

APPENDIX I SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

This novel written by Lian Gouw was originally written in English with the title: *Only a Girl*. This novel was published in America. This novel was later translated into Indonesian with the title: *Menantang Phoenix*. Lian Gouw was born in Jakarta and grew up in Bandung, then migrated to America. That is why, although the novel was originally written in English, the background of the actors and the place is a Chinese family in Bandung in the 1930-1950s.

This story begins with a Chinese family whose husband was killed for helping the Dutch raid an opium warehouse. In return for services from the Netherlands, the families left behind received Dutch protection and education. They live in an elite area. Children grow up in Dutch culture. Only the mother, Nanna, still adheres to Chinese traditions. Even the youngest daughter prefers the Dutch tradition, which she considers more modern. The youngest daughter's name is Ong Kway Lien. But every day she uses the name Carolien, her Dutch name. Unlike the Chinese tradition, where women and their families marry or find a mate with the main consideration being security, Carolien chose to marry Po Han, a typewriter salesman, for reasons of love. Even though her

couple was blessed with a daughter whose grandmother was named Lee Siu Yin. The name Siu Yin was obtained by Nanna from a temple she visited. Meanwhile, Carolien and Po Han prefer to call their little daughter Jenny.

Carolien's marriage was not easy. Because she was considered unable to be a good wife by her parents-in-law. The collision of the idea of a good wife between Carolien and the Dutch tradition and Ocho, her mother-in-law who adheres to Chinese traditions affects the relationship between this daughter-in-law. Another challenge faced by Carolien was Po Han's attitude, who pursued his career as a photographer rather than looking for a stable job to support their family and prepare Jenny to go to an expensive Dutch school. Eventually this household divorced. Carolien educates Jenny with Dutch-style discipline. This education causes their relationship to not close. Jenny grows into a cheerful girl and is successful at school. However, with the changing political situation, Jenny had difficulty in her studies. Indonesia's independence caused her to study with the Indonesian language as a medium, which she had never learned before. So far, Jenny and Carolien have considered Malay to be a low-class language that is only appropriate for communicating with their maids.

The change in the political situation also resulted in the arrest of Chip, Nanna's eldest son, by the Japanese and finally being killed for not wanting to collaborate. Nanna's torment became even more intense when Els and Eddy, their two grandchildren, chose to marry a Dutchman. Nanna lost her husband, her son, her disobedient daughter and her two grandchildren who chose to leave her because they chose to marry and move to the Netherlands. If in the Chinese tradition, home is where family members return when they experience misfortune, the Dutch tradition offers the opposite. Sue, Nanna's eldest daughter whose husband died of typhus, is able to return to Nanna's house. And Emma, her granddaughter, who is fat and has an ugly face, is still protected at home. On the other hand, after graduating from high school, Jenny chose to go to school in America leaving her mother and her boyfriend Lam, an only child in an established Chinese family. Jenny chose to leave her house not because of her incompatibility with the new tradition (Republic of Indonesia) which made it difficult for her, but also to fulfil her strong determination of becoming a successful veterinarian, driven by her deep passion for animals.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Lian, an Indonesian native, was raised in Bandung, a mountainous region in West Java that is home to the inactive volcano *Tangkuban Perahu*. She was not allowed to play with kids who might go to the Dutch-Chinese school instead of the all-Dutch school she attended since her family followed strong Chinese traditions inside the home. As a result, her closest companions were books and notebooks with blank pages. The Gouw family promoted reading for enjoyment in the Netherlands and boasted about Lian's early achievements in calligraphy, which included winning writing competitions and having essays published in the school and neighborhood newspaper. Her family's attention moved from making sure she became an independent, successful woman to making sure she remained safe and honorable as the political instability of WWII and the Indonesian Revolution grew more intense. This resulted in her being married and moving to America, which ended her hopes of starting a writing career.

In 1991, Lian Gouw started writing, and she hasn't stopped since. Numerous literary journals have published her poems and short stories. The first chapter of *Only a Girl* was previously published in the San Francisco Writers Conference collection "Building Bridges from Writers to Readers" from 2006. The title of that version was "Her Predicament." Gouw stated, "I was born and reared in Indonesia, which is also the location of my book. "I am Chinese, and from what I can tell, I am not of Indonesian ancestry. But I now realize that the soil between my fingernails and between my toes is Indonesian soil, which is where my roots first sprouted. None of the characters in *Only a Girl*, however, are based on real people I know or myself. The use of actual characters and events is accurate because the work is "historical fiction." Three generations of Chinese women struggle for identity in the novel *Only a Girl*, which is set against the political backdrop of the Great Depression, World War II, and the Indonesian Revolution. She explains, "As the characters of *Only a Girl* one by one stepped forward, I started to write about their lives; at first as separate stories then weaving these together into the bigger work." After seven years and four edits, Publish America released *Only a Girl*.

Dutch is Gouw's native tongue, but she claims that after over 50 years in the United States, English has become her first language. Gouw recommitted herself to writing after spending nearly forty years in a foreign country and using a second language, and she found that she now wrote more naturally in English than in Dutch. As part of her Dutch schooling, she once spoke German and French as well. But when she went back to her home country in 2010, the first time since she, her late husband,

and her two children left in the early 1960s, she considered taking an Indonesian language course.