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Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire



Synopsis

“Meeting Cilla felt like making a new best friend.”

Grace Lin, bestselling author of Newbery Honor book *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* Priscilla "Cilla" Lee-Jenkins is on a tight deadline. Her baby sister is about to be born, and Cilla needs to become a bestselling author before her family forgets all about her. So she writes about what she knows best—herself! Stories from her bestselling memoir, *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire*, include:- How she dealt with being bald until she was five- How she overcame her struggles with reading- How family traditions with her Grandma and Grandpa Jenkins and her Chinese grandparents, Nai Nai and Ye Ye, are so different

Debut author Susan Tan has written a novel bursting with love and humor, as told through a bright, irresistible biracial protagonist who will win your heart and make you laugh.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 940 (What's this?)

Series: Cilla Lee-Jenkins (Book 1)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press (March 28, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626725519

ISBN-13: 978-1626725515

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #244,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Children's

Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #315

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> Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

“[Cilla Lee-Jenkins] is 50% Chinese, 50% Caucasian and I think 100% wonderful . . . I suspect young readers will want to reach into the pages and hug her!”

Rachel

Renee Russell, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Dork Diaries*, for Omnivoracious.com *“Cilla”* is empathy, candor, and skill at turning a phrase indicates that her claim to be a future author extraordinaire is completely justified . . . Anyone who spends time with Cilla Lee-Jenkins will look forward to reading her in the future. *Booklist*, starred review *“Tan writes in a fun and spunky voice that brings to mind favorite characters such as Junie B. Jones, Ramona Quimby, and Fancy Nancy but is still all her own . . . Readers will identify with Cilla and wish they were friends with her in real life.”* *School Library Journal* *“Cilla”* is liveliness, vulnerability, and thoughtfulness make her an endearing and entertaining narrator. *Horn Book* *“Tan, who grew up in a mixed-race family, does a lovely job of showing how Cilla finds joy in both sides of her heritage.”* *Kirkus Reviews* *“Heartwarming and poignant! Meeting Cilla felt like making a new best friend. I can’t wait to share the book with my own daughter.”* *Grace Lin*, bestselling author of Newbery Honor book *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and National Book Award finalist *When the Sea Turned to Silver* *“Cilla Lee-Jenkins is the kind of book you can’t wait to share. There’s humor and heartache, and future writers of all kinds will see themselves in Cilla. But above all, this is a book just bursting with love.”* *Kate Milford*, New York Times bestselling author of *Greenglass House* “This story has everything. An irresistible voice, a cast of authentic characters, a hilarious and whip-smart heroine. Also some spectacular baldness and TIME TRAVEL! Cilla Lee-Jenkins is brilliant. Her struggles may seem ordinary, but they’re also extraordinary, exquisite, and very very important.” *Kate Beasley*, author of *Gertie’s Leap to Greatness* *“I challenge anyone to read this book and not fall in love with Cilla Lee-Jenkins. With the spunk of Ivy and Bean and the heart of Ramona Quimby, she’s a charmer from start to finish of this laugh-out-loud-funny book.”* *W. Gregorio*, author of *None of the Above*

Susan Tan has lived many places in her life, but calls Concord, Massachusetts, home. She grew up in a mixed-race family, and, like Cilla Lee-Jenkins, had very little hair until the age of five. After studying at Williams College, she earned her PhD from the University of Cambridge, where she studied children’s literature. She currently lives in Somerville, enjoys frequent trips to Chinatown to eat *tzuck sang*, and teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Dana Wulfekotte is a children’s book author, illustrator, and animator. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Queens with her boyfriend and two rabbits (whom she now regrets not naming *Supernova* and *Sparkledust*).

This is a phenomenal book. Ms. Tan does an amazing job not only of storytelling, but of explaining numerous literary devices to a youthful audience. Her voice is delightful and relatable. I found myself laughing out loud more than once and reading countless clever passages out loud to my boyfriend (who smiled, grudgingly, being too cool to laugh at kids' books). Also possibly important - it took me about a week to read it and I'm an adult, so it should keep your 7-11 year old entertained for a bit!

I love this book! Great fun to read for adults and to read to children.

An absolute joy to read -- found myself reading sections aloud to my husband and sharing big laughs together. And as much as I laughed throughout, I wept at the end, at the beauty of the story. Cilla is a MUST for children and adults!

my 7yr old loved this book and laughed out loud :)

Loved this book and Cilla's personality! Where was this book when I was raising my own biracial kids? They're now grown up, but we got the SAME rude questions and stares. I wish there was a book like this that my children could have read. Also - it's funny and fun to read!

Sweet, hilarious, delightful. Full of those little surprises that will make you adore Cilla instantly.

Charming, clever thoughtful

Cilla Lee-Jenkins wormed her way into my heart immediately, and I have a feeling she'll stay there forever. I love this precocious narrator. Tan does an amazing job of embodying a second-going-into-third-grader. All of the details of Cilla's life felt so true to that age. (I don't know how she did it!) Her struggle with acceptance about the Blob's (her baby sister's) impending arrival, and the emotional journey, are so well done. I especially appreciated the way she showed Cilla's biracial background. The questions Cilla has, both about herself and about the odd treatment other people sometimes give her (questions like "where are you from," "no, where are you *really* from?") will be eye-opening for young white readers. Whether this book is a mirror or a window for you, I have a feeling you'll be rooting for Cilla Lee-Jenkins big-time. I hope there are more Cilla

Lee-Jenkins books in the works. I'm hooked!

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