Lorgnette v.36 no.4 Book Review: TIGER DAUGHTER

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Illustrator

Reviewer Atkinson, Melissa D

Pages 181p

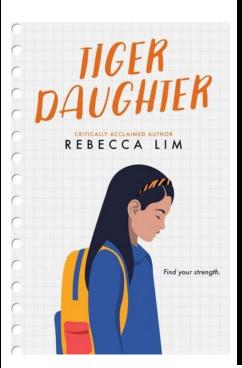
<mark>Price</mark> \$17.99

ISBN 978-0-593-64897-1

Publisher & Date Delacorte, 2023

Classification Fiction

Grade Level 6 and up



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Wen is a teenage first-generation Chinese immigrant living in Australia with her mother and father. She and her best friend, Henry, also a child of immigrants, are preparing to take an entrance exam to a selective school that will ultimately bring them freedom from their current undesirable family situations. Wen's father is demanding, controlling, demeaning, and temperamental. Henry's father works too much, and his mother feels isolated due to the language barrier. Wen and Henry help each other in the subjects where they are weakest--Wen needs to practice math and Henry's English needs some work. When a tragedy occurs in Henry's life, Wen is left to study on her own. Due to the circumstances, her relationship with her mother drastically changes. Her confidence in her abilities, her new perception of her mother, and her strength to stand up to her father allow her to follow her dreams and continue on the path she wants. However, Henry needs her help to recover from his circumstances, so she finds a way to help him even though she knows her father wouldn't approve. Wen finds that empathy and compassion can go a long way to mend fences at home



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and propel her into future endeavors.

TIGER DAUGHTER'S appeal comes from the perspective of a first-generation thirteen-year-old girl living in Australia who struggles to fit in with her peers and has feelings of inadequacy at home. Lim combines her personal experience of being a child of immigrants in Australia with a story of tragedy and perseverance through difficult circumstances. Lim's descriptions of everyday actions such as walking to school, cooking dinner, and long division homework, portray Wen's life realistically and with a touch of sadness. This book also includes a section at the end about the author and a section specifically for teachers and librarians. This book is highly recommended for all collections.

