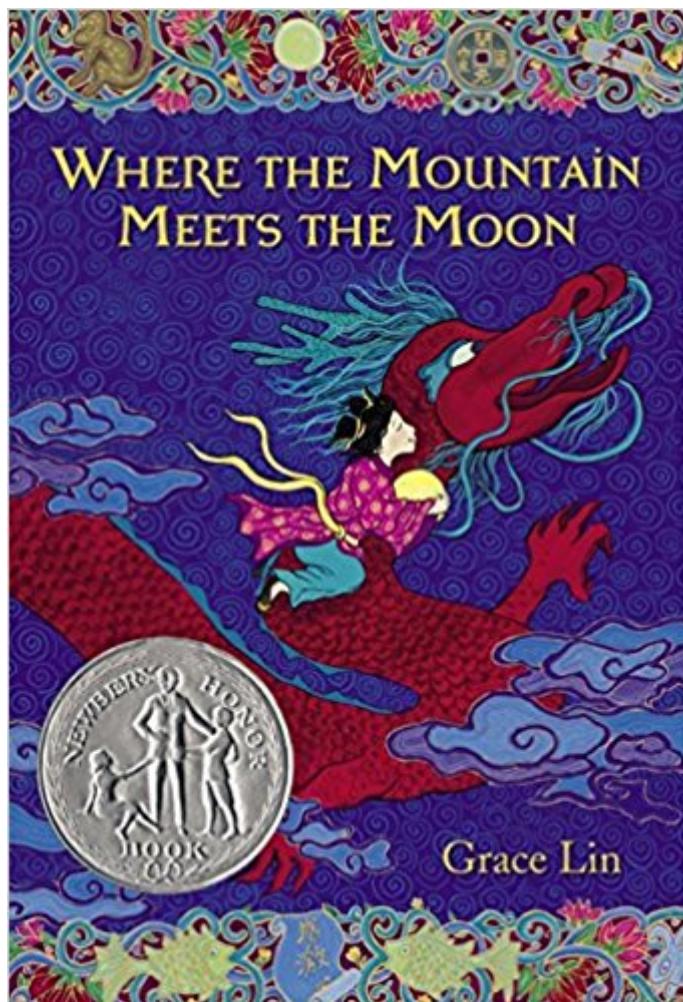


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# Where The Mountain Meets The Moon



## **Synopsis**

A Newbery Honor WinnerA New York Times BestsellerThis stunning fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore is a companion novel to *Starry River of the Sky* and the New York Times bestselling and National Book Award finalist *When the Sea Turned to Silver* In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer. Grace Lin, author of the beloved *Year of the Dog* and *Year of the Rat* returns with a wondrous story of adventure, faith, and friendship. A fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is a timeless story reminiscent of *The Wizard of Oz* and Kelly Barnhill's *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Her beautiful illustrations, printed in full-color, accompany the text throughout. Once again, she has created a charming, engaging book for young readers.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 810L (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 12, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316038636

ISBN-13: 978-0316038638

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 530 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,348 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #2 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #12 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review. Grade 3-6  
Living in the shadow of the Fruitless Mountain, Minli and her parents spend their days working in the rice fields, barely growing enough to feed themselves. Every night, Minli's father tells her stories about the Jade Dragon that keeps the mountain bare, the greedy and mean Magistrate Tiger, and the Old Man of the Moon who holds everyone's destiny. Determined to change her family's fortune, Minli sets out to find the Old Man of the Moon, urged on by a talking goldfish who gives her clues to complete her journey. Along the way she makes new friends including a flightless dragon and an orphan and proves her resourcefulness when she tricks a group of greedy monkeys and gets help from a king. Interwoven with Minli's quest are tales told by her father and by those she meets on the way. While these tales are original to Lin, many characters, settings, and themes are taken from traditional Chinese folklore. The author's writing is elegant, and her full-color illustrations are stunning. Minli's determination to help her family, as well as the grief her parents feel at her absence, is compelling and thoroughly human.

Jennifer Rothschild, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Oxon Hill, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** In this enchanted and enchanting adventure, Minli, whose name means "quick thinking," lives with her desperately poor parents at the confluence of Fruitless Mountain and the Jade River. While her mother worries and complains about their lot, her father brightens their evenings with storytelling. One day, after a goldfish salesman promises that his wares will bring good luck, Minli spends one of her only two coins in an effort to help her family. After her mother ridicules what she believes to be a foolish purchase, Minli sets out to find the Old Man of the Moon, who, it is told, may impart the true secret to good fortune. Along the way, she finds excitement, danger, humor, magic, and wisdom, and she befriends a flightless dragon, a talking fish, and other companions and helpmates in her quest. With beautiful language, Lin creates a strong, memorable heroine and a mystical land. Stories, drawn from a rich history of Chinese folktales, weave throughout her narrative, deepening the sense of both the characters and the setting and smoothly furthering the plot. Children will embrace this accessible, timeless story about the evil of greed and the joy of gratitude. Lin's own full-color drawings open each chapter. Grades 3-6. --Andrew Medlar --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Young Minli was gifted with a lively spirit that flashed brightly in her drab little village. In planting season she rose before dawn, working beside her parents to place each seedling carefully in the

mud. No matter how hard the three worked, they only just managed to get by, living on rice and hoping for better days. Year in and year out, MaÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€šÂ“Ã¢â€šÂ¢s unhappy sighs clouded the air. Her daughter resolved to seek better fortune by finding the one soul known for his ability to answer any question: the Old Man of the Moon. Near a river of salty water, greedy monkeys defended a peach orchard they had just discovered. As Minli approached the rolling stream, a muffled voice broke through the warm clear water. To her astonishment, a brilliant red dragon called out for aid, bound tightly in twine. He had been attacked by the monkeys, who feared his inroads into their orchard. Freed from his bonds, the wingless dragon invited her to climb on his back. He would help her find the Never-Ending Mountain. Their journey to the Mountain and the Old Man of the Moon brought them to the City of Bright Moonlight, with its clever King and faithful Guardians. In the Inner City, the leaves of the plum trees shone like emeralds. Bamboo and pine trees sparkled like jewels in the sun. Minli and her dragon received two treasures of infinite worth. Joyfully they headed out from the blessed city, clambering over steep and rocky ground. In the wilderness the two heroes were attacked by the brutal Green Tiger, whose poisonous claws brought death to his victims. MinliÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€šÂ“Ã¢â€šÂ¢s quick wits had seen her through many perilous adventures. Alone in the wasteland, these gifts alone could not save them. The story that follows is a wonderful tapestry of friendship, generosity and deep courage. Beautifully written, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is a graceful and powerful tale. Grace Lin is a Newberry Honor Winner, National Book Award Finalist, and New York Times bestselling author...--Kate Calina

My 9yo son and I are reading this together each night at bedtime. It's an excellent story, full of adventures and subtle lessons for life. The stories within the story are magical. I especially love that the main character is a girl who is probably around the same age as my son. And as the mom of a biracial Asian child, I appreciate that the characters are Chinese; we've been looking for more diverse stories to read and this one has been perfect.

My daughter loved the book, so I am glad that I bought the hard cover version. If it were paperback, the spine would have been damaged by now. The story just drew her in. She really liked the Chinese folktales that were woven throughout the book. Loved Grace Lin's illustrations too. Perfect for 2nd grade+ girls depending on their reading level. According to the AR Bookfinder, this book's level is 5.8, which means the 8th month of 5th grade. These days, many children are reading above their reading level. It can be really challenging to find books for them that are at their interest level.

This story follows a young Asian girl named Minli who sets out to change her family's fortune by traveling to far-off lands to find the Old Man of the Moon. This book reads like a classic fairytale and through the course of the main story there are short parables/legends within the story told by some of the characters. Everything about this book was wonderful - the tone, the setting, the language, everything! It was very simple and clean and yet created such a rich, beautiful world and characters. Behind the magic, the talking animals, and the other fairytale aspects lie very real morals and real-world applications of them. The author states that she combined the feeling and parts of traditional Chinese folktales/fairytales she read as a girl with a strong heroine unhindered by culture to create this tale. The author also illustrates each chapter and the cover of the book in a way to further the feeling of it being a traditional fairytale. A very beautiful story in which all the pieces fit together so perfectly; it is one of the best books I've ever read. The only flaw with this book is that there is an end to it. Also, I want to add in response to other reviewers' worries that the Asian culture aspect may deter people from other cultures to read it - I am not Asian at all and that fact didn't even cross my mind while reading it. The author does a fantastic job of portraying the beliefs and culture - in fact, many things have to be explained to Minli so we as the reader can learn while Minli learns about it! And the fact that it's set in an Asian culture makes it that much more rich and vibrant! I can not express enough how much I loved this book!!

I just finished reading this book for a children's literature class and I thought for this purpose this book would be a great book to use. I would generally recommend the book for grades 3-5 as it is a bit more lengthy, but within reach for those students who are becoming more interested in reading. The book gives a very detailed journey of a young girl who sets out to change the fortune of her family. The book also contains a mystical aspect which is appealing in a classroom setting for a read aloud. As a college student I enjoyed the book and I believe it could be enjoyed at any age group really. There is also a variety of stories told within the novel, and the author even states at the end of the book that she embellishes some of these stories, but they are unique and detailed creating a good read throughout the book.

There are not enough superlatives to describe this book. The story is wonderful, every detail intertwined, and joy permeates the pages. This sets a new standard for children's literature. \*\*\*Update -- we found an art project to go with this book -- Donna Hugh's Art Lessons -- volume 3 -- it's a watercolor Chinese Dragon. I uploaded some photos into Customer Images.\*\*\*

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