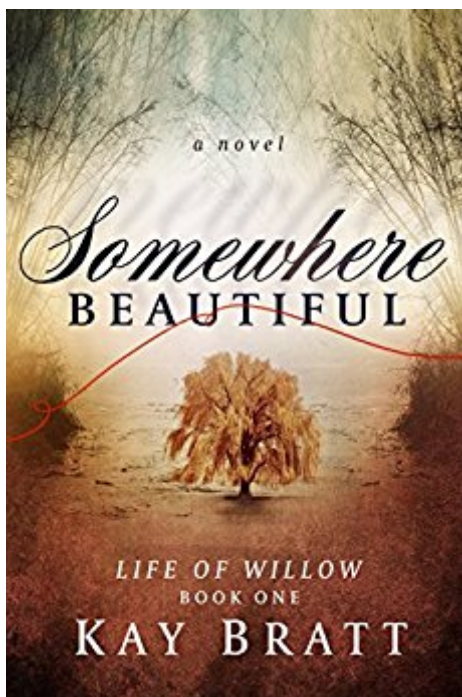


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# Somewhere Beautiful (Life Of Willow Book 1)



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Willow is strong, courageous, but weary of being under control of those in charge of the orphanage. Though she is used to being forgotten, she's grown tired of being labeled as unwanted. The years have been hard on her, making it impossible to get close to anybody, except for her best friend Kai who has made it all bearable. When bureaucracy threatens to tear them apart, Willow and Kai make a run for it. The only problem is, they aren't alone. They'll have to figure out if their excess baggage—a sassy girl who holds an extra chromosome—will be the glue that keeps them together as they navigate street life, or the obstacle that jeopardizes their new found freedom. A fascinating look into modern day orphanage life and what it's like to feel as though you belong to no one, Kay Bratt's novel, *Somewhere Beautiful*, is the first in the two-book *Life of Willow* series. In *Somewhere Beautiful*, Bratt weaves a story of loss and loyalty that will have you following three teens as they battle their way through life's obstacles in the search for the always elusive happily ever after.

## Book Information

File Size: 922 KB

Print Length: 338 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: May 30, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01GF2J4X0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #30,921 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #29 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > United States > Asian American #48 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Asian American #1610 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction

## Customer Reviews

This is one of those books that is hard to read, but at the same time you will not want to put it

down. The hard part is that the subject matter, life in a Chinese orphanage, is one that pulls at our heart strings. While the characters of this book are fictional, their plight is real life for many children. Way too many children. The main characters in these story are survivors, so even in their dismal surroundings, they have hope, and that is where the story takes off. I was enamored with so many of the characters, and others made me so mad. You will definitely feel as if you have been plopped down into Willow's world, and will be rooting for her and her friends. The only problem I had with this book is when it ended I still had so many questions that weren't answered. But guess what, there is a book two! I can't wait to see how things turn out. Apparently, this book was written with a teen audience in mind, but I would not have known that from just reading it. It was just as good a read for this mom of teens. I am anxious to share it with my 16 year old daughter. It could be a good tool for opening up some of the doors of conversation on life as an adoptee and events that may have impacted your child before they came to you. \*\*\*If your teen was adopted, I urge you to read this book on your own first. Depending on where your child is in processing their life story will determine when and if they are ready to read this book. I think it would be a great mother/daughter book discussion if they are ready to look back and process where they came from. I can't wait to join Willow again in book two. \*\*\* I was given an advance copy in exchange for an honest review.

• Somewhere Beautiful • is the 1st book in the story of 16-year-old Willow. Willow was abandoned as an infant and taken to the social welfare institute in China, an orphanage. In the orphanage Willow watched other children come and go, getting adopted, but still she remained at the institution. She is given care; a roof over her head, a bed, an education, but not the unconditional love that comes with a family. Willow, categorized as •crippled• due to a tiny imperfection with her foot that turned in, was not to be given the opportunity to have a new family. They labeled her unwanted and didn't give her the chance at a new family. As a result, she has built a wall around herself, not allowing others to enter to keep from getting too attached and hurt. But, she has allowed herself to bond with two other kids at the institute, Rosi, a 13-year old girl with Downs Syndrome, and Kai, a 16-year old boy. She protected her heart from getting attached to others. It was easier that way. Life isn't easy for the kids at the Institute. This is a story of determination, of perseverance and of strength of these three as they make a desperate move to change their destiny. Follow Willow, Rosi and Kai as they navigate in the world away from the Institute and how they learn to survive outside of the 4 walls of the institute where they had all grown up. This is yet another amazing book by Kay Bratt. I was sucked in from the 1st page and could not put it down as I needed to know more. I cannot wait for the 2nd book in the series to continue to

follow Willow and her friends! I absolutely loved this book!"I was given an advanced reader copy in exchange for my fair and honest review"

Deeply moving, dark at times, yet full of truth and longing, this two-book series was one I couldn't put down. Bratt's characters are well rounded, beautiful, and down to earth. I loved following Willow on her journey to happiness and know you will, too.

Kay Bratt's books are so enjoyable! They're easy to read, yet I learn so much about life today in China. This is a sweet story--you'll definitely want to have the second book on hand ("Where I Belong") when you finish this one.

Loved the book! Interesting look at life behind the walls of a Chinese orphanage. Can't wait to read the next book in the series. Kay you've done it again. Another great read. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in China , adoption, or just a plain good read.

The book was great. I enjoy getting a glimpse into what my children's life may been like in China. This obviously is a work of fiction, but want to make others aware that most older children from an orphanage would not actually act like the characters in the book. They would be overstimulated and not be able to handle such things on their own such as going to a mall or knowing how to order in a restaurant. My son certainly couldn't handle any of these things on his own. I would love to read a book that wove in these realities. Otherwise, this story was engrossing. It made me laugh and cry. I can't wait to read the next in the series.

First of all, as a work of fiction, it did not disappoint. It had all of the great elements of an amazing storyâa fast paced story line that kept the pages turning, intriguing characters (Luyen possibly being the most intriguing to me), a hero and heroine, lessons on cultural and societal issues in modern day China, the plight of the orphan in institutional care, and the list goes on. I loved itâit was all I hoped it would be. I'm a conservative mom, and careful about what my kids read in regards to appropriate language, sexual content, moral issues, etc. I would not hesitate in recommending this book to any parents with teen daughters. \*\*\*Although I would probably suggest that adoptive parents of teens may need to be really attune to any emotional response their child may have with reading thisâit may have some tough subject matter for them. I might suggest this book be read together.\*\*\*\*\* Now on to my one concernâI feel as though there is an

over-romanticism of who the orphans, Willow and Kai, are as people, that may mislead potentially well-intentioned families to adopt teens who have spent the majority of their lives in institutional care. Please don't get me wrong. I whole-heartedly believe that teens (and special needs kids) deserve a family, just as much as any other child. I just believe that families need to go into that process with their eyes wide open, with no romanticism of who their child may be and how their traumatic history may affect everyone in the family.\*\*\*All in all, this is a wonderful fictional, feel-good, heart-warming, and page-turning story!Note: I was given an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

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