struggles along the way as the road to making her dream into reality was no joke. And in a span of many years later, she tasted the fruit of her success.

It was very inspiring, splendidly written with a strong inclination for vivid details. The author did not fail to make me realize that my generation is very lucky to have access to many resources for learning and only the willingness and effort is all that is needed to educate the mind. Amazing work and highly recommended, best suited for this generation especially the students.



Alan Palmer
11 reviews

August 31, 2023

In this memoir, we can witness and learn from the experiences of J (the main character) as she struggled to finish her education. A strong passion for intellectual pursuits especially in the area of literary context. At a young age, she is already educated in Marxist, Leninist Theory, and Mao's Thoughts. Had read various books on classical Chinese and Western literature.

On 1966 August 18, a Cultural movement happened. Schools were forced to stop operating leaving many students almost directionless and uneducated. And so J's journey for self-education and a reputation for being a good student began.

With all the support from her family and friends, she can get and her Uncle Earnest's help to teach her for free in sharpening her English writing and speaking skills, she built a strong foundation and was very grateful for him.

The story is very inspiring, offers great detail for history, the characters involved and China's rich cultural and societal norms. Beautifully

written and clearly presented, though it needs a bit of polishing, it was good. Highly recommended.



Willie Holmes

13 reviews

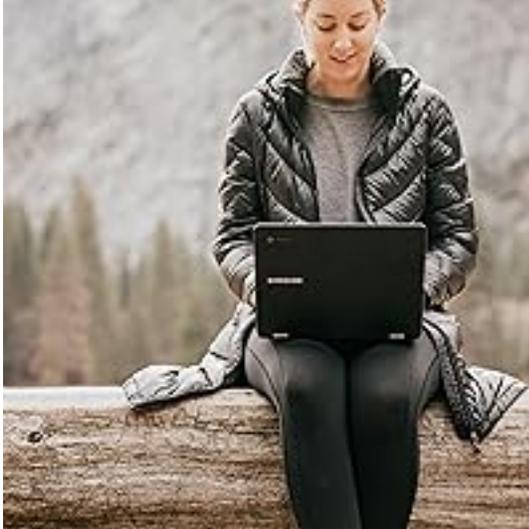
August 31, 2023

The author did not fail to capture the historical events vividly particularly the great Cultural revolution in 1966 which greatly played a part in her development and to write it in clear details which she extracted from her notebooks and diaries.

The story was set in the early '60s onwards in which her self-education started because schools were ordered to close and did not re-open until 1969, three years later. Her journey for self-education wasn't easy as there were only very limited resources like books for learning. Thankfully, she had her Uncle Earnest to teach her English. She was an art student which made Uncle Earnest like teaching her.

After all those years of self-education, she harvested the fruit of her hard work. In 1979, she had the opportunity to teach English in Shanghai Jiaotong University for the special program sponsored by the government called "Study Abroad."

Years later, she flew to America to study English Major and eventually became a College professor for English and literature. It a roller coaster journey and a very inspiring one. Highly recommended.



Doris Hunter
10 reviews

August 31, 2023

Without proper education, we would be most likely to rely on other people to make a decision for us. This is a story of perseverance and determination to follow her passion for literature, and the struggle she overcomes as she worked her way to make her dream come true - that is to finish her education.

I admired J's (the main character) discipline and her strong sense of justice and equality. She speaks her mind after balancing things so many times. It will also open your eyes to what had happened during the Cultural revolution in 1966 and its effects on the country.

Every character mentioned in this book has its own story which played a part in J's life. Beautifully written but need a bit of editing. For wanting to get inspired by a real-life story and interested in China's revolutionary movement and cultural norms, I think this book is made for you.



Grace Olson
12 reviews

August 30, 2023

The author believed in writing her memoir in the form of J that education should also be an important part of living a good life just like one cannot live without food, clothes, and shelter. Having a good education is a product of one's willingness to learn, not just relying on teachers and the elderly to teach you. One must do his/her part. For her, knowledge is power.

J impressively wrote down her list of books that she had read, either classical Chinese or foreign literature such as *Les Miserables*, *Anna Karenina*, *Don Quixote*, *Oliver twist*, and other notable literary works.

Though things got shaken after 1966 because of the Cultural revolution, she did not stop following her dream and passion for learning. Indeed, a good student works her own way with a few of her families, friends, and relatives to back her. An inspiring story.



Sophia Crawford

12 reviews

August 30, 2023

A simple woman from Shanghai who followed her intellectual pursuits in any way attainable. With her family, friends, tutors, and relatives at her side, she made her birthday wish come true to complete her education despite all the odds that come her way.

It wasn't until the great Cultural revolution in 1966 that she had to make her way out of self-educating herself and persevere even more. Following her PoPo's admonition pierced deep into her mind, and the efforts of her Uncle Earnest to sharpen her English language writing and reading skills.

I like J's character for she embodied a good example in her time and even at this present time. Her story will always be relevant especially for students working out their own way to finish their education.

A self-educated and accomplished woman who is never afraid of anything and always ready for battle. Well-written, easy to understand, and attention to detail. Though it needs a bit of polishing, the overall content passed the criteria. Quality-wise and highly recommended.



Logan Hunt

14 reviews

August 30, 2023

A work of real-life story made so vivid and documented. It follows our main character J in self-educating herself. Her character proved to be an epitome of a good student. To her, learning is very important.

The country's current economic and political state and its educational curriculum changed after the great Cultural revolution in 1966.

Exploitation, starvation, and poverty rose its numbers. The country was in a state of shock with its people tortured and humiliated, taking their things while some were forced to live away from their homes.

The worst thing is, schools were ordered to close and did not continue operating for three years. Although they graduated on time, they graduated without enough education. This is where J's student life started to get serious. With her own efforts through self-education and her Uncle Earnest's help, she made it to teach in the University in Jiatong, had a chance to study abroad with the help of her cousins, and eventually landed a good job to become a College professor for English major and literature.

An extraordinary real-life story. Very interesting. J's life defines all the odds for her dreams to come true. And thanks to the people who have never abandoned her. It's a good one. Highly recommended!



Gabriel Munoz
14 reviews

August 30, 2023

A love of learning and the desire for self-improvement. It shows how books can bring big changes into our lives and to have a wider view of the world through self-education. At a young age, she already had read many books of various genres as listed in her notebooks, can quote them, and can explain them deeper.

Her Uncle Earnest, who had helped her the most through self-education was perhaps the proudest to have J as her student. J learned from him and he learned from J. And because of it, J was able to have a solid foundation in English and other literary works.

Though the Cultural Revolution had greatly affected her life, her family, her friends, and society at large, she never stopped following her heart for education. She lived up to PoPo's wisdom and made her 1967 birthday wish come true.

Beautifully written, easy to understand, and offers a great historical background of China and its cultural norms. Top rated and more power to this book. Grab yours now!



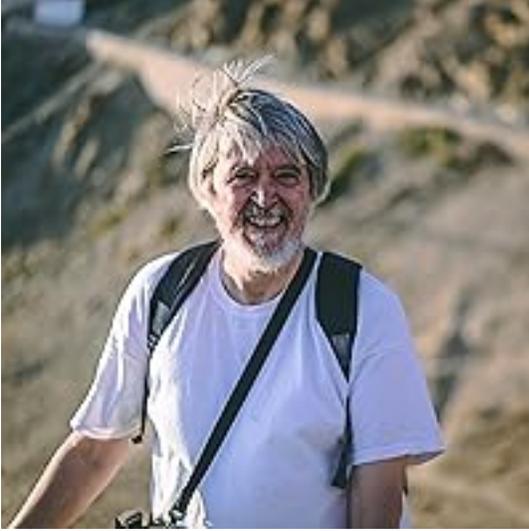
Judy Burns
9 reviews

August 31, 2023

Pursuing one's dream to finish her education through her efforts and determination for self-improvement. Of course, her journey for self-education was not at all easy. There was the Cultural Revolution which resulted in the schools for closure; the Red guards with their "house searching movement" raiding houses, taking valuables, torturing people and humiliating them in public, with their crazy labeling and reminding their ancestral sins caused by their forefathers.

J's interests were in studying the English language and literature. When you studied English, there were only two possible jobs for you to land - English teacher and being a translator which was considered to be not a profitable job.

It was an inspiring story that never failed to amazed me - J's portrayal as a good student and other characters 'life-story, and the rich historical details of events in China in the '60s. Well-documented with pictures for reference. Amazing work. Highly recommended to everyone!



Bruce Dixon 2 reviews

August 30, 2023

A well-written story of someone as being a good student. It's a matter of perseverance. Learning is not about having many resources yet doing nothing, but it's a matter of finding them and being creative. I was one of the many unlucky students who lived to experience the great Cultural Revolution and the cruelty of the Red guards.

Schools were ordered closed for three years. So she does a self-study with the little resources she'd find or borrowed from friends and relatives. Many students joined the activism, but she did not dare after having an indirect involvement in one of her teacher's suicide after she wrote a poster on the Red guard's order that causes the teacher to even more depressed and humiliated. Red guards had been marching and raiding houses around, torturing and humiliating people even teachers which were considered to be a very respectable profession.

The story offers a rich historical background on what it feels like living in the years the 1960s onwards in early China. Men and women had very distinctive roles in the family, arranged marriage for social class status, and the society imposes strong patriarchal control. Vivid historical background and an inspirational life story - a great combo. Top-rated and highly recommended to all sorts of people. Guaranteed that you will discover more things when you read this book.



Joe Mason

14 reviews

August 30, 2023

The story of J gave me a wider perspective of having a strong passion for learning and working for it. It's not just something very superficial work-his-way-up success story. It's not. Every story and the character associated with it has its own merits in J's life - describing them vividly and even provides pictures for reference. She knows more of her roots. Despite what had happened in 1966 when the Cultural Revolution broke out, causing schools to stop operating she did not flinch a muscle to stop her education. One of the notable statements in the story was her wish on her birthday in 1967, "I will not let the mistake of government policy stop my education! If school will never open, I will have to complete my own education one way or another, sooner or later, to the highest level attainable. No one shall stop me!" Reading this, I can sense the voice of someone who is going to have a brighter future waiting for her. Every page, every story, and every character is worth reading. I love how the story was presented. Reading it, you can really visualize her life and perhaps make a family tree. She embodied traits of a European woman though she's from China. A memoir worth reading. Highly recommended especially for college students who may have lost their way to finishing their degrees.



Billy Snyder
6 reviews

August 30, 2023

I deeply appreciate Ms. Wang for sharing her story. Not only it inspired me as a student to see her struggles and perseverance despite everything that happened along the way. However, I was also able to picture out scenes of happiness, tragedy, strict cultural norms, strong parental control, and a patriarchal society that wanted nothing but to climb his/her way up the ladder - status quo and social classes through marriage.

To appreciate stories of a beautiful friendship, family, and to other people who had been part of her life. She travels in the Opera with her father, her visits to PoPo's place, and her almost love story with Summit.

J, (the main character) is a catalyst in her time. I was also impressed by how many books she had read as listed in her diary and notebooks. Her passion for literature is very evident in her story. Not only did she read classical Chinese, but also foreign authors as well. Reading this, I came to realize that whatever you have in mind as long as you work for it, someday you'll have its sweet fruit. A fruit of success. Loved it, will recommend it to my friends.



Bryan Shaw
12 reviews

August 31, 2023

J's dedication to learn and to follow her intellectual pursuits is an embodiment of a real student - a passion to learn amidst the crisis. With her courage and a strong sense for equality and justice; being outspoken in defying values based on what she believed had caused her to see beyond the government and society's errors. Educated in Marxist, Leninist theory, and Mao's Thoughts, she'd be hard to fool.

The author did not fail to provide the details of historical backgrounds in terms of events and places that J had visited, pictures for reference, and the story of every character involved.

The main character's development is evident as depicted heavily in every chapter. From Cultural Revolution, then self-education, working and her almost love-story with Summit, and to her departure to further her study for English Major and eventually became a professor in America.

Impressively written. Well documented and inspiring. Perfect for those who are interested in China's transition after its Cultural revolution.



Julia Guzman
11 reviews

August 30, 2023

Jennie Wang's memoir of a good student tells a story of self-determinism to reach one's dream, a story of family and friendship, tragedy and history, cultural norms and tradition of early China, and the burning desire for literary pursuits.

The story was set from 1966 onwards from the eruption of the Cultural Revolution that forced the schools for closure and as a result, many students were left uneducated. Some students might want to continue their education but they can't since there were no resources. Hiring private tutors is also costly.

J, on the other hand, was quite lucky to have few resources available and having her Uncle Earnest teaching her throughout the Self-education curriculum. According to him, he had not met a student who is as brilliant as J, and that teaching her would be worth his time. Eventually, J's foundation got solid. She also borrowed textbooks from her cousins and friends and learned Mathematics, Biology, Economics, and Politics to name a few.

She is also educated in Mao's Thoughts, Leninist, and Marxist Theory. Her dedication to learning did not fail her. In the end, she came out successful. An accomplished woman of her own right.

This book also offers a rich historical background of each character involved, her town, and of the government. This is a good reference for both scholarly and inspirational story purposes. Highly recommended and best regards to the author.



Alice Tucker

9 reviews

August 31, 2023

Having lived to experience one of China's revolutionary movements had greatly affected J's life as she continued her passion for learning and completing her education. An inspiring story of a simple woman who amidst the crisis she was in, never gives up. She thinks like a modernist and believes that a woman must also have a dream and the desire to think for herself, not just get stuck in the role of taking care of the family.

It clearly emphasizes the 60's events and their aftermath which gradually changed the people's lives. I was fascinated by some of the cultural norms and focus of Chinese people. Most of them are thinking about how to climb the ladder for the status quo for advancement and to get hold of social classes. The power of ancestral sins and family backgrounds would likely determine what type of job you can get hence knowing your place in the society. I didn't know that divorced and extra-marital affairs were common in China in the '60s.

Beautifully written and well-documented, though it needs a bit of polishing, its overall content produces satisfaction for readers. Highly recommended.



Abigail Webb

12 reviews

August 31, 2023

Jennie Wang's life showcases her passion for learning and her love for literature. At a young age, she already had a long list of books that she had read, from classical Chinese and Western literature. The burning desire for education did not stop even after the great Cultural revolution in 1966 that resulted in school closures and was only reopened three years later.

Thankfully, she had a few friends which have the same interests as hers where education is given importance. And to her cousins where she can borrow a few college textbooks to study Economics, Mathematics, Biology, and other subjects of interest in the curriculum. Most importantly, to her Uncle Earnest who helped her build a strong foundation in the English language.

With all those hard work for self-education, she became an accomplished woman. She made her dream come true to complete her education.

Well-written and organized, though it needs a little editing. Great work. Would recommend it.



Jean Freeman

3 reviews

August 30, 2023

An inspiring story of a good student. Hope and courage to face the current crisis in the country, fighting for her dreams, and to never run away; instead, turning negativities into opportunities. After the great Cultural revolution erupted, J's journey for self-education started. She promised herself to complete her education no matter what it takes, to learn, and to continue her passion for English and literature. A real epitome of a good student.

With her mother, her beloved nanny PoPo, a few of her friends in school, and her uncle Earnest who is her tutor in English, teaching her for free greatly impacted her self-development to what she is now in the present. They somehow served as a bridge for her to cross for something bigger than herself and make radical changes to the people around her and into society as a whole.

This memoir offers a great historical reference in early China, particularly during the 1960s onwards. It is inspiring and clearly written; almost like a documentary of one's life. A well-documented legacy. Worthy to read.



Janice Chen
13 reviews

August 30, 2023

In 1966, the Cultural Revolution took place causing a great change in early China's economy, politics, and education. Schools were ordered for closure and did not re-open until three years later in 1969. Many students were left uneducated as everyone relied primarily on going to school to learn. But this is not the case for J, short for Jennie. She aspires more to learn, reading and studying various literary works - classical Chinese and foreign literature.

What makes her a good student is her self-discipline and her burning passion for intellectual pursuits. A well-accomplished woman who has a dream, who wants to learn and complete her education, not just a traditional woman made only for display and marriage.

An inspiring story! The self-determinism amidst a crisis is very evident in the main character's heart and mind. Beautifully written, detailed, and well-organized. Highly recommended.



Jordan Silva

17 reviews

August 30, 2023

Such an inspiring story of being a good student, a passion for learning, and being completely strong in a situation where everything just seemed to be going wrong. A simple girl living in the town of Shanghai will tell us that it's not the end for us, instead, we should aspire more to be the person we always wanted to be.

Her character defies all the people and the cultural norms she grows. During her self-education, as the school had been closed after the Cultural Revolution, her mother told her that she needs to work and that this schooling will do no future for her. She needs to earn a living. So she did, but she did not stop looking for ways to learn. For her, learning is everything; self-improvement and awareness of the errors of the government is something she cannot just ignore.

She's outspoken, independent at a young age, a good daughter, and a great friend. She has a strong intuition of knowing what's good for her and wouldn't just give up despite everything.

This memoir is very detailed, offers a good background in every character involved with pictures for reference. It's worth reading this book. Might as well write my memoir soon. Highly recommended to everyone!