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Mulan: A Story In Chinese And English



Synopsis

The legend of Mulan and her bravery is captured in this beautifully illustrated Chinese children's book. Mulan is a folk story from China's Northern Dynasty (439-589) about the unusual tale of an ordinary girl named Fa Mulan. This book is illustrated based on the original ballad, which depicts her bravery through Chinese ink paintings. A long time ago in China, there lived a young girl named Mulan. Her father was a retired general who taught her many skills girls weren't normally allowed to learn, like martial arts, archery, sword play and how to ride a horse. One day, soldiers came to Mulan's village. They told everyone China was in danger, and that a man from each family must join the army and fight. Mulan was terribly upset. Her father was too old, but was honor-bound to fight. If only she had been born a boy! That night, Mulan came up with a plan to save the honor of her family and her father's life. Early the next morning, disguised as a boy, Mulan took a horse and her father's armor before leaving to join the army. No one recognized her, and Mulan was very careful to never let anyone know she was really a girl. Mulan's bravery, courage and the skills she learned from her father helped her to succeed. Over twelve years, Mulan fought against the threat to China before finally helping to win the war. When she was offered a reward from the emperor for her incredible courage, Mulan instead asked for a horse so she could return home to her family. Mulan's family was so happy to see her! And there, for the first time in twelve years, Mulan exchanged her armor for a dress, fixed her hair into an elegant girl's hairstyle and joined her family, a beautiful young woman once again.

Book Information

Hardcover: 42 pages

Publisher: Shanghai Press; Bilingual edition (April 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1602209863

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #349,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian](#) #284 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #2390 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 • When Mulan's father is drafted, the young girl who excels at horsemanship, archery, and martial arts takes his place. She spends 12 years fighting a long war, always on the front lines, and is never discovered. She then turns down all gifts and titles from the emperor, asking only for a fast horse to take her home. Her family warmly welcomes her as she changes into more feminine attire to surprise the comrades who accompanied her. Li's gentle and simple retelling stumbles in places, but with only a sentence or two per page, and large, watercolor illustrations that skip the violence of war, this is a safe read-aloud choice for younger audiences. More faithful to the original poem than the Disney movie, it's aimed at a younger audience than San Souci's more beautiful but out-of-print *Fa Mulan* (Hyperion, 1990). Presented in English and simplified Chinese characters, this is a good bet for libraries looking for non-European folktales or those that will work in a preschool or kindergarten storytime setting. • Jennifer Rothschild, Arlington County Public Libraries, VA

"The story in the book is spread out on 42 pages with beautiful illustrations and both the words in English and Chinese. It is truly a wonderful book." • Crafty Moms Share blog "This holiday season, encourage your child's love of reading with this classic story full of the virtues all children should possess. Mulan is sure to become a classic on your shelves." • Product Mommy blog "Presented in English and simplified Chinese characters, this is a good bet for libraries looking for non-European folktales or those that will work in a preschool or kindergarten storytime setting." • School Library Journal

When my daughter read this story, she was not surprised that Mulan could read or ride horses or shoot a bow and arrow. The bigger question was "Why do people have to go to war?..." In this version of the story, there is no prince and Mulan doesn't get married in the end. More true to the original spirit of the story, Mulan's inspiration is her love of family and the readers learn about honor and duty. The English translation is nearly perfect, and perhaps just a bit formal for a children's book. The illustrations are lovely, including architectural scenes in a traditional Chinese house, on horseback in the battlefield, on the steps to the throne, and the pictures are even prettier in the story than the cover.

The paintings are beautiful! This is an excellent version of the story focusing on Mulan's skills and love of family. It's not 5 stars as I'm picky about the translation. I found it formal and awkward. There is no need to say she is just as good at martial arts as the boys, which implies that boys are better. My daughter doesn't have this worldview. Also, I wish the last few pages didn't emphasize so much on her putting on her dress, make up and her friends (who look like suitors) were surprised she was beautiful. Still some issues making it not quite perfect enough.

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