



***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners*** by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho

HarperCollins, 2021

ISBN: 9780062915627 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 4-8 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: K-3 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

**This lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes, in the spirit of *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, and is a celebration of diversity.**

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future.

Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment. This powerful, poetic picture book will resonate with readers of all ages.

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“When the narrator comes to describe her own eyes and acknowledges the power they hold, she is posed against swirling patterns, figures, and swaths of breathtaking landscapes from Chinese culture. This tale of self-acceptance and respect for one’s roots is breathtaking.”

— *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“Sweeping, expressive illustrations deeply connect readers to the many dimensions of this story...each word is carefully chosen to beautifully enhance the message. Expertly paired, the text and illustrations amplify each other superbly, in an important addition to every library serving young children and their families.”

— *School Library Journal* (starred review)

“At the emotional height of the story, the poetic descriptions of her Asian eyes are mythic and affirming, and she appears amid grandiose illustrations of fantastical beasts and landscapes from Chinese culture. In the end, the tale winds down from the mythical back to the personal with a simple family portrait. All that beauty is there in the eyes of her family.”

— *Booklist* (starred review)

“A poignant testament to familial love and legacy.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALSC Notable Children’s Book

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- NCTE Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts
- SCBWI Golden Kite Award
- Charlotte Zolotow Highly Commended Books
- CCBC Choices
- RISE Book
- SLJ Best Books
- Kirkus Best of the Year
- NPR Books We Love
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books
- Nerdy Book Club Nerdie Award
- North Carolina Children’s Book Award
- South Carolina Book Awards
- Wisconsin State Reading Association Picture This
- Iowa Goldfinch Award
- Grand Canyon Reader Award
- Louisiana Readers’ Choice Award
- Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year
- Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award
- Flicker Tale Children’s Book Award
- Georgia Children’s Book Award
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award
- Mockingbird Award
- Illinois’ Children’s Choice Award
- Young Hoosier Book Award

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

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- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Activity Guide](#)
- [New York Times article](#)

## **RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES**

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*Add responses to challenges whenever possible, including links if available. Relevant information includes official responses from a board of education, library statements of support, or other statements of support from relevant organizations like PEN America or the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.*

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)**

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*Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.*

## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the

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appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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