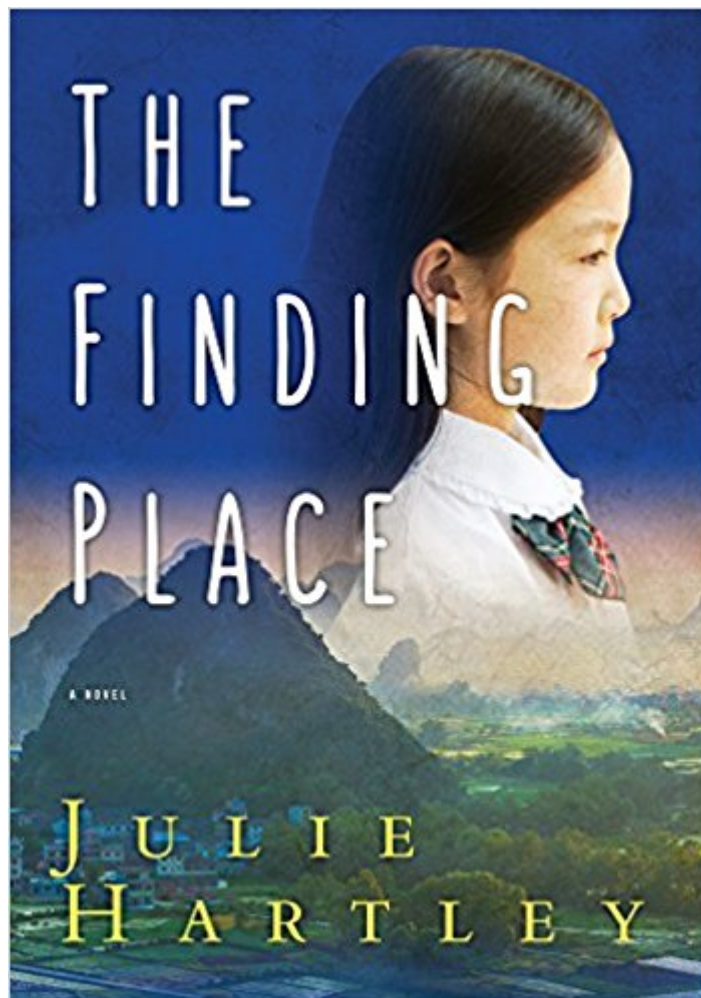




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# The Finding Place: A Novel



## Synopsis

Found as a baby outside a school in China, Kelly Stroud is adopted and raised by North American parents. One day, her dad leaves the house to buy milk, and doesn't come back. Struggling anew with what it means to be loved and then left behind, Kelly embarks with her mother on a journey back to China in search of her cultural roots. *The Finding Place* is an adventure story which moves from urban North America to the magical landscape of Yangshuo, China. It is also the tale of a young girl's coming-of-age, written in the voice of an international adoptee whose unique perspective throws fresh light on the meaning of family: the people who raise us, and the parents who bring us into the world. On the Fall 2016 edition of the CCBC's Best Books for Kids and Teens

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Paperback: 244 pages

Publisher: Red Deer Press; 1 edition (August 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0889955336

ISBN-13: 978-0889955332

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,326,379 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Adoption #664 in Books > Children's

Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #872 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce

Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 - 9

## Customer Reviews

"This coming-of-age story will be enjoyed by middle schoolers, especially those with interest in adoption." — School Library Journal "What Hartley does exceptionally well is to create the atmosphere and context so that readers can understand why Kelly is acting out and what is troubling her. (The disappearance of her father is the biggest issue, but she has never gotten along very well with her mom, and she bristles when people assume she is Chinese or point out that she looks different.) However, Hartley also grounds the book in real scenarios where readers can see

that Kelly is wrong to think and act as she does. She feels victimized, but readers can see that just the opposite is true. Many novels set up a situation in which it appears that everyone is out to get the main character. In this story, readers understand that Kelly often feels this way about her mom, but readers also see how hard Kelly's mom is trying to hold the family together. Kelly blames her mother for driving her father away. She thinks her mom is selfish and a liar, and readers feel her frustration while still seeing from the beginning that her father is the selfish one. This ability to balance perspectives is what gives the narrative its power. . . "The characters are well rounded and very realistic. . . The Finding Place is very readable and has good dialogue and a very lively first person narration. Readers will certainly learn something even though it might not be what they expected. Recommended"â " CM Magazine "A great story about family and self-discovery."â " KidsBookshelf "A powerfully written, emotionally vulnerable coming-of-age tale, The Finding Place delves into the meaning of family, and what real love is."â " The National Reading Campaign "Readers who enjoy learning about new cultures, exploring changing family relationships, and understanding teenage life will definitely enjoy this novel."â " Resource Links Magazine

On the Fall 2016 edition of the CCBC's Best Books for Kids & Teens

Ok fictional account of an adopted child's adventure back to China. The author admits she is not writing from personal experience, but purely from her imagination. So, if you are buying this book because you are interested in the emotions/understandings/feelings of an actual adopted child returning to China, then you will not get that from a real person's perspective, but from the imagination of someone with no experience as an adoptive parent.

I really cannot express enough how much I enjoyed this little gem of a book. Grounded in the vibrancy of downtown Toronto and travelling to both rural and urban China, Hartley's debut Middle Grade novel about a young, adopted teen searching for identity and finding it in the most unlikely places is sure to delight readers of all ages. Fearless, sensitive Kelly is a character with whom anyone would want to journey, feeling her pain, anguish, and delight as she reluctantly discovers who she was, who she is, and who she wants to be. Hartley's clean style of prose, wonderfully vivid characters, and fresh, authentic dialogue makes this book impossible to put down, impossible to forget long after the final page is turned. Hartley, undoubtedly, is an author to watch.

It is not easy to understand the heart and mind of an adolescent girl--even if you've been one--but Julie Hartley brings her narrator Kelly to life on the pages of this compelling novel. Kelly's desire to understand what it means to belong will resonate with anyone who has struggled to find a place in the world. This story is artfully told, and the novel pulses with life.

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