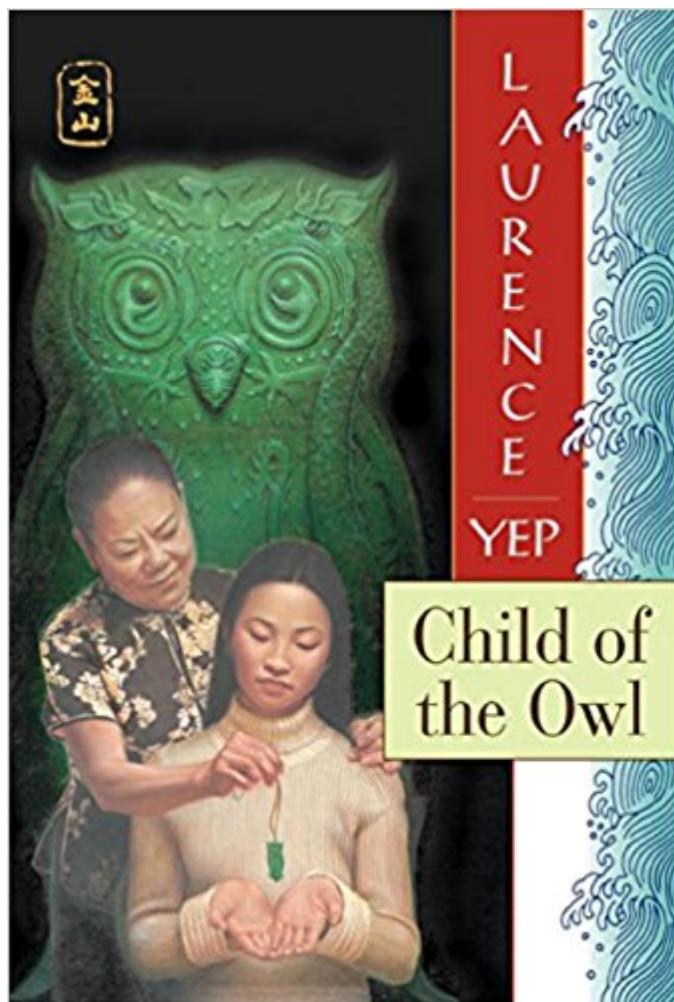


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# Child Of The Owl: Golden Mountain Chronicles: 1965



## **Synopsis**

Twelve-year-old Casey is waiting for the day that Barney, her father, hits it big -- 'cause when that horse comes in, he tells her, it's the penthouse suite. But then hr ends up in the hospital, and Casey is sent to Chinatown to live with her grandmother, Paw-Paw. Now the waiting seems longer than ever. Casey feels lost in Chinatown. She's not prepared for the Chinese school, the noisy crowds, missing her father. But Paw-Paw tells her about the mother Casey never knew, and about her family's owl charm and her true Chinese name. And Casey at last begins to understand that this -- Paw-Paw's Chinatown home, her parents' home -- is her home,too.

## **Book Information**

Series: Golden Mountain Chronicles

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## **Customer Reviews**

"An exciting and well-plotted story." (Starred review)--" School Library Journal

Laurence Yep is the acclaimed author of more than sixty books for young people and a winner of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award. His illustrious list of novels includes the Newbery Honor Books Dragonwings and Dragon's Gate; The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, a Texas Bluebonnet Award nominee; and The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island, which he cowrote with his niece, Dr. Kathleen S. Yep, and was named a New York Public Library's "One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing" and a Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book. Mr. Yep grew up in San Francisco, where he was born. He attended Marquette University, graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and received his PhD from the State

University of New York at Buffalo. He lives in Pacific Grove, California, with his wife, the writer Joanne Ryder.

This is an old book and very hard to find. She had to read the book as part of her English Lit class in 7th grade. Since they are so very hard to find I will be glad to sell our copy to anyone who is trying to find it.

Arrived on time, book is as expected.

Very Nice!!!!

Love Yeh's Golden Mountain Chronicles - you don't have to be a kid to enjoy them.

It is a well wrighten fish out of water story but with a twist. It's like taking a fish out of your fish tank at home and putting it in the lake with the wild fish.

This is an extraordinary book set in 1964 in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown. It is a historical novel in the sense that Yep said he set the story in 1964 prior to the Asian Immigration Laws of 1965, which opened the doors to more Asian immigrants."Risin' up, back on the streetDid my time, took my chancesWent the distance, now I'm back on my feetJust a man and his will to survive." Survivor, 1982 from "Eye of the Tiger"Casey, 12 is a smart, savvy girl who is fiercely independent. Her father, Barney is an inveterate gambler and the story opens with Casey visiting him in the hospital. He had apparently fallen prey to an attack after a bad gambling deal.Since Barney is no longer able to care for his daughter, Casey goes to live with her maternal grandmother, her Paw-Paw in Chinatown. Once in Chinatown, Casey has to learn a whole new set of Social Codes & Rules as well as embrace her Chinese heritage. Her Paw-Paw, an incredibly loving and astute woman enrolls her in a Chinese school where she can learn to speak and read Chinese. Casey feels like an outsider and, at the Chinese school realized that she had never really thought about being Chinese until then."So many times, it happens too fastYou change your passion for gloryDon't lose your grip on the dreams of the pastYou must fight just to keep them alive." -- Suvivor, 1982Casey endures prejudice from non-Asians as well as scorn from some of her peers and teachers as she has not had any Chinese lessons prior to coming to Chinatown. Her Paw-Paw is one person she can count on. Casey had, at one point stayed temporarily with other relatives, but

was quite unhappy with the arrangement. She and her older cousins clashed and it was her Paw-Paw who welcomed her with open arms. Readers will love Casey and recognize her realistic voice, feelings and expressions. She is very funny, extremely bright, very much the survivor and very savvy and very in-your-face. Readers will also become reacquainted with Casey in "Thief of Hearts." Survivors' 1982 "Eye of the Tiger" could easily be the soundtrack of this book.

I found this book on the shelf of my 5th grade classroom 14 years ago, and it completely changed my life. Never before and actually, never since, did I feel like I could relate to a character in a book like that. But, of course, reading it again when I was older, I don't relate to anything in the book other than the main character was a Chinese American female, and so was I. As opposed to some other Asian American books for kids, I like this one particularly because it takes place in the US. While more 'multi-cultural' books try and relate back to China a lot, I liked this one because I find it a lot more relevant to the 2nd generation/3rd generation experience, and it also appeals to the curiosity people begin to have about their 'culture' when they start thinking about ethnic identity. The strong parts about the book: The story is engaging, and even though it was written in the 1970's or 1960's, it doesn't seem dated. It's about a separated family, and Casey's a toy-boy who doesn't take a lot of crap, as opposed to some goody-goody. And the backdrop of Chinatown makes it pretty interesting and urban, and gives a good general historical background of Chinatown as an ethnic enclave, too. Also, if anyone is concerned about the politics represented in the book, as far as I can tell, there aren't any messages of advocating for a color-blind society or all multi-culti-feel-good sentiment which are characteristics I find frustrating about a lot of other 'books for Asian American youth'. The weak parts about the book: I don't really like a lot of mythology, folklore or fantastic stories. I hated them as a kid, and I still really don't like it now. My least favorite part as a kid is the story about the spirit of the owl, and it still makes me weary. The book still implies filial piety, but to a degree which I think it's ok, mostly because of Casey's strong personality and inclination to rebel. Also, most Chinese American kids live outside of Chinatowns so the experience is a lot different and I haven't heard of too many books which sort of discuss either a more urban, or a more suburban narrative that's pretty realistic and has good politics, too. Nonetheless, I still pick up the book from time to time. I don't know a whole lot of other Asian American kids books, but as someone who turned out to be an Asian American major in college, I still need to pay tribute to the fact that regardless of whether in retrospect I think my life related, it very early on offered me the narrative of a Chinese American female in the US, and the beginnings of understanding what it meant for me to be Chinese American. Other Yep books have a little too much mysticism and folklore for my taste, but I

do think Dragonwings offers a strong look at the history of Chinese Americans in California.

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