



I Love You Like Crazy Cakes

by Rose Lewis, Little, Brown and Company, 2000

Illustrated by Jane Dyer

Recommended for preschool and up

SYNOPSIS: Based on the author's experience, this heartfelt story follows a woman on her journey to adopt a baby girl from China. From paperwork to plane flight, the narrative chronicles the baby's trip from a crib in China to her own room in her new American home.

ROSE LEWIS: is an accomplished still photographer and an award-winning producer for WCVB-TV in Boston.

JANE DYER'S delicate watercolors perfectly complement this charming story.

Review: "Destined to become a classic." — Kirkus, starred review

Cultural Significance:

Adoption stories abound in North America (Canada and USA). Why is this common? The members of individualist cultures that give priority to personal goals and are motivated by their own preferences, needs, and rights have a freer attitude when it comes to adoption; conversely in collectivist cultures, they give priority to group/family goals and are motivated by norms, duties, roles, and are closely linked individuals. Chances are individualist cultures will not face strong opposition from family and relatives when individuals make life-changing decisions, such as adopting children. The collectivist cultures adhere closely to observance of values, tradition, norms, and so adoption happens only after many consultations with immediate or extended family. Some members though, depending on the degree of assimilation or those who have been born and raised in individualist cultures have become adoptive families, too, without feeling the pressure to inform the next of kin of their decision.* When author Rose alone decided to adopt a baby from China, there was no indication from her story of the involvement of her parents. She chronicled the paperwork, the flight and meeting her adopted Chinese baby girl, and was yet met with so much welcome from family and friends in the USA.

It is interesting to note that the author was given a baby girl. Is it a wonder why not a boy or did she specify a girl? Often when it comes to adoption, families are given girls; seldom boys. When China implemented their one-child family policy many years ago, families preferred to keep boys than girls. In the Chinese tradition, boys would always carry the family wealth and heritage.

Faith focus:

The promise of hope and life awaits Rose's adopted Chinese girl. One wonders what could have been the motivation to open her home for this baby girl? Is it an opportunity to rescue an orphan, or the sheer joy that one has been given the opportunity to love another human being?

Bible passage:

"...I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." Jeremiah 31:3 (NRSV)

The new mom Rose has God's everlasting love and support in loving her new baby unconditionally, too.

Family activity:

As a family activity, get to know the Chinese Zodiac Calendar since the adopted child in the story is from China. Have family members find out their animal year in the Chinese calendar. <http://www.chinese.new-year.co.uk/calendar.htm>

PRAYER (for children) or one can pray from the heart or just have a silent moment:

Dear God, Thank you for giving Rose and her new baby a new beginning. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Individualism and Collectivism* by Harry C. Triandis, Westview Press, 1995