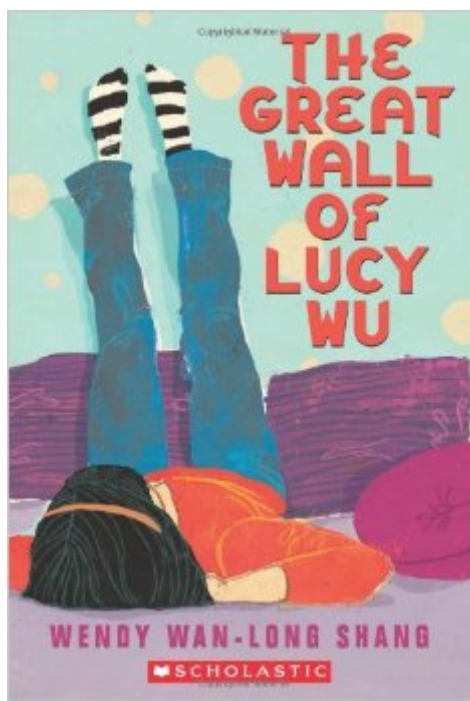


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The Great Wall Of Lucy Wu



Synopsis

A humorous and heartwarming debut about split cultural identities, and all the ways life fails to go according to plan for sixth-grader Lucy Wu. Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life. She's ready to rule the school as a sixth grader, go out for captain of the school basketball team, and take over the bedroom she has always shared with her sister. In an instant, though, her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her beloved grandmother's sister, is coming to visit for several months -- and is staying in Lucy's room. Lucy's vision of a perfect year begins to crumble, and in its place come an unwelcome roommate, foiled birthday plans, a bully who tries to scare Lucy off the basketball team, and Chinese school with the annoying know-it-all Talent Chang. Lucy's year is ruined -- or is it? A wonderfully funny, warm, and heartfelt tale about the ways life often reveals silver linings in the most unexpected of clouds.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (January 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545162165

ISBN-13: 978-0545162166

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (46 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #156,537 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #447 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

As a mother who screens everything her 13-year-old daughter reads, I have long resigned myself to the old standbys of Laurence Yep, Grace Lin and Linda Sue Park for stories of the Oriental (not Continental Indian) Asian-American or Asian-now-American experience. I loved Lensey Namioka, but her books don't seem to be in print anymore, unfortunately. So when I come across gem authors

such as Ching Yeung Russell ("The Tofu Quilt") and Lisa Yee ("Millicent Min: Girl Genius", previously reviewed), I tend to get a bit gushy. I'm inclined to get gushy reviewing "The Great Wall of Lucy Wu" by Wendy Wan-Long Shang now, especially since I just put down that pretty torturous tome of a book, "Wild Swans" (previously reviewed), which dealt in such depth and detail each injustice served during the Cultural Revolution, it left (some) readers glassy-eyed. "The Great Wall of Lucy Wu", in contrast, is not a biography - it is a middle-school coming-of-age fictional novel, written with sensitivity, honesty, quite obviously drawn from the author's own experiences - but where it works is that when writing about the evils of the Cultural Revolution, the author chose *one* instance to describe in some detail, rather than detailing *every single* horror that happened. By putting that into the story of the larger issue of growing up Asian-American in public school, the impact on the reader was stronger: after all, coming-of-age stories are not uncommon, but not every child's coming of age is shadowed by such historical significance. I really enjoyed the unpretentious writing of Wendy Wan-Long Shang - I hope she writes more, maybe this time from the point of view of the other members of the Wu family.

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