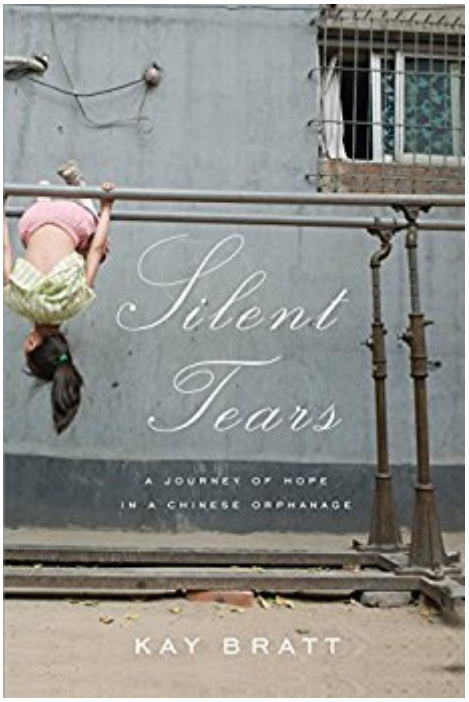
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Silent Tears: A Journey Of Hope In A Chinese Orphanage



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Synopsis

Irrepressible memories. Vacant eyes. A child being dangled from a third story window. A boy tied to a chair. Children sleeping in layers of clothing to fight off the bitter cold. An infant dying from starvation. Some things your mind will never allow you to forget.Silent Tears is the true story of the adversity and triumphs one woman faced as she fought against the Chinese bureaucracy to help that countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s orphaned children.In 2003, Kay BrattÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life changed dramatically. A wife and mother of two girls in South Carolina, Bratt relocated her family to rural China to support her husband as he took on a new management position for his American employer. Seeking a way to fill her days and overcome the isolation she experienced upon arriving in a foreign country, Bratt began volunteering at the local orphanage. Within months, her simple desire to make use of her time transformed into a heroic crusade to improve the living conditions and minimize the unnecessary deaths of Chinese orphans.Silent Tears traces the emotional hurdles and daily frustrations faced by Ms. Bratt as she tried to change the social conditions for these marginalized children. The memoir vividly illustrates how she was able to pull from reservoirs of inner strength to pursue her mission day after day, leaving the reader with the resounding message that everyone really can make a difference.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While the author states that the title of this book references the orphans who cry soundlessly as though they have given up hope of anyone hearing, I think it also reflects her journey and experience. Entering a foreign country, and volunteering to work in an orphanage where foreigners are seemingly not wanted was brave. Standing by and watching the ill treatment suffered by those children, knowing that only by respect, love, understanding and patience could progress be made, is also a form of silent tears. Kay was frequently overwhelmed but with faith and hope she held her tongue in most instances knowing she had to choose her battles. It’s wonderful to read of the progress slowly won, and continuing. So many beautiful spirits are introduced in this book, and so much love is evident, for them, for family, and for the world that God has created.

This book is amazing and well written. I did cry many of times feeling sad for these children wondering if this is still going on in China. I believe after hearing the news just a few weeks ago about a woman abandoning her infant in china, she got jail time, abandonment is not as it used to be. Today if people get caught, they will get punished. Kay was an angel to those children I wish there were more people like her bringing love and happiness to an orphanage.

There was so much to love about this story I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know where to begin. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll just join the chorus of those who wrote that they were inspired by the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s determination to love the unloved, and to find hope where others find despair.I wish IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d had this book when travelling through China last year. It would have lifted the curtain to a China, which as a tourist, I never saw.

Gut wrenched my story with so much emotion and passion. I love the hope and insight this provides to the inner workings of orphanages in Asia

What a journey of self discovery and change as she was led to care for Chinese children, whose lives were changed by her love and involvement,

It is sad to think that places and things like that really take place. Thank goodness that GOD provides people that care and work to make much needed changes.

Kay’s book is a subject near and dear to my heart. My wife and I have traveled all over China on eight trips, mostly working with parks and panda reserves. We have led ecotours in east Africa where more than 18 million children live in orphanages due to HIV/AIDS taking their parents.Orphans rely on the goodwill of their nations, donors, adopters and thoughtful volunteers like Kay. Her stories of working in a Chinese orphanage helps all of us understand the painful circumstances created by China’s one-child policy, history of not valuing female children and inadequate support for social services.She gives us a glimpse of what challenges both the caretakers and the children face each and every day. Hopefully it challenges us to think about what we can do. My wife and I wrote a novel about orphans from Africa,Ã Â The Leopard Tree, that was designed to motivate people to get involved financially and personally. We personally support a HIV education program in Malawi to try to help in some way. Anything we can do to help these kinds of children is worth the effort.- Tim Merriman

As an adoptive parent of two children from China, I was extremely interested in reading this book. I found it was not always an easy read, especially for someone close to the subject. I appreciated that someone not at all connected with adoption decided to spend much of her time giving to children who had no voice. At times, you see that the stress took a toll on Ms. Bratt both mentally and physically. Silent Tears is Kaye Bratt’s journal of the time she spent in China from spring 2003 to summer of 2007. She states that what she wishes to accomplish in writing this book is to tell the story of the children she worked with in the Social Welfare Institute ("SWI"). I believe that she does tell the story of the children she came into contact with. In doing this, she forces us to look at our own lives and what we can do to make a difference where we are.The only problem I had in reading this book was the absence of the footnotes that should have been included but apparently were not. Hopefully this mistake can be corrected in a later printing and I will purchase the book again to have those footnotes.The journal style of this book makes reading difficult at times. However, this style of writing allows the reader to glimpse the soul of the writer. Here you will find a very insightful, often raw and disturbing look at what takes place in many SWIs throughout China on a daily basis. Many readers will not be comfortable with the personal views of the author or with the reality of what goes on in a SWI. I found it to be very candid and not at all self-serving to the writer and certainly not to the SWI where she volunteered. You also get a look at what daily life in China is like for someone

from the United States. You learn what someone can accomplish with patience and perseverance, traits that are themselves often foreign to those of us living in the United States the land of immediate gratification.I think that often those of us who are adoptive parents may want to paint a rosy picture of the life their children led prior to joining their new families. You do not want to think of your child living in the conditions that are as difficult as the ones described by the author. Reading this will certainly take the rosy picture away and leave you faced with the grim reality of what an orphanage is truly like for many children. True, there are some orphanages that are not at all like the one described here, however; sadly those are in the minority, regardless of what country you are talking about.I recommend this book for anyone adopting a child from an orphanage, and especially for those adopting a child from China.

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