



## A Girl Like You

*Maureen Lindley*

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## **A Girl Like You** Maureen Lindley

In the 1930s and '40s in Angelina, California, Satomi is the only girl with one white parent and one Japanese parent. There are Japanese families, but Satomi is neither a part of the white community nor the Japanese one. She is "other" to both.

Things get worse for Satomi—and all people with even a drop of Japanese blood—when Japan poses a threat to the United States. Her father joins the Navy, in part to fight for his country, and in part to protect his wife and daughter from racist citizens, but dies in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Rather than being celebrated as a hero, his death is ignored by the neighbors who shun Satomi and her mother. Shortly thereafter, they are taken to internment camps where they are treated like animals.

Satomi's sudden loss of freedom is a terrible thing to bear, and she is disgusted by the utter lack of privacy, the open latrines, the sewage that runs behind their barrack, and the poorly built hovels that allow stinging dirt and dust to enter during frequent storms. But in the camp she finds a community for the first time. Not all of the Japanese residents welcome her, but Satomi and her mother find good friends in the family housed next to them in the barracks, and in the camp doctor, who is drawn to Satomi's spirit and her mother's grace. Satomi cares for Cora, one of the young orphans at the camp, as a daughter.

Throughout it all, Satomi yearns for love. When she is finally freed from the internment camp, she heads east, finding a job, a shabby room, and several suitors in New York. There are men who would make her life easier, those who would take care of her, but Satomi insists on love—and finds it, in unexpected places.

## **A Girl Like You Details**

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### Hyperliteratura says

O fat? ca tine (Ed. Humanitas, 2016), de Maureen Lindley – a fost lectura lini?tit? a unor dup?-amiezi c?lduroase, de var?, minus valul grotesc al istoriei secolului XX, traversând cealalt? coast? a Atlanticului.

Suntem în Angelina, California. În permanen?? aproape de Pearl Harbor ?i de zumzetul avioanelor japoneze, f?cându-se auzit asemenea rasismului ?i dispre?ului popula?iei americane – mai întâi pe frecven?e joase, ascunse ?i de neluat în seam?, pentru ca în final s? se lanseze asurzitor.

Aceasta este povestea unor lucruri ie?ite cândva din firea lor, povestea unora mici ?i personale, împletit? cu traiectoria celor mari ?i universale. A?a se scrie, de fapt, istoria.

Cite?te continuarea aici <https://hyperliteratura.ro/o-fata-ca-...>

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### Bree T says

In rural California in the late 1930's, Satomi Baker is used to being regarded differently. She is half Japanese and even though her mother was born in Hawaii and is as American as her father, everyone knows that it isn't the same. And when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in the Second World War, life as Satomi knows it changes, in many ways. Her father is killed, having been stationed on a boat down there in Pearl Harbor. And the government decides that all of their Japanese-Americans are no longer trusted as American citizens and need to be rounded up to be placed in labour camps.

Satomi and her mother have to abandon their farm and all of their belongings, taking with them only clothes. They are herded onto trucks and taken to a remote location with other Japanese, forced to live in terrible conditions lacking in proper shelter, nutrition and hygiene. Nevertheless the people make the best they can of their situation, forging friendships, cleaning the stalls they are allocated in the barns as their "quarters" and prettying them up. They trade, they adapt and most of them survive. But not all. The conditions are harsh and the weakest are often taken during the long cold winters. And each of them struggle with their identity – for many of them, they still consider Japan their homeland but it is now the enemy, guilty of a terrible act. They are forced to choose, to declare their loyalty to America or not and for some, including Satomi, it's difficult. She has come to despise the country of her birth and its rulers for their treatment of the Japanese that had nothing to do with the war.

In the labour camp, Satomi will fall in love for the first time and learn the pain of heartbreak. She will lose what she has held dear most in the world and when it's all over and the residents are free, Satomi will have to start all over again in a country she doesn't know anymore. She will need to reassert her identity and her faith but she's always possessed the strength to adapt and make the best of any situation.

I've read a lot of stories set around the two great wars but most of them were about the citizens or soldiers that were in the location where fighting was taking place. Only recently have I read a couple of stories about people far away from the fighting, but who were persecuted anyway. I've read a couple of stories about Italians and Germans living in Australia during the Second World War and how they were treated and now this one deals with how America treated its Japanese after the horrible attack at Pearl Harbor which finally convinced America that this war was their business. Although tolerated on the fringes of society in California, the bombing of Pearl Harbor changed all of that. Whereas Satomi had experienced varying forms

of racism for her mixed heritage (in fact I think she was even more maligned for being mixed heritage than full Japanese because the Americans and the Japanese didn't understand how someone could marry outside of their race) after the bombing she knows that she cannot go back to school, that she will not be accepted. Even though her father died, and I think he was the only resident of their small town who did die in that bombing, that sacrifice wouldn't be enough. She would still be seen as a "Jap", as the enemy. And to make matters even worse for her and her grieving mother, the American government strips them of any of their rights: their money, their property, and their belongings. And they have to be interned in a labour camp.

Whilst Satomi is a tough character, who adapts to her difficult situations and becomes a tower of strength for not only her mother but other Japanese-Americans, she is at times, incredibly difficult. She's full of negativity and hatred, which is understandable but it's the same old argument over and over again and it gets a bit repetitive. I liked the more human side of Satomi, which came out when she was volunteering at the labour camp's orphanage. She's fiercely loyal and she loves deeply but her anger threatens to consume her in the camp.

I thought this book was brilliantly written and beautifully done up until the time Satomi leaves the labour camp after they are all freed, and goes to New York. I think that was a good choice, as there are so many cultures living in New York, she blends in much easier than she would in rural California and her mixed heritage often makes it difficult for people to discern her ethnicity. However, in New York the story took an odd turn which seemed really out of place with the rest of the book and I found it a little bit jarring and unbelievable. I didn't really see the point of it and because I was waiting for Satomi to finally fall in love with someone that loved her back just as much, when she did, it felt like it was a bit underdone and not explored in a satisfactory way. I wanted a deeper insight into her life post-labour camp and all that she went through there and I felt like this was merely glossed over in a bunch of descriptions of dresses, shoes and society engagements.

A Girl Like You has numerous strengths: the writing and depiction of Satomi's life, both with her parents on the farm and in the labour camp are fabulous. She's a fully fleshed out character with faults and even though much is made of her beauty, the author takes great care to go beyond that and make her more than just an exotic object. However for me it also does have a weakness and the story drops off considerably when Satomi meets Joseph in New York. After the depth and beauty of the earlier portion, the next seems shallow and uninspiring. I'd have loved more on Satomi and her meeting of Abe and much less on Joseph and his situation.

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## Carole says

This is the story of Satomi, her mother is a sweet, soft spoken Japanese woman, and her father, an American. Satomi's father is killed at Pearl Harbour, and she and her mother are sent to an internment camp. There she finds her 1st love, and amid the horrible restrictions, relationships flourish. The middle of this book dragged for me a bit, but picked up again as Satomi picks up the pieces of her life and settles in New York. There she meets Joseph, a very wealthy city man, who has promised his father on his death bed that he would marry. She doesn't love Joseph, and knows she needs to wait for true love to be happy. After the internment camp, she also searches for Cora, a little girl she bonded with at Manzanar.

I liked the ending, even though poor Satomi suffered much through many trials.  
I recommend this if you like historical fiction.

## Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

If I hadn't read *Garden of Stones* by Sophie Littlefield late last year, I suspect I would have found *A Girl Like You* more affecting. Instead, my reaction to this story of loss, prejudice, love and survival is somewhat blunted by the similarities in the plot and characters between the two novels.

In *A Girl Like You* we are introduced to thirteen year old Satomi Baker and her family who live in a rural town on the coast of California. Satomi's father, Aaron, is a white American who met her Japanese mother, Tamura, in Hawaii. With both families disapproving of their relationship, Aaron and Tamura moved to a farm in Angelina, where Satomi was born. Though Tamura has never been welcomed whole heartedly by the small town community as the threat of WW2 escalates, she and Satomi are ostracised, despite Aaron having volunteered to serve with the US Army and becoming a victim of the attack on Pearl Harbour. Satomi, who considers herself American, is a feisty, precocious teenage who rebels against her father's strict rules. Though she acknowledges she is different to her peers she doesn't want to be and as the town begins to turn on Satomi and her family, she is hurt and angry.

Identity is an important theme explored in *A Girl Like You*, Satomi struggles with being half Japanese and the ways in which it makes her different from her peers, despite identifying as an American. Satomi is also in the grip of adolescence and trying to decide who she wants to be and what she wants for her future.

Shortly after Pearl Harbour, Tamura and Satomi are forcibly relocated to Manzanar, a government internment camp in Nevada for all those with Japanese ancestry. While the prisoners did their best to create some semblance of a normal life during their interment, Manzanar is characterised by poor sanitation, badly prepared food and substandard housing - little more than stalls, conditions thousands of internee's were forced to endure for years. The Japanese were watched over by armed guards, afforded little health care or educational or employment opportunities. It's a confronting historical circumstance post-WW2 generations are largely ignorant of and one which Lindley illustrates well.

Eventually the camps are emptied and the orphaned Satomi, whose family property and possessions have been 'appropriated' in their absence chooses to make a fresh start in New York. It is as Satomi remakes herself in New York that this novel fell apart somewhat for me, the focus switches to romantic developments which I found less compelling and somewhat trivial.

*A Girl Like You* is an appealing, poignant and fascinating story combining a moving coming of age tale with historical and social commentary. Though I can't help comparing it to Littlefield's *Garden of Stones* due to the strong similarities, it does so favourably and I'd be happy to recommend it.

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## Roxana Amir says

La început mi s-a părut greoaie și ușor plictisitoare dar m-a bucurat că nu am renunțat la ea! Este o carte minunată, plină de emoție. Habar nu aveam de modul în care războiul i-a afectat pe japonezi, nu țiam mai nimic despre istoria lor, despre lagăre, despre copiii orfani, despre prejudecățile existente chiar și între ei. Minunată carte, realistă, emoționantă, cu un final fericit, dar fărâșat și puțin trist.

### **Danielle Burns says**

An intriguing tale based on the little known fact that Japanese Americans, including orphans were interred in terrible conditions for almost five years within their own country. There were so many great storylines to follow as the author had obviously done a great deal of research on the topic but her characters voices were given a formal japanese tone which was grating and untrue to their personalities. A great opportunity to give a personal account of an extremely interesting piece of modern history wasted with poor writing choices.

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### **Maria says**

It's a beautiful story inspired by a part of history we tend to ignore. A great summer read without it being too easy or superficial. Really loved how we were exposed to the different perspectives. It was just what was needed in order to better understand some moments or actions, without trailing too long or trying to fill entire chapters with a different point of view.

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### **Lauren Goddard says**

I loved this book

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### **Molly says**

A great read to escape with. Unleashed an in-American past that still doesn't get enough attention: Japanese Internment Camps.

A slow beginning, but a strong story about family ties that go well beyond blood.

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### **Jovi Ene says**

Pentru mine, "O fat? ca tine" este una dintre surprizele anului. Spun asta nu numai pentru c? Maureen Lindley scrie cu talent ?i dezinvoltur?, cursiv ?i foarte antrenant, dar ?i pentru c? subiectul c?r?ii este unul foarte sensibil, chiar ?i acum peste atâ?ia ani de la petrecerea evenimentelor: înfiin?area în cel de-al doilea r?zboi mondial, de c?tre americani, a lag?relor unde i-au internat pe to?i japonezii sau de origine japonez?, considera?i vinova?i tangen?iali (spioni, mai ales) pentru atacul de la Pearl Harbour. Este saga unui personaj (Satomi, urm?rit? din adolescen?? ?i pân? la primii ani de maturitate), dar ?i romanul unei lumi înc?rcate de suferin?e ?i tragism.

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### **Jane says**

The concept was intriguing: the daughter of a Japanese mother and an American father, coming of age during World War II.

Tamura and Aaron were happy in their marriage; they were content with the life they had built, on a smallholding, on the outskirts of a small town near the coast of California; and they were so very proud of their thirteen year-old daughter Satomi.

Satomi wasn't so sure that she belonged - she felt that she was neither Japanese or American - but she was bright, she was popular, and she had caught the eye of the most eligible boy in the school. She was happy.

But war was looming. Aaron felt that he had to do his duty, he wanted to demonstrate that he and his family were loyal American subjects, and because he never wanted to be too far away from the sea he joined the navy. He was sent to Pearl Harbour, and he died there when the Japanese attacked. When the news broke neighbours who had known the family for years turned on Tamura and Satomi. And their government turned on them too, forcing them to leave their home, everything they owned, everything they had worked for and live in terrible conditions in an internment camp set high in the mountains of Colorado.

Maureen Lindley tells Tamura and Satomi's story simply and clearly, and in a style that is beautifully understated. The real history speaks for itself, and beautifully drawn characters and well chose details bring the story to life.

Satomi wants to rebel, to speak out, but she knows that she must protect her mother, who is lost in grief for her beloved husband and bewildered by the actions of her birth.

Maureen Lindley's account of life in the internment camp is both thoughtful and moving. Conditions are difficult, but a supportive community grows. Satomi comes to appreciate that community, her Japanese heritage, and most of all her mother, whose instinct is always to, quietly and thoughtfully, support others, to be a mother, a sister, a friend to whoever might need her.

When the war ends, when the internment camp closes, Satomi must face the future alone. She still faces prejudice and hostility, but she has learnt from her mother, she gains support from the relationships forged in the camp, and she prevails.

This part of the story is less successful than what came before. To some degree this was inevitable, because after the war could never be as dramatic as during the war, but there were elements of the story that seemed far fetched, and more suited to a straightforward romantic novel. I couldn't help feeling that there was a more interesting story that might have been told. But Satomi's character, her emotions, her reactions, rang true. Her journey was right, it was just the details that were wrong.

Her story spoke of love, loss, and survival. it spoke of changing, learning, adapting, and growing. It shows easily humanity is lost in the face of ignorance, jealousy, and most of all fear; and it shows that there are people, who will stand up to try to do the right thing, to try to do good in the face of all of that. It taught me an aspect of history I knew little about, though a moving, engaging, and very human story.

For all of those reasons, I am very glad that I read A Girl Like You.

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## Kimberly says

What a fascinating story. A very sad story, but also with hope. What happened to the Japanese Americans during WWII was awful. Even though it wasn't as horrifying as what happened to the Jews, it was still bad. This book shows some of what went on in one camp, as well as the before and after. It was well done. It made me cry and laugh, and had a good ending. Not a perfect ending, but a good one with love and hope for

the future.

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### Debi Yoneda says

The history of the Japanese internment in both Canada and the USA has always interested me. I have read several books on the subject, so this may be why I am only rating this book as good. The story basically revolves around Satomi, a 13 year old girl who has a Japanese mother and a Caucasian father.

A coming of age story of a young girl who feels that she does not belong in either world...when WW11 breaks out and her father goes off to war, Satomi and her mother are sent to Manzanar, an American internment camp.

This is a story taken from a time that neither country should be proud of. What both governments did to the Japanese people was shameful and should never be repeated. It talks of racial profiling and mistrust of our neighbors. The author obviously did her research and from that came this novel.

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### Zoe Tribble says

Reading the excerpt

this book reminds me of one of those books like and

books where they're so tragically lovely and have beauty in every page as they tell stories of real people having to endure real things.

The books that have a haunting purpose of getting its story out-- to prevent what happened in the books, from ever happening in history again.

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### Ana Dumitrache says

O fat? ca tine este o dram? emo?ionant?, ce o are ca protagonist? pe Satomi, o adolescent? superficial?, pe care via?a o înva?? multe lec?ii. Povestea nu e foarte lung?, dar e plin? de înc?rc?tur? emo?ional?. Situa?ia japonezilor în timpul celui de-al Doilea R?zboi Mondial a fost una grea, pentru c? ?ara care i-a adoptat le-a întors brusc spatele. Am aflat multe informa?ii interesante ?i lectura a fost ca o completare a subiectului pentru mine, c?ci înainte citisem ?i Amantul Japonez. Maturizarea lui Satomi în lag?r a fost brusc?, violent?, dar binevenit?, c?ci doar a?a fata a realizat ce înseamn? familia, cât de important e s? o ai pe mama ta al?turi, s? ai un acoperi? deasupra capului ?i s? te bucuri de tot ce î?i ofer? via?a, s? nu mai judeci ?i s? strângi am?r?ciune în suflet. Finalul a fost previzibil, dar totu?i mi-a plăcut. Satomi merita un strop de bine în via?a ei, după atâtea pierderi ?i iubiri nepotrivite. Recomand! ?

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