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The sign of the chrysanthemum

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As he sits on a ship, Muna meets Takanobu, a pleasant ronin. Eventually they leave the ship and begin to explore a city together. Takanobu takes care of Muna, including finding the boy a job cleaning sheds. On New Year's Eve, Takanobu sends Muna on a mission when a fire erupts at Red Dog, an inn where Takanobu was residing. Muna learns that the acquaintance of Plum Face and Takanobu are dead, and returns to Red Dog to find it engulfed in flames. He's badly burned from the toxic fumes from the fire. Muna is found by Fukuji, a swordsman, who allows the boy to stay with him and do the chores. Some time later, Muna discovers a man dressed as a priest is behind him and recognizes the man is actually Takanobu. As a favor to him, Takanobu asks Muna to steal a sword from Fukuji. Although Muna brings a sword to Takanobu, he refuses to give up his weapon unless Takanobu admits to being Muna's father. When Takanobu does not respond, Muna attacks and injures Takanobu. He runs and buries the sword in front of a neglected shrine. Fukuji discovers Muna is missing the same way a visitor arrives, telling Fukuji that he is Muna's father - Fukuji admits that the visitor is Takanobu. Amid the uncertainty where Takanobu is truly his father, Muna must choose between fulfilling his father's wishes and proving his loyalty to Fukuji. References This article about a 1970 novel is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vteSee guidelines for writing about novels. More suggestions can be found on the article's discussion page. Taken from The desperate search for the father he never saw takes 13-year-old Muna into danger adventure in the crowded and colorful capital of 12th century Japan. But where should he for him? And will he recognize it? His father left before Muna was born – and his mother is now dead. All the boy knows about his father is that he's a great warrior, a samurai... and that he wears a chrysanthemum tattoo on his shoulder. Wars between two powerful clans divide the city, making its quest more difficult and more dangerous. Muna is torn between his respect for Fukuji, the brilliant swordsmith who takes him into his home, and his loyalty to Takanobu, a former samurai who is now an outlaw. Tempered by fire and sword, Muna finally discovers who he really is. HarperCollins ISBN 9780064402323 Katherine Paterson, Author, Peter Landa, Illustrator HarperCollins \$5.99 (144p) ISBN 978-0-06-440232-3 More by and about this author In the newbery Medalist first book, Muna seeks his father, a samurai warrior, in Japan 12th century. Age 8-12 years. (June) Muna never knew his father, a samurai, a noble warrior. But Muna's mother told Muna she would meet him one day: through the sign of the chrysanthemum. When his mother dies, Muna travels to the capital of 12th-century Japan, a city on the brink of revolution. Find a paradise there as a servant of the great swordsman Fukuji. But Muna can't forget her dream: she has to find her father. Only then will he have power and a name to be reckoned with. Only then will he become a man. Click a thumbnail to access Google Books. Loading... by Katherine Paterson393147,408 (3.44)1A teen-ager comes to know herself through contacts with social diseases and political unrest while searching for her father in the capital of Japan centuries ago. Loading... Sign up for LibraryThing to find out if you will like this book. I don't talk about current conversations about this book.' See also 1 mention the original title Alternative Titles publishing Original data People / Characters Important Places Important Events Related to Movies Awards and Honors Epigraph Dedication First Words Quotes Last Words Disambiguation Editor's Original Language Canonical DDC/MDS References to this work on external resources. Wikipedia in English (1)The Sign of Chrysanthemum A teenager gets to know himself through contacts with social diseases and political unrest while searching for his father in the capital of Japan centuries ago. No library descriptions were found. Average: (3.44)0.5 111.52 32.5 23 83.5 24 144.55 3 Become a LibraryThing author. 64402320 Transport to: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Estonia, Australia, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Slovenia, Japan, China, Sweden, Korea, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Africa, Thailand, Belgium, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Germany, Austria, Bahamas, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Croatia, Republic, Malaysia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, Barbados, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Brunei Darussalam, Bolivia, Ecuador, Egypt, French Guiana, Guernsey, Gibraltar, Guadeloupe, Iceland, Jordan, Cambodia, Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Luxembourg, Monaco, Macao, Martinique, Maldives, Nicaragua, Oman, Peru, Pakistan, Paraguay, Reunion, Vietnam, Uruguay, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Cayman Islands Excludes: Angola, Cameroon, French Polynesia, Libya, Mongolia, Suriname, Guyana, Mauritius Chad, Madagascar, New Caledonia, Iran, Western Sahara, Laos, Congo, Republic, Seychelles, Sudan, Venezuela, Somalia, Burma, Cuba, Republic, Yemen, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic, Niger, Saint Pierre and Miquelon As the cold of autumn sets in, the trees begin to lose their vibration, and the plants begin to wither. However, a particular flower prevails-crysantem. As its surroundings disappear, defeated by frigid winds, this resilient flower begins to bloom. Since ancient times, chrysanthemum has been admired by Chinese researchers and literati, inspiring countless poems, stories and works of art. In addition to praising her for her beauty, they celebrated her as a symbol of vitality and tenacity. Humble Origins One of the earliest cases of chrysanthemum being mentioned in poetry is in the poem that yuan famous Li Sao, composed during the warring period states. In it, he writes: Dew of magnolia leaves I drank at dawn, / At eve for food were aster petals supported. Aster refers to the Asteraceae family of flowering plants, to which the chrysanthemum belongs. Chrysanthemums have been commonly used for medicine. On just a few occasions, Qu Yuan conveys that what matters is not one's wealth, but rather the purity of one's heart. According to the poem, chrysanthemum was a relatively banal flower, commonly used by ordinary people. In the Compendium of Materia Medica, a volume of Chinese erbolgy written in the Ming dynasty, numerous species of chrysanthemums have been documented. One may wonder such an ordinary plant has acquired such cultural significance. The escalation of the chrysanthemum in status did not take place until the Jin dynasty, when it was brought to the importance of the poet Tao Yuanming. Much of his poetry described his simple life of reclusiveness in the countryside. He was often inspired by the beauty and serenity of nature, the chrysanthemum being a frequent reason. In one of his most famous poems, Drinking: No. 5, he wrote: I pluck chrysanthemums under the eastern hedge, / and look away towards Mountains. In this central panel of an ink landscape painting, the artist Du Jin portrayed the poet Tao Yuanming walking through the mountains and admiring the flowers of chrysanthemums. Yuanming was known for his love of flower, and often alluded to it in his poetry. Metropolitan Museum of Art. (Public Domain) Yuanming poetry often evoked in readers a desire for the simplicity of a pastoral lifestyle, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. As a result, chrysanthemum became a symbol of isolation and a life devoid of materialism. A straight heart This characterization of chrysanthemum can still be seen in literature, it would be in the story of Yuchu Xinzhi. Written in the Qing dynasty, he tells the story of a scholar named Gao Chan. The Chan's gaudy kept a low profile, but he was known by those close to him for his kindness and righteousness. He was always looking for self-improvement and frequently performed good deeds in secret. In this black-and-white painting, the chrysanthemum acquires a more solemn and sophisticated sensation. It is described alongside citrus fruits and melons, which symbolize virtue and literary talent. (Museum of the National Palace) Gao Chan felt disillusioned by the vagaries of the world around him and longed for the freedom of the countryside. Thus he decided to leave the tumult of the city and moved with his family to the mountains. For years, he lived a simple but fulfilled existence in the midst of nature. Everything was fine, until one day a flood suddenly destroyed his house. Once again, he was forced to consider life's volatility. After a few deliberations, Set out that living a quiet and idyllic lifestyle does not necessarily mean that they have to withdraw completely from society. Therefore, he moved back to the city, found empty land in the center and built a new house. In his garden, he planted 500 chrysanthemum bulbs. Once autumn came around, his garden was in full bloom. Its beauty and sweet fragrance have attracted visitors from all over the city. Gao Chan opened the doors of his garden to the public, hoping to share his quiet oasis with others. However, he chose to remain in the background, unknown to visitors. Guests did not remain aware of the true identity of the mysterious owner and referred to the garden by two words on the sign next to the door – Hua Yin, meaning hidden in flowers. This story demonstrates the integrity of Gao Chan. Qian was one of the most important painters of flowers and landscapes of the 18th century. In this vibrant and detailed picture, it illustrates five five types of chrysanthemums. (Museum of the National Palace) Grace and purity In Chinese art, plum blossom, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum are known as Four Gentlemen. They are the most common topics of traditional ink-washing paintings. Artists were attracted to them not only for their beauty, but also because they symbolized vertically, purity and perseverance. Throughout the Qing dynasty, chrysanthemum in particular served as a muse for many talented painters. One of the most famous artists of the Qing dynasty is Yun Shouping. He is considered one of the Six Masters of the Qing period, and his works were known for their vibrancy and expressiveness. He repopularized the technique of migu painting – also known as boned. This ability is particularly difficult to master because there are no contours, and brush contours are made directly in ink or color. Although it is a challenge, the resulting artworks are extremely beautiful, because the technique captures the essence of a scene or an object. In this exquisite chrysanthemum painting, Yun Shouping uses a gradient effect on each petal, giving flowers a vivid, realistic feeling. (Museum of the National Palace) Another famous Qing dynasty painter is Zou Yigui, who began as a follower of Shouping's style. He was an artist for the imperial family and was known for his meticulous eye for detail, especially in his stunning flower paintings. In his book Xiao Shan Hua Pu, he explains the methods and techniques needed to improve the landscape and flower compositions. According to Yigui, being a good artist isn't just about having skills. One must truly understand and be in tune with a subject. This means not only appreciating the beauty of the flowers, but really feeling the essence of nature on a deep level. Zou Yigui impeccably captures the soothing feminine essence of chrysanthemum in this painting by using gentle brush strokes and soft pastel colors. (Museum of the National Palace) One of the most famous yigui chrysanthemum paintings is currently on display at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan. It describes vibrant groups of chrysanthemums blooming amid lush green leaves, and was painted using the migu method. By painting each petal with a soft gradient effect, Yigui gives the flowers a vivid, three-dimensional feel. Looking at the painting, one is filled with a sense of peace and comfort. This elegant chrysanthemum painting is one of Zou Yigui's most famous pieces. It describes vibrant groups of chrysanthemums amid lush green leaves and was painted with migu technique. (Museum of the National Palace) As the autumn leaves begin to change colour and the cold winds have a sharper bite, the aromatic smell of will fill the air again. With thousands of years of rich cultural history, chrysanthemum is much more than another beautiful flower. This fall, take a page from the books of old Chinese literati: Brew yourself a cup of chrysanthemum tea, sit by a window overlooking the changing landscape, and enjoy some traditional poetry. This article was written by Cora Wang and translated by Angela Feng into English. It is republished with permission from Elite Magazine. Magazine.

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