

Dear Ms. Adeline Yen Mah,

During my eighth year at St. Marks, in the seventh grade, we read your second published novel *Chinese Cinderella*. At first, to me, it was just a simple assignment waiting to be completed, but as I read deeper in to the story I could not put the book down until I noticed that I nearly finished the book. Overall, the most intriguing part to me were some of the similarities that we shared.

As your step mother Niang tormented and looked down with distaste at your four siblings but praised her own two, I felt sadness seep into my heart as it ached for your family. Towards the ends I felt the happiness running through you as your father finally gave you the attention and appreciation that you longed for. I find it hard to believe that such a vile person can actually become a gentle mother of her own two children, but a horrid one for her four step children. The scene that stuck in my mind the most was where you were left to attend school at Sacred Heart Boarding School.

When I was a child, I was sent to America to attend school without my mom and dad. She had to stay in China so that she could keep that job that she had as a nurse. Just as you never knew your own mother, I can only see my mother once every year, during winter vacation. As for my dad, I know little about him. He comes about every four years, for about two weeks to check on my grades and spend some time together. Both our fathers are difficult to satisfy and we have little knowledge of them. As for our mothers, I know mine but you did not have the chance to know yours.

*Chinese Cinderella* has given me new perspectives on the world that I might not have

seen if I had not read your book. You accomplished this by telling me that even life only fifty years ago could have that same problems as we have today. I have heard that in China there are still many people who do not have jobs or are underpaid. Children's lives with their parents, for some, are still so separated. The story that you have told had not only impacted me but also others who have bought your story.

You have given strength to those whose family thinks little of them and ray of hope to those who have parents with high standards. Through one book have you inspired others to continue on with their dreams even if the journey to the goal is a rocky path.

Sincerely,

Kathy L.