The Chinese Siamese Cat

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In ancient China, there lived cats that looked like Siamese cats, without the dark markings, until a naughty kitten, Sagwa, tangles with a Foolish Magistrate, falls into an inkpot, and gives Siamese cats their unique coloring.

Amy Tan wrote her first published essay, "What the Library Means to Me," at age eight. She has since become the author of two well-known works of fiction: The Joy Luck Club, which was chosen by the American Library Association as a Best Book for Young Adults; and The Kitchen God's Wife, named a 1991 Booklist Editor's Choice. Her first book for young people was the highly praised The Moon Lady, illustrated by Gretchen Schields (Macmillan). Her recent essay, "Mother Tongue," was included in the 1991 edition of Best American Essays. Prior to writing fiction, Ms. Tan worked as a language development consultant to programs serving developmentally disabled children. She lives in San Francisco with her husband, Lou DeMattei.Amy Tan's light, airy voice includes the listener as if sharing a bedtime story. The naughty white kitten, Sagwa, comes from a long line of royal Chinese cats. Her mischief changes the spirit of the cruel magistrate and future for her ancestors. Tan tells the story simply and with little embellishment. She uses few character voices but seems to warm to her own telling as the story progresses. The story is repeated exactly on side two. Listeners who love cats, Asian folktales, and authors who read their own stories will find this a good choice. R.F.W. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Other Books

Amy Tan, Readers of the books in Todays Writers and Their Works will learn the story behind each writers story.

⬚ ⬚ ⬚ ⬚ ⬚ . Saving Fish from Drowning . New York : Ballantine Books , 2006 . Works about Tan Academy of Achievement . Amy Tan Interview , June 28 , 1996 , transcript , www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/tan0 int - 1 (accessed August 16 , 2008) ."