The Fire Horse Girl

By Kay Honeyman

Narrator: Girls who are born under the Chinese Year of the Fire Horse are said to have incredible tempers, stubbornness and selfishness. They also bring tragedy and bad luck to their families. In Kay Honeyman’s historical fiction, The Fire Horse Girl, we follow one such girl. In China, Jade Moon is shunned by her family and community. Her future is bleak, relegated to marrying an old brick maker and being a disappointment to everyone in her life. But when her adopted cousin, Sterling Promise, offers an opportunity to immigrate to America, she knows it will be the chance she needs to start over, without the curse of her birth sign hanging over her. We begin with Sterling Promise and Jade Moon on the boat heading to America, discussing the life that awaits them. Sterling Promise is read by ________________, Jade Moon is read by ________________, and I am ________________, the narrator.

Sterling Promise: [frustrated] You just want to leave China. I want to get into America.

Jade Moon: That’s not true. [pause] What do you think America will be like?

Sterling Promise: [sigh] Your uncle used to say that it was a place where stories began. A place where any ending was possible.

Jade Moon: Did Uncle like stories?

Sterling Promise: He liked possibilities. I think America is a land that allows you to walk away from an old life into a better one. [pause] And you, what do you think it will be like?

Jade Moon: It will have...what do you call it? Getting to live as who you are?

Sterling Promise: Freedom.

Jade Moon: That is what it will be. Freedom.

Sterling Promise: I wouldn’t think you would care for freedom. It would take away all your reasons to fight.

Jade Moon: I don’t enjoy the disapproval of Auntie Wu or the stares from the villagers when I am too loud or too bold. I don’t relish the gossip of neighbors. I don’t want to be married to
someone just because he is the only one ignorant enough to take me. And, despite how I behave, even I am not so foolish to think that I can win a fight against the rest of the world.

**Narrator:** Jade Moon does get to America, but to survive, she has to fight many fights and tell many lies. She ignores her true self and bends to be what everyone else wants. Jade Moon thought America would hold freedom but can she find that freedom? Will she discover the bright future she so desperately desires or will her bad luck follow her? Read the exciting book *The Fire Horse Girl* by Kay Honeyman to discover the task set before Jade Moon that will take strength and courage.