



# Dolls Of Hope

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**Dolls Of Hope Shirley Parenteau**

**How daring is Chiyo prepared to be to keep the American Friendship Doll safe? Inspired by a little-known historical event, this engaging companion to Ship of Dolls is told from a Japanese girl's point of view.**

When eleven-year-old Chiyo Tamura is sent from her home in a small Japanese mountain village to a girls' school in the city of Tsuchiura, she never imagines that she will soon be in Tokyo helping to welcome more than twelve thousand Friendship Dolls from America—including Emily Grace, a gift to her own school. Nor could she dream that she'd have an important role in the crafting of Miss Tokyo, one of fifty-eight Japanese dolls to be sent to America in return. But when an excited Chiyo is asked to be Emily Grace's official protector, one jealous classmate will stop at nothing to see her fail. How can Chiyo reveal the truth—and restore her own good name? In another heartwarming historical novel, the author of Ship of Dolls revisits the 1926 Friendship Doll exchange, in which teacher-missionary Sidney Gulick organized American children to send thousands of dolls to Japan in hopes of avoiding a future war.

## Dolls Of Hope Details

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Author : Shirley Parenteau

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## From Reader Review Dolls Of Hope for online ebook

### Linda Layne says

The author of this book does a wonderful job of introducing many of the customs and words of Japan in the book, Dolls of Hope. The characters are well defined and there is excitement, mystery, sadness, happiness, and . . . well, let's not spoil the story, shall we? Definitely a recommended read for anyone interested in Japan, Japan's early history before the world war when there were still shogun, or, of course, dolls.

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### Cheryl says

Love that these three books each stand alone well enough that if your library doesn't have them all, you can jump in anywhere. Love the attention of historical detail... what exactly went through some people's minds, why exactly was a hill-country girl sent to boarding school.... Love that these are engaging stories about brave & strong-willed (but well-intentioned) & intelligent girls first, and historical fiction second... and they have bits of humor and joy, too, which is all too scarce in children's HF.

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### Laura says

A little bit of history and a story of being yourself

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### Yapha says

In this companion book to *Ship of Dolls*, the Friendship Dolls have now arrived in Japan and girls from schools all over Japan are going to a welcoming ceremony in Tokyo. One of those girls is Tamura Chiyo, who recently left her small family farm to attend a boarding school nearby. Her older sister is engaged to a wealthy farmer, and he sends her to the school to learn the proper ways to behave. While there are some of the familiar themes of "poor girl at a boarding school being picked on by the queen bee," they are mixed in with traditional Japanese culture as well as changes occurring within Japan in the late 1920s. Chiyo must make some hard choices regarding family, friends, loyalty, and following her heart. This is a fascinating look at Japan before the start of World War II, as well as a reminder that girls everywhere have more in common than not. Recommended to grades 4 & up.

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### Jody Ellis says

I enjoyed this book just as much as the first. I'm excited to see the third instalment!

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## **Katie says**

Sweet, simple, interesting.

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## **Ms. Yingling says**

In this sequel to *Ship of Dolls*, we go to Japan, where young Chiyo is very concerned about her older sister going into an arranged marriage in the 1920s. Chiyo is not very ladylike, and barges in on the meeting between her sister, parents, and the prospective groom. She is afraid she has ruined her sister's chances to marry a wealthy man who will take care of her, but Yamada Nori is both wealthy and kind. He arranges for Chiyo to attend a school in the city, so she can meet Hoshi, a general's daughter, and learn to behave the way that she does. Once at the school, Chiyo gets very involved in the project that has sent American dolls to Japanese schools, and helps with the process of sending Japanese dolls to America. Along the way, she learns that Hoshi's behavior is not very admirable, and that while being ladylike is nice, she must also be true to herself.

Strengths: Disclaimer: When my older daughter was an infant, I would walk with her in a front pack to the library, grab a handful of Pearl Buck books, and walk home. I think I read just about every Buck book there was, so I am a sucker for books set in Japan. There are lots of good details about daily life, along with plenty of girl drama. Interesting historical topic as well.

Weaknesses: Nobody describes daily life as good as Buck, and my students are not interested in reading books set in foreign countries, although I love to, so I'm not giving up yet!

What I really think: Sadly, the first book circulates very poorly. I think I will buy a copy because it is a very interesting historical event. On the bright side, the book will last a lot longer!

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## **Anna Davidson says**

The second in the series, this is another lovely story about the Friendship Dolls exchanged between America and Japan between the two wars.

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## **Andrea says**

I'm enjoying reading this historical fiction trilogy with my girls.

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## **Tanja says**

I always appreciate discovering well-written historical fiction suitable for upper primary students, like this companion to the author's *Ship of Dolls* (August 2014), as it is a genre that seems often reluctantly approached by young readers. However, I have noticed that once a young reader has found a title they enjoyed, not only are they interested in reading more books of this genre but also in finding out more about the time in history the novel is set in. This novel is set in Japan of the 1920s as a large number of so-called friendship dolls arrive from the United States, as a sign of goodwill and friendship. Chiyo, the story's main

character, sent to a school away from her village to learn better behavior, is pulled right in the middle of the events surrounding the arrival of the dolls in Tokyo. A free-spirited girl, she has to suffer under a bully at school and from the consequences of her own actions not considered appropriate for a young girl at the time. However, like other mighty female characters in children's literature, she bestows on the reader suspenseful, exciting and heart-warming moments in abundance.

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## **Keren says**

Good book

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## **Cecilia Rodriguez says**

Parenteau continues the story of the Friendship Dolls by taking the adventure to Japan.

Eleven year old Chiyo Tamura leaves her small mountain village to attend an exclusive private school in the city of Tsuchiura.

Once there, Chiyo learns that her school will receive one of the Friendship Dolls from America (Emily Grace).

Parenteau provides a child's perspective of Japanese culture and how in 1927 some things were changing for women.

After the conclusion of the story, Parenteau includes a glossary that defines the Japanese words used in the story.

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## **QNPoohBear says**

Chiyo Tamura is a farmer's daughter from the hills of Japan. She's incensed that an old man wants to marry her beloved older sister and her parents won't do anything to stop it. When Chiyo meets her potential future brother-in-law, she is surprised by his kindness. She is ashamed of her feelings and vows to bring honor to her family. That's not so easy to do when her brother-in-law sends her far away to school in Tsuchiura, where wealthy girls who are daughters of important men go. She's told to model herself after Hoshi Miyamoto, a famous general's daughter, but after only a few minutes at the school, Chiyo knows that won't be easy. When Chiyo learns about the friendship dolls being sent from American school children to Japanese schools, she is eager to see them and welcome them. A trip to Tokyo to welcome the dolls brings unexpected surprises- and consequences. Chiyo longs to be the traditional, humble Japanese girl her family wants her to be but how can she stand by and watch something she loves be destroyed? Japan is changing and maybe Chiyo has to change too.

I really enjoyed this story. While I know a lot about Japan and Japanese culture, this time period is new to me. I was surprised at how behind the rest of the world Japan was and how they were already mobilizing for war- to expand their territory and conquer weaker nations. The central theme of the story is change. The 1920s represent a period of change for women and for Japan. Women were entering public roles and becoming more independent and free, just as Japan was becoming more modern. I liked the juxtaposition of the American vs. Japanese cultures and how both Lexie and Chiyo represent a new generation of women struggling to find their role in a changing society, perhaps rebelling against traditional gender roles.

Sweet little Chiyo captured my heart just as she captures the nation in the story. Her devotion to Emily Grace and her love for the doll really resonated with me. As a doll collector, I understood her fierce need to protect her beloved Emily Grace. I liked following Emily Grace's journey after she left Lexie but it isn't necessary to have read *Ship of Dolls* first. I also really liked Chiyo's friend Hana and how she helps Chiyo. The one character I could have done without is Hoshi. Her plot is the typical mean girl story. She turns out to be complete psycho which was a surprise, instead of the two girls becoming friends in the end, which saves the book from being too overly cloying for an adult reader.

I think this story would be best enjoyed by girls 8-12 and doll lovers around the world.

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### **Michelle says**

When eleven-year-old Chiyo disrupts her sister's marriage meeting with the wealthy husband to be Yamada Nor, her family is disgraced. Sent away to a girls' school in Tsuchiura, Chiyo is charged with learning proper behavior and modeling herself after the daughter of a general. Suddenly taken from her small, poor mountain village and thrust into a school filled with wealthy students, Chiyo desperately misses her family and struggles to fit in. To make matters worse the general's daughter, for whom she is to emulate takes an immediate dislike to Chiyo and stirs up trouble whenever possible. But when the opportunity arises for several students to take part in a special ceremony welcoming friendship dolls sent by schoolchildren from American, Chiyo is thrilled to be selected. Everything about the trip to Tokyo is new and exciting. But Chiyo never expected to be named the official protector of one of the dolls or to have her life changed so drastically by that designation.

This title brings to light a little known historical event that took place in 1926 - The Friendship Doll project. American children sent thousand of dolls to Japan in the name of friendship and to promote peace. Japanese children responded in kind by raising money to have fifty-eight large dolls made and sent to America. Parenteau weaves the story of Chiyo around this event. Readers will be fascinated by the project, the cultural dynamics of 1926 Japan, and by the portrayal of one little girl straddling the line between tradition and progress. An author's note and glossary are included.

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### **MIRELLA77 says**

I loved this book!! I was surprised to see how involved I got into the story. I couldn't put it down. I was fascinated by Chiyo and the choices she made and to see how she'd reacted to the situations that were put before her. I loved how she sought to do the right thing even when circumstances were against her. I loved her adventurous and spirited heart. I loved her good and kind heart. I think the author did a wonderful job showing the reader the struggle and pull between traditional Japan and how future Japan was changing. Along with the traditional role of women in a Japan that was becoming more modern and how they were changing with it! I rooted for Chiyo throughout the entire story. I loved her character! I am definitely recommending this book to family and friends. (Possibly even as Christmas gifts for family) I'd like to read more from this author. I will definitely be reading her previous novel, "*Ship of Dolls*". I hope she will make a sequel to "*Dolls of Hope*". I would like to see how Chiyo life continues. I also think this story would make an exceptional movie! Wonderful story!! Highly recommended!!! I found myself looking up the dolls mentioned in the book and more about The Friendship Dolls project. My only complaint I have is the picture on the cover. It didn't really grab me! I probably wouldn't have picked it up because I wouldn't been drawn to the image on the cover. Maybe if they would've done just a close up Chiyo with both dolls. I also would've

loved to have seen some illustration and pictures in the book to illustrate to the reader what life would've been like back then. Since this story is historical based. For example, The different dolls and what they would've looked like from Japan and from America, or picture of Hirata Gouyou or have drawings of the towns, areas or a map where Chiyo lived or visited. Maybe even the money that they used back then, like a sen or yen. This story will stay with me for a long time and I will be displaying it with my favorite books at home. \*I have received this book in a giveaway\* Thank for letting me have the opportunity to review your amazing book. Thank you for the book!!

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