



Translations of Beauty

Mia Yun

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Translations of Beauty maps the tender yet tumultuous relationship of twin sisters Inah and Yunah, from their early years in South Korea to their coming-of-age in Queens, New York. At the heart of the narrative -- told from Yunah's intimate, engaging point of view -- is an unforgettable event from their childhood: an accident that disfigured Inah for life, and the overwhelming sadness and guilt Yunah feels at having been spared. Now that Inah and Yunah are adults, each in search of her own identity while trying to remain true to traditional family values, they must find a way to negotiate their past and become the people they dare -- and dream -- to be.

Emotionally charged and thought-provoking, *Translations of Beauty* is an insightful saga of the immigrant experience that will resonate with all readers.

Translations of Beauty Details

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Author : Mia Yun

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From Reader Review Translations of Beauty for online ebook

Vicki says

wonderful descriptions but a sad and often slow story

Shawna says

hard to read

Jan says

I did enjoy the story of the two sisters Inah and Yunah who came in their early childhood to Queens New York. Through a terrible childhood accident to Inah, the parents decide America is the only hope for a damaged child with a brilliant mind. I would have given it a higher rating but it was not easy to decide whether you were in the childhood or in Italy at age 28. Both girls struggle with their own guilts and sadness as does the whole family. It was too sad for my mood, but ended on a positive note.

Tiph' says

Truly amazing. Made me feel so many things. What an incredible writer. Made me escape far away for a few hours.

Traci says

There just wasn't enough here to grab onto. Nothing is explained, characters are superficial, plot lines go nowhere. The three stars are for evoking some emotion some of the time.

Beth says

This is an interesting and rather unusual novel by a young Korean-American who takes a slightly different approach to the lives of immigrant families. Because of a scalding accident that scars one of a pair of Korean twins, the family emigrates to the USA in hopes of finding a better life. The physical scars are not the only ones; the rest of the family carries psychological scars. Although the move takes the family away from rigid Korean mores, it doesn't really go as planned.

This is not an easy book. The story is told in a couple of different time frames which are sometimes hard to

follow. I would recommend the book to book groups especially.

Justine says

i really liked this story, you can connect to it, and also i love reading in other cultures views

Natalie Pinney says

Good, but a little drawn out. Beautiful message though.

Fred Daly says

At times I liked this a lot, and at times I got impatient with it. It's about twin sisters born in Korea who move to America after one suffers disfiguring burns to her face. There's some marvelous writing, but also a dismaying lack of variety (lots of attention to the color of the sky and to people's faces turning red). The burned sister is a compelling character; the other, who narrates, is a bit of a cipher.

Beverly says

I think I would give this book 3 1/2 stars. This book tells the story of a Korean family who immigrates to New York after the one of the twin daughters is severely burned in an accident in the home and ends up disfigured. The mother places all of their hopes and dreams for the burned daughter in America where children will not call her names and where she may even be able to be healed. Of course, the real America doesn't come close to the dream.

The story is told in the voice of the sister who was not injured and has to deal with the guilt of being the one who doesn't have to bear this terrible burden. You get a real and very complex picture of both parents and the two daughters and how deeply each of them is affected every day by this accident. The author explores through them questions about how people experience beauty.

I really liked this book, especially the way the author wrote the interactions between the individuals in the story. I also really appreciated that she didn't back down from dealing with a lot of hard issues such as racism, immigration, but didn't go over the top in trying to be preachy about them, but made them a part of the full lives of the characters.

I didn't really like, though her writing style when she was just describing scenes. For me it got bogged down with way too many metaphors.

Lina says

Maybe 3.5 stars? I liked it a lot but I wish we'd had more insight into Inah's motivations and the distance between her and Yunah. More, MORE!

Knightgina says

It was ok. An interesting story, but for me too much flitting between past & present with too much of a blurred edge. I found myself not wholly engaging with it, which is a pity.

Garron says

My first piece of Korean literature. And a pretty good story too. Quite insightful into issues of travel, dreams, beauty, family, siblings, Korean culture, American culture and immigration.

I think because I have had a taste of the Korean culture, I was able to enjoy this book more. Small things like the Korean dialogues, the expectations because one is Korean and just the Korean way of dealing with things. I also learned a few things to my list of "Korean Culture".

This book was hard to read though. I noticed I would be re-reading a few sentences because I couldn't get the gist of it. I think mainly because things are overly described. Like a poem. Hence, there are heaps of links.

All in all a good book to read on a cold day.

Carolyn Hanson says

Liked the premiss of the book & the exploration on the far reaching effects of a sudden loss of physical beauty, especially in regards to the feelings of guilt & responsibility shared by family members. The perspectives on immigrant family life were also interesting. Overall, felt like the novel just "wandered" along, without ever letting us in to Inah's true state of being. Perhaps the intention is primarily to promote the reader's reflection.

Stefanie says

Good story, a pretty easy read. I enjoy stories about multicultural experiences in America and people's perceptions of beauty.
