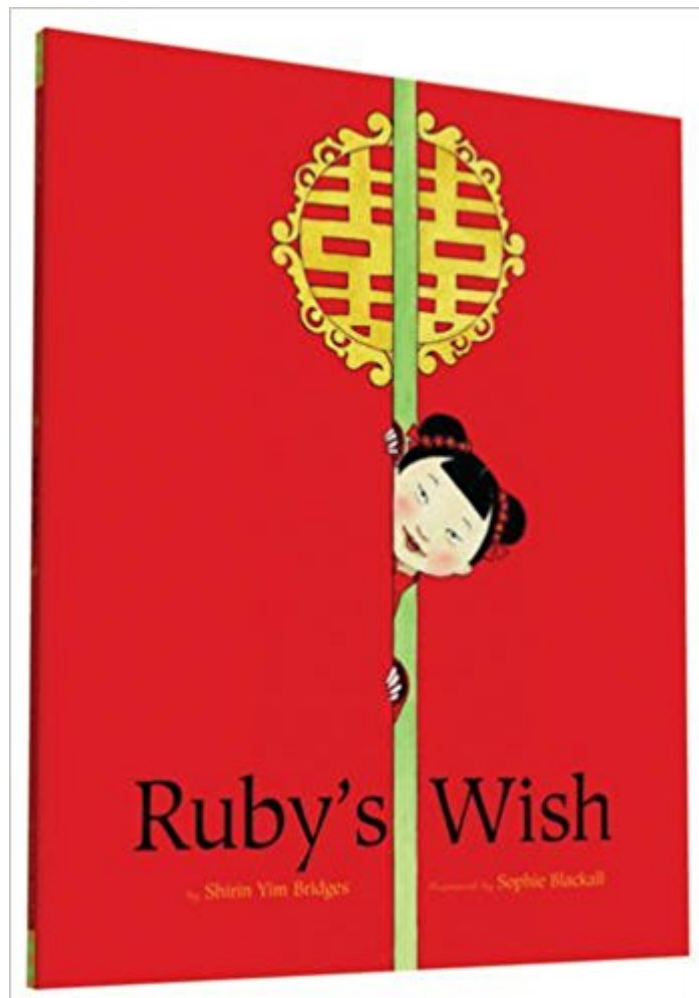


The book was found

Ruby's Wish



Synopsis

Ruby is unlike most little girls in old China. Instead of aspiring to get married, Ruby is determined to attend university when she grows up, just like the boys in her family. Based upon the inspirational story of the author's grandmother and accompanied by richly detailed illustrations, *Ruby's Wish* is an engaging portrait of a young girl who's full of ambition and the family who rewards her hard work and courage.

Book Information

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books; Reprint edition (August 4, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452145695

ISBN-13: 978-1452145693

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,935 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #210 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#) #224 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

First-time kids' book author Shirin Yim Bridges uses a tender family story to travel back to turn-of-the-century China and teach a proto-feminist lesson about perseverance and self-belief. Idiosyncratic young Ruby lives in a large (and wealthy!) Chinese family, in a gigantic "house filled with the shrieks and laughter of over one hundred children." She stands out because she insists on always wearing red, the color of celebration ("Even when her mother made her wear somber colors like her other cousins, Ruby would tie up her jet-black hair with red ribbons") but even more so because of her quiet dissatisfaction with the family's traditional gender inequity. Determined to study reading and writing--even when it means long hours catching up on more wifely training--Ruby eventually comes to the attention of her grandfather, the wise house patriarch, who springs a

surprise as the time for her to wed approaches. Graceful Aussie illustrator Sophie Blackall captures the culture--contrasted by Ruby's bright red defiance--expertly, with elegant calligraphy, muted period clothing, and countless nice details (from a porcelain bowl full of terrapins to ink smudges on Ruby's cousins' faces). And what's better, Bridges's well-structured story is true--with a fun surprise ending! (Ages 4 to 8) --Paul Hughes --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Bridges, in her first book (based on her grandmother's story), handles the conflict between Chinese tradition and young Ruby's longing to attend university with grace and compassion. She sets the scene with a description of "a block of houses, five houses wide and seven houses deep, [once] the magnificent home of one family." Ruby lives in this home with her grandfather (who "did what rich men did in old China: he married many wives"). A tutor teaches any of the 100 assorted grandchildren who wish to learn, but Ruby is the only girl who continues to study while also keeping pace with learning her many household duties. Bridges characterizes the heroine as confident and spunky. For instance, she "insist[s] on wearing red every day"; opposite, Blackall (A Giraffe for France) gives a nod to Chinese silkscreening with four poetic images of her, one per season, wearing various red outfits. One day, her teacher shows Ruby's grandfather a poem she has written in calligraphy: "Alas, bad luck to be born a girl; worse luck to be/ born into this house where only boys are cared for." Grandfather questions her about the poem, and she confides her wish to go to university. Years later, at a New Year's Day celebration, he proves that he was listening. Blackall conveys their special relationship in subtle ways: Grandfather's presence on the balcony, observing Ruby at her studies, a gentle stroke of her head when Ruby is called to Grandfather's office. This understated tale takes Ruby's predicament seriously while still celebrating her love of learning and her joyful personality. Ages 4-8. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

It is an interesting story to inspire young girls to follow their dreams. It teaches that if you work hard, your dreams can come true. Beautiful illustrations

Gave to my Mom for Christmas- she is the ultimate feminist- inspiring tale about a Chinese girl who worked double-time doing 'girls' and 'boys' work and who was one of the first in generation to attend college. Inspiration for all ages to do more and be better:)

I love the simplicity of the way this story is told, in a chronological order, but beginning way before

Ruby was born. It shows the heavy weight of tradition that Ruby must overcome if she is to attend university. Both Ruby and her grandfather are wonderful characters: an emotional story that is universal.

This book is such an amazing book. I love stories that are based on true events. My students always love hearing this story when we learn about Chinese New Year.

Great depiction of Chinese culture. The story as well as the illustrations were outstanding. This book could be used to teach children about multicultural issues.

I liked this book, it gave my 4 yo a new story to read with a message about women being able to do some other than be a princess, wife, animal lover. A story i hope she will take with her into her life.

My daughters and I love this engaging, beautifully illustrated tale of a girl who grew up in another era -- yet not so long ago -- in China. What makes this "be true to yourself/follow your dreams" story so special is that it's true and told in a wonderfully personal way. It's a great book to read aloud and would be a very thoughtful gift.

Perfect

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