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Paper Daughter

Ruth-Anne Brown

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Ingold, Jeanette. *Paper Daughter*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 9780152055073. \$17.00. 215 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Fiction;

Subject: Chinese Americans--Juvenile fiction; Identity--Juvenile fiction; Mystery and detective stories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Margaret Wynn Chen (Maggie) is about to find out all she thought she knew about her father was a lie. After her father is killed in a hit and run car accident life is hard for Maggie and her mom as they try to adjust to life alone. Maggie works hard at her journalism internship to honor him. She comes across some notes of a story her father, Steven, had been investigating before he died. Maggie follows the trail to discover her father had lied about his past. He had been an orphan and had never attended the Ivy League school he pretended to. Simultaneously Maggie follows a story at the *Chronicle* for her internship. She discovers suspicion has fallen on her father involving a blackmailing scandal. Her boss pulls her from the story fearing its personal nature to Maggie if the accusations prove true about her father. However, following researched clues and gut instincts, Maggie proves her father's innocence and finds the family she never knew existed.

Ingold weaves the modern tale of Maggie Chen with the 1930s tale of Chinese immigrants who can only live in the Gold Mountain if they pretended to have bonds with immigrants who were already citizens of the US. They had to pretend because of The Chinese Exclusion Act which was passed after no more Chinese immigrants were needed to build the railroads or for other manual labor. Desperate people often feigned bonds with those already citizens of the United States in order to immigrate. *Paper Daughter* combines today's prejudices with history's past injustices, and readers will want to know more about the historical elements of the story after reading this realistic tale.

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