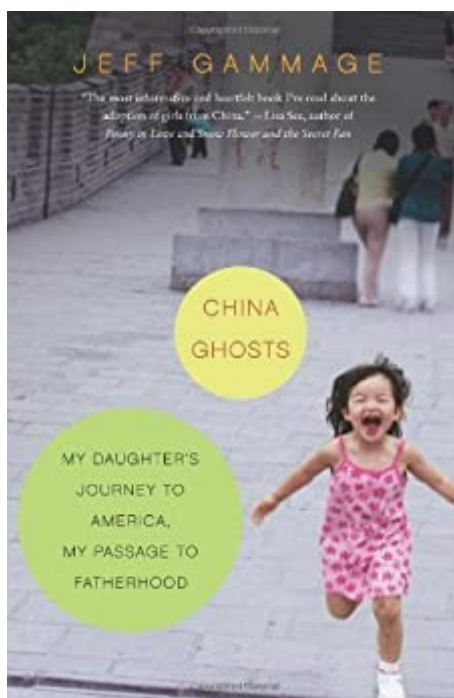


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# China Ghosts: My Daughter's Journey To America, My Pas



## Synopsis

Aching to expand from a couple to a family, Jeff Gammage—a reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer—and his wife, Christine, embarked upon a journey that would carry them across a shifting landscape of emotion and through miles of red tape and bureaucratic protocol. On the other side of the world—in the smog-choked city of Changsha in Hunan Province—a silent, stoic little girl was waiting for them: Jin Yu, their new daughter. Now they would have to learn how to fully embrace a life altered beyond recognition by new concerns and responsibilities—and by a love unlike any they'd ever felt before. Alive with insight and feeling, *China Ghosts* is an eye-opening depiction of the foreign adoption process and a remarkable glimpse into a different culture. Most important, it is a poignant, heartfelt, and intensely intimate chronicle of the making of a family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My husband and I adopted our two daughters from China in 2000 and 2007. Jeff Gammage's journal of his China adoption experience could have been my own. Jeff takes from preadoption, to assignment and placement. His story ends with the adoption of his second

child. As Jeff and his wife Christine journey to China to meet their daughter for the first time, Jeff appears to find faith as well. There are many thoughts and events which seem coincident which occur within the new family. Perhaps there is no coincidence and a truth and beauty is leading him to this goodness? The concern Jeff has when his new daughter is placed in his arms and is so despondent is real. His anger with the bureaucratic process and seeming disregard by officials of his daughter Jin Yu's head injury is understandable. When Jin Yu comes around to her ebullient self and her head wound heals, all is forgiven. The family bonds and Jeff is thankful for the Chinese matching process which brought him to Jin Yu, the baby at the other end of the red thread which joins their hearts. Only one who has gone through the method of Chinese adoption can understand the Ying Yang of the experience. At one point you are angry with the disregard the Chinese have for their wonderful daughters, preferring sons to female children. You question the lack of reproductive freedom China's one child policy enforced. Then you are thankful you are given the blessing of these lovely children who become your own. Jeff scoffs when approached by well meaning strangers who comment his daughters are fortunate to have him as a father. You see Jeff knows the adoptive parents of Chinese orphans are the lucky ones. We are blessed to have been given the opportunity to nurture and love these special children. Read his book. It is well written, accurate, and at times humorous. It might even make you cry.

As someone who has lived in China for a while, both as a teacher and as a student, and who has witnessed attempted forced abortions, I find this book to be a remarkable portrayal of things I've been unable to put into words. I've traveled to hundreds of cities and rural villages, including all of the places listed in this book. I've seen the same things that Jeff talks about, and a lot more. His portrayal of Chinese society, the reasons that Chinese parents are abandoning their children, and why they're committing infanticide, and his vivid descriptions of the adoption process (which I've personally witnessed), is very good. I highly recommend this book to anyone before they adopt a child from China, so they know what to expect. Moreover, I strongly encourage adopting children anywhere in the world, no matter where they hail from.

The book started off good and was interesting how they went to China and picked up their daughter but it jumped back and forth too much to the author's past and present musings. He goes back and forth between trying to decide if there is a God, Buddah, gods. He also seems to blame God, not Buddah for the orphans plight. He also says adoption is purely selfish. I guess it was for them when they decided the only way to have a child was thru adoption although it turns out not to be selfish in

the sacrificial love they have for their daughters. Over all it was alright and interesting enough to finish the book, although I skipped thru some of the ramblings.

The truly beautiful story of a man who did not want kids and then his long and anxious introduction into adoption and parenthood, details that they don't describe when you adopt well written in this book, the guilt, love, hate, anger and the ghost of unknown ancestors.

I was interested because my nephew went to China to pick up Grace.

We had the honor of meeting Jeff while we were waiting to travel to China to meet our daughter; great guy. His book offered up a great deal of info for waiting families on what to expect in your experience when grow your family thru adoption. This book made us laugh, cry and left us with a smile. Great read!

Couldn't put it down.

From the first chapter I felt as though I was with The Gammage family on their journey. I myself am an adoptive parent of a darling little girl from Chongqing and have been home 9 months. It brought back vivid memories and feelings I had gone through on our trip. I was smiling and crying all the way through the book. This is a must read for anyone who is thinking about or who has adopted a child. Jeff Gamage captured the feeling and emotions that all of us experience on our journey to parenthood. Bravo!

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