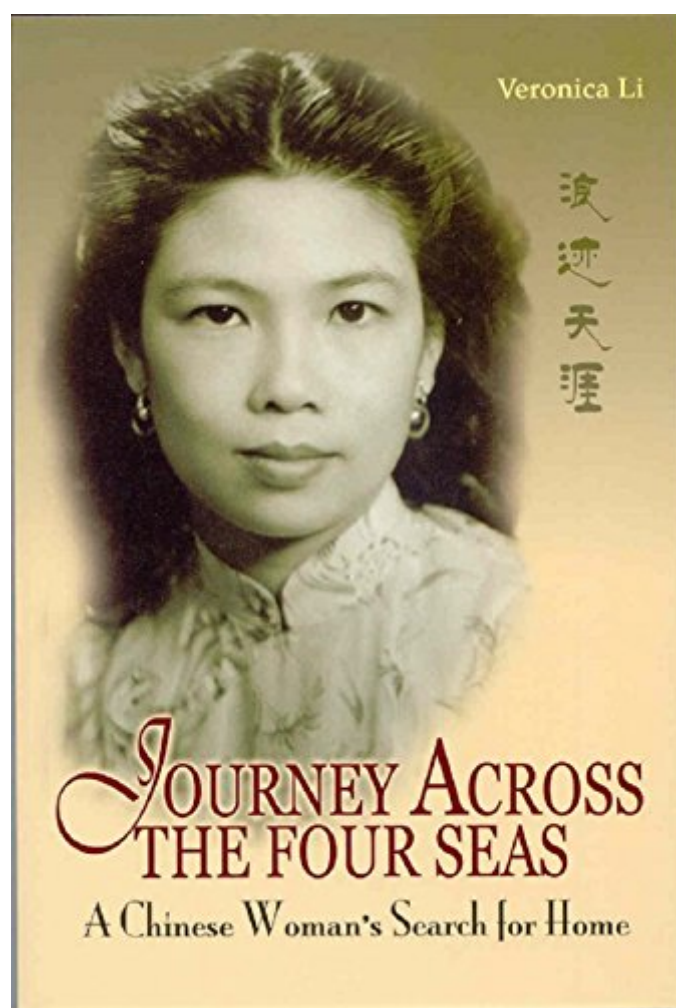


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Journey Across The Four Seas: A Chinese Woman's Search For Home



Synopsis

This is a true and touching story of one Chinese woman's search for home. It is also an inspiring book about human yearning for a better life. To escape poverty, Flora Li fought her way through the education system and became one of the few women to get into the prestigious Hong Kong University. When the Japanese invaded, she fled to unoccupied China, where she met her future husband, the son of China's finance minister (later deputy prime minister). She thought she had found the ideal husband, but soon discovered that he suffered from emotional disorders caused by family conflicts and the wars he had grown up in. Whenever he had a breakdown, Flora would move the family to another city, from Shanghai to Nanking to Hong Kong to Bangkok to Taipei and finally across the four seas to the U.S. Throughout her migrations, Flora kept her sight on one goal: providing her children with the best possible education.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Flora Li is a young girl growing up in Hong Kong in the 1920's, and this book consists of her taped recollections of her life, which her daughter then published. This was a refreshing change of pace for me. I found myself astounded, disappointed, surprised, and even angry reading the saga of Flora as

she struggled with an impoverished childhood after her father died when she was very young, married a man who she obviously didn't love, and went from home after home, having child after child, and never seem to be fulfilled until she eventually came to the US, saw her children all graduate from college and become accomplished adults despite some of their childhood struggles. Those of us who were born and raised in the U.S. have never really known what it was like to be displaced from your home and become a refugee during time of war. We are so lucky in that regard. As Japan invaded China in 1931, Flora's family was torn apart. Flora was very much on her own, and through the help of friends she made her way out of Hong Kong and into China, and continued her education. Later reunited with her family, she makes a marriage with the son of a very wealthy and influential man, but she is never happy. Her husband is temperamental, suffers from manic depression, and can't hold down a job. Flora sometimes has to resort to help from her family and his to find her husband employment and to raise her five children. Eventually, in 1967, she and her husband and kids move to the U.S. The parents deny themselves every luxury so that they can provide for their children's university educations. I think that those of us living in the US have all heard of the excellent students turned out in the Asian schools.

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