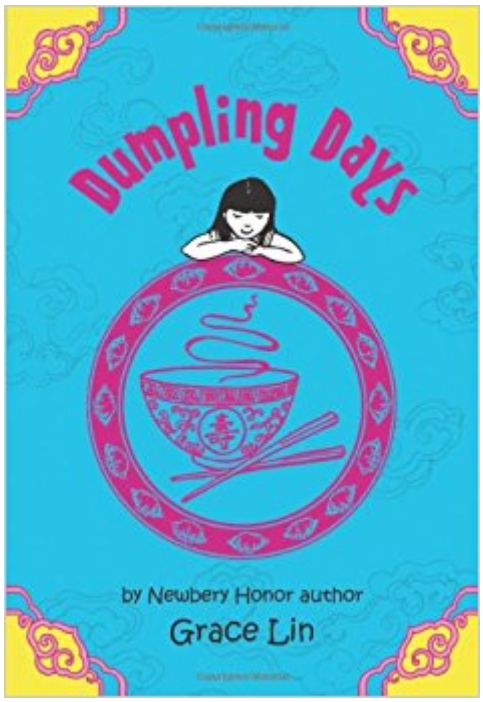
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Dumpling Days (A Pacy Lin Novel)



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Synopsis

There was no day that dumplings couldn't make better.Pacy is back! The beloved heroine of The Year of the Dog and The Year of the Rat has returned in a brand new story. This summer, Pacy's family is going to Taiwan for an entire month to visit family and prepare for their grandmother's 60th birthday celebration. Pacy's parents have signed her up for a Chinese painting class, and at first she's excited. This is a new way to explore her art talent! But everything about the trip is harder than she thought it would be--she looks like everyone else but can't speak the language, she has trouble following the art teacher's instructions, and it's difficult to make friends in her class. At least the dumplings are delicious...As the month passes by, Pacy eats chicken feet (by accident!), gets blessed by a fortune teller, searches for her true identity, and grows closer to those who matter most.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)
Series: A Pacy Lin Novel
Paperback: 272 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 8, 2013)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 031612589X
ISBN-13: 978-0316125895
Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #72,621 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #75 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #210 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational
Age Range: 8 - 10 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

One-on-One: Grace Lin and Wendy Mass Wendy Mass is the author of A Mango-Shaped Space and Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life. Wendy Mass: Many of your books are based on your own childhood. How close are they to your real life? And why did you choose to do this? What does your

family think? Grace Lin: The Year of the Dog, The Year of the Rat, and Dumpling Days are very much based on my real life. While they canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t truly be called memoirs, almost everything in those books was based on true-life experiences. I think I did this partially because I was following the old adage of "write what you know" and also because it was my homage to the books that I loved as a child--Little Women [by Louisa May Alcott], Betsy-Tacy [by Maud Hart Lovelace], and the Little House books [by Laura Ingalls Wilder]. In those books, the authors very much wrote about their own lives, and knowing that those events were probably true made the books that much more magical to me. My family enjoys being in my books. In fact, it was one of my sisters who "encouraged" it. My first published book was The Ugly Vegetables, a picture book about how my mother and I grew Chinese vegetables while the rest of the neighbors grew flowers. Well, I didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t put my sisters in that book, and they were very annoyed with me. "When did you become an only child?" one accused, and they made me promise I would always include them in any other books about our family. You can see from my other books--Dim Sum for Everyone! to, now, Dumpling Days--that IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve kept that promise--so far! Mass: I am sure you often hear from readers about how they can identify with your charactersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ experiences and feeling like they donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t quite fit in. Is there a particular comment or response that means a lot to you? Lin: There isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t a specific comment that means a lot, but there is a particular emotion behind certain readers that I treasure. Recently, I was at a book fair where I had to do a reading on a gigantic stage, competing with bands, games, cotton candy, costumed characters, etc., for attention. Only a handful of kids watched me, and I felt a little discouraged. But afterwards, one of those kids ran up to me with a bag filled with my books. I was her favorite author, and she had made her mother drive an hour to come to the fair just to see me! It was so amazing that my books had meant that much to her. I realized that for my books to truly touch a reader, even if itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s just one, is something to cherish, be thankful for--and not to forget! Mass: In Dumpling Days, Pacy and her family visit Taiwan for a month. You did such a wonderful job bringing us the sights and sounds and especially tastes of the country. What made you decide to focus on the food? It made me want to run out and try soup dumplings! Lin: You should definitely try soup dumplings, they are so good! Honestly, I write about the things that I like to read--and I love reading about food! Farmer Boy [by Laura Ingalls Wilder] was one of my favorite books as a child, and I guess in some ways, Dumpling Days is an homage to that! But, also, food is a very important part of Taiwanese culture, and there was no way I could accurately portray the culture without including a lot of food. It truly is a defining characteristic in Taiwan. There, when you first greet someone, instead of saying "Hello," you say "Have you eaten yet?" Mass: Describing a country so different from America must have been a

huge challenge. What kind of research did you do? Lin: Well, much of it was based on my own memories of visiting Taiwan with my parents. I went through a lot of photo albums, talked to my parents (who in turn talked to my grandmother and other relatives), and in 2008, I went back to Taiwan for a visit to fill in some of the blanks. There, I got to retaste things like stinky tofu (still not a fan) and see Taipei 101 (which didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t exist when I went as a child), and got my own "glamour" photos done. That was a hilarious and fun experience that I was glad I got to put in the book--and I used one of the "glamour" photos for the author photo in the back of the book! Mass: I love how you weave small but powerful life lessons into your stories. Do you have these themes in mind before you start writing the book, or do they just arise naturally through the plot? Lin: The themes usually happen organically with the plot. Because these stories are so heavily based on my true life, they are the real internal conflicts that I felt. While I hope the life lessons are things readers do take from the book, my first intention is to write a book that people will enjoy! Mass: WhatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s next for Pacy and her family (and for Grace Lin!)? Lin: I donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know if IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll write another Pacy book. IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m not sure if there is anything else that I want to say as that character. However, I felt the same way after writing The Year of the Rat, so I definitely wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t discount the possibility of writing another. Right now, IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve been focusing all my energy on writing (and illustrating) a companion book to Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. The new book is called Starry River of the Sky and is supposed to come out in October 2012. Both Where the Mountain Meets the Moon and Starry River of the Sky are very different from the Pacy books. Instead of being based on my life during childhood, they are inspired by Chinese fairy tales I read. They are a little bit of a change of pace, but I do think anyone who enjoys the Pacy books will like those, too! --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In the series that includes The Year of the Dog (2006) and The Year of the Rat (2008), this longer book picks up PacyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story as her family flies from upstate New York to her parentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ homeland, Taiwan. Embarrassed that she and her two sisters are dressed in matching hot-pink dresses for the trip, Pacy is a reluctant traveler. But once she arrives in Taipei, she begins to open up to the new relationships, foods, and ways of thinking she finds there. Thoughtful and sometimes amusing, this episodic journey narrative captures PacyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s emotions and reflections, whether they involve an unfamiliar (and literally alarming) high-tech toilet or her newfound understanding of what it means to be both American and Taiwanese. The first-person narrative pauses at intervals to include stories that PacyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s relatives share with her, both traditional tales and memorable accounts of family members dealing with superstition,

political oppression, and loss. While this engaging book broadens the series in a meaningful way, it also works well as a stand-alone title. Grades 3-6. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Nine year old review: I like this book because I can learn about Taiwan. In one of the chapters when they are eating breakfast and they heard a noise and it was a song and they thought it was the ice cream truck and then their aunt ran outside. They wanted ice cream so they followed her and it turns out it that it was a garbage truck. Their aunt explained that the garbage truck plays a song so they know to bring out their garbage! Their aunt didn't know what a ice cream truck was so they told her what it was.

IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve never really liked the taste of dumplings, but after reading Dumpling Days by Grace Lin, I may reconsider. In this book, three girls named Lissy, Pacy, and Ki-Ki, travel to Taiwan. Along the way, they mess up in their classes and in their religions. They accidentally eat fried chicken feet. Pacy has to deal with bullies teasing her that she doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know how to speak Taiwanese or Chinese. But there is one thing that will always brighten up their day, dumplings! People of all ages would like this book because it has adventure and excitement. I liked the part where they traveled to the Taipei where the they see their cousin and their friends and adventure in the night market. This book was not too long or too short. It was very realistic and everything could happen. This book mixes in real Taiwanese and Chinese culture while making it an interesting read that keeps the reader entranced in this addictive book. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d give this book five stars overall.

My younger daughter used to be a reluctant reader, but the Pacy Lin series really captured her imagination and helped transform her into a much more enthusiastic reader. She loved following Pacy's adventures throughout the series, and she was always excited to tell me about the latest things happening in the novels. We bought all three books in the series on Kindle, and my daughter really liked how the difficult words were displayed with definitions right above them. It helped a lot with her reading comprehension.

I'll confess right now that Grace Lin is one of my favorite authors. I've really enjoyed everything she has written. I really enjoy reading books about other places in the world and Lin introduces Taiwan beautifully. While I've never been in a country where I did not speak the dominate language, I

sympathized with Pacy's confusion and frustration in trying to communicate with those she met. I've had students at my school who speak no English and I'm often baffled at how to communicate with them, especially when I have a whole class full of students to help or instruct. This book gave me a glimpse at the other side of things.Lin's writing is so down-to-earth and flowing, it is easy to read her stories and feel like you are listening to someone in the same room. I would call her writing, comfortable and pleasant. The illustrations provide a nice touch, giving the reader a glimpse into Pacy's world and point-of-view. Highly recommended.

I don't think I've ever been moved enough to sit down and review a book much less one that I personally haven't even read. My daughters have always loved Grace Lin books especially her gorgeous illustrated ones. My oldest daughter started reading Year of the Rat and Dog last year. I got the Dumpling Days for her this Christmas. She has been completely fascinated with it. I have never seen her read anything with such excitement and enthusiasm. This book is full of facts about the Chinese culture that she is finding amazing and shares with us(her parents) as she reads it. I think it is wonderful that Grace Lin has put so much cultural information into this book and shares it in such an interesting way. I look forward to more books in her series! I also agree that her wonderful illustrations are certainly missed!

.My favorite Grace Lin book yet! Touching, funny, heartwarming and authentic, a great read whether you are 11 or 62... my granddaughter & I only recently found Grace Lin and are happy we did!!! We will be anxiously awaiting her next "dim sum"...

love it. great paperback condition.

I think you should read thus book because it gives you an idea of how fun traveling around the world is. I liked it because it shows a few quick pictures so if you don't know what's happening the pictures can sometimes help with that.

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