

California Community Courier

Amal Book Club

2013

Special Edition

Generous till the End

Adeline's big heart

Reported by: Enas, Ola, Eftekhar, Ruth, Nibal, Gili, Sapir and Avital

First of all, we would like to tell our opinion about the relationship between Adeline and her parents.

Adeline never expected her parents to change their behavior. In our opinion Adeline expected her father to be proud of her. She helped her father for moral reasons and not material ones. She helped her father because she loved him no matter what he did or thought of her.

Adeline wanted to help others because when she was young nobody helped her.

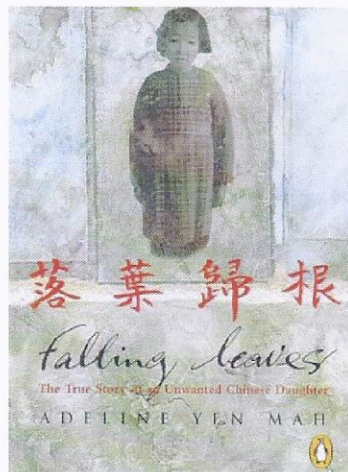
In general, she was a very good and forgiving person.

Another reason could be that she wanted to make them feel guilty because of

the way they treated her when she was a child. She

wanted to make her father happy because she knew he loved his wife and that is why she treated Niang well. She also wanted to keep in touch with all the members of their family.

Finally, we think that Adeline was a good person, with good motives and she was very generous woman.



About This Issue

This special issue of the California Community Courier is dedicated to the story of our friend and neighbor, Adeline Yen Mah, a Chinese-American author and physician.

The essays and artwork in this bulletin reflect the reactions and opinions of joint teams of students from the Amal Neuman Beer Sheva and Hura Ahed Multidisciplinary High Schools who participated in the Book Club Program in the 2012-2013 school year. The workshops were facilitated by Yonatan Regev, Foreign Desk and Sports Correspondent at Channel 10 News.

As part of the program, the students read and discussed an abridged version of Adeline Yen Mah's biographical novel, **Falling Leaves**.

The Book Club program is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and the TIDES Foundation.



Niang, the Step-mother

Selfish or simply strict?

*Reported by: Shahar L., Sarah, Noam,
Boshra, Nawal, Sheroa, Ngod, Nouf, Nsma,
Reham and Hadar*

Susan said that Niang loved no one but herself.

On the one hand, this statement is true.

Niang didn't want her husband to spend time with her step-children, but only with her children. She gave money to Susan and Franklin, but she refused to give any money to her step-children.

When Niang's husband died, she changed the will. She left his money to herself, while her husband wanted to give money to his children.

On the other hand, we disagree with this statement. Niang's education was cruel, strict, but eventually all her children were successful so maybe this education helped them.



Obedience

Is it ever acceptable?

Reported by: Tamer, Ismaeel, Walid, Mohmed, Aody, Kosee, Aviya, Yuval Nahum

We all agree that the children shouldn't obey their step-mother just because it was their father's wish.

None of the children has ever stood up against Niang, even when they were successful grown-up people. There were several reasons for this.

First, the children were afraid of Niang and couldn't stand up to her.

Extended Family

Reported by: Hameej, P. Awdah Alatrsh, Jihad, Suleman A., Alon, Ido, Dan M., Eldar, and Tarek

Ye-ye and Aunt Baba really loved Adeline and the sisters, and they were Adeline's real parents, because they helped Adeline a lot. Ye-ye made it possible for Adeline to go to school, but when Father and Niang found out, they were surprised and didn't agree that she would go to school.

And Aunt Baba helped Adeline when they moved to Hong Kong because the war began.

Father and Niang went to Hong Kong without Adeline and that shows that Father

Second, in different cultures there are different "rules". In one culture children take what the parents say as advice. In other cultures what your father says is taken as a command.

In the Chinese culture they respect their parents and old peoples' opinions.

Finally, the children wanted their father's inheritance. They behave well to get some money after their father dies.

To sum up, the children obeyed Niang for reasons that are associated with cultural norms, inheritance matters, and great fear.

and Niang didn't love Adeline, but Aunt Baba took Adeline with her to Hong Kong and that shows that Aunt Baba loved her.

Ye-ye and Aunt Baba acted like substitute parents, They gave Adeline all the love and attention that she was supposed to get from her parents.



Adeline's Adult Relationships

Reported by: Noy, Noam, Sigi, Vicky, Enab, Abdella, Hani, and Helal

Adeline decided to get married too fast because she was looking for the love she had never received at home.

Her father didn't love her because he blamed her for her mother's death.

She never invited friends home from school and her clothes were old and old-fashioned.

Her father got remarried and she went to live with Aunt Baba who was the only person that treated her with love like a mother.

Her father used to hate her.

When she decided to become a doctor she had to pay for her own studies even though her father was rich.

She fell in love with the first person who wasn't rude to her.

"I couldn't believe that such a handsome guy will be interested in me, he was perfect, I know it's a big word but believe me he was perfect".

About Adeline Yen Mah

For more information on Adeline Yen Mah, visit her website:

<http://www.adelineyenmah.com/>.

