

DRAGONFLY DREAMS

ELEANOR MCCALLIE COOPER

DESCRIPTION

"If a dragonfly lands on you, it means change is coming. You better watch your dreams, Nini."

Living in China when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Nini and her family don't realize that their world is about to collapse. Nini and her best friend Chiyoko are on their way home from school when they are stopped by Japanese soldiers and forced to step aside for a car with a mysterious passenger. Uncertain of what is happening, they create a secret hiding place to leave messages for each other.

Nini's family is soon forced into hiding to protect her American mother from being arrested and sent to an internment camp. When the family situation becomes desperate amid circumstances of hunger, disease, and quarantine, Nini is the only one who can make the dangerous journey across the war-torn city to save her family and find her best friend.

Not since *Empire of the Sun* has a book captured the drama of Westerners trapped in China during World War II.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Young readers will respond to *Dragonfly Dreams* because of the themes in the book which parallel their own Covid-19 experiences: isolation with family, absence of social contact with friends, schools closed, curtailed holidays, quarantine requirements, fear of the unknown, and uncertainty about the future.
- All of the popular holocaust stories for young readers are set in Europe, but *Dragonfly Dreams* expands horizons to China. *Dragonfly Dreams* takes place in the same time as *The Diary of Anne Frank*.
- Not just in the US, but throughout the world, schools and libraries are looking for stories that encourage multicultural perspectives and global awareness. *Dragonfly Dreams* has a unique perspective on a girl who is in two different worlds and is discriminated against by both. As a Chinese girl she is insulted and ignored by the European girls, even in her own country. This book brings another perspective on culture, prejudice, and history.
- Young people today are growing up in a world where China will be a global leader. Yet knowledge of China is abominably low and, in its place, stereotypes and misconceptions are abundant. *Dragonfly Dreams* takes the reader to a time when the US and China were allies.
- Everyone loves a happy ending. *Dragonfly Dreams* delivers a story of triumph. Nini's journey gives us so much more than expected.

MARKETING

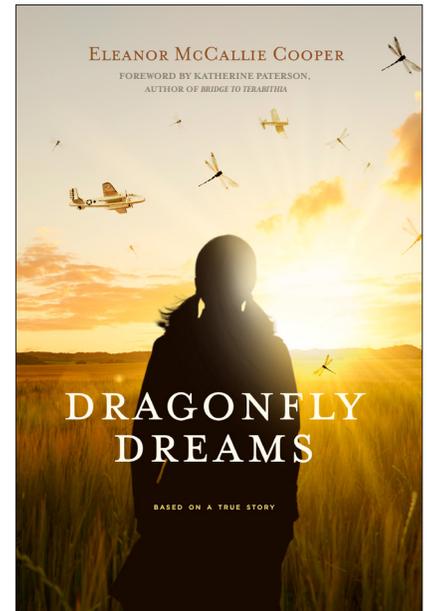
- The author will utilize her author website to promote *Dragonfly Dreams*, including a monthly newsletter and a blog covering a wide-range of author-related themes, including how to write family stories.
- The author will keep active posts in social media, including Facebook fan page, Instagram author posts, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- The author will prepare a deck for talks about *Dragonfly Dreams* in person or via Zoom for schools, organizations and other events.
- The author will promote *Dragonfly Dreams* through Book Garden Parties, organized in person and online via her author website.

AUTHOR BIO



Eleanor McCallie Cooper is drawn by her deep Southern roots to write stories that have been hidden or forgotten. She chronicles families on the edge of traumatic historical events portending personal and social turmoil, and previously co-authored *Grace: An American Woman's Forty Years in China, 1934-74* with William Liu.

Eleanor earned a doctorate in education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a focus on community learning and leadership. Her work as a community coach focuses on civic engagement and community-wide visioning. Eleanor lived in Japan for two years and has traveled in Korea, China, India, and many European countries. She lived in New York and San Francisco before returning to her hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee.



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AUDIENCE

- Schools
- Libraries and book clubs
- WWII readers
- International readers

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