

Bound by Cloth

by: Logan

What if you couldn't run freely, go out for a short walk, and even had to hobble when you could walk? Well, in my book, *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*, my character, Ailin, is being forced into this alteration, but is afraid of the restriction of bound feet. At the age of five, Ailin meets her pre-arranged husband, and likes him, but when his grandmother spots her unbound feet, she has second thoughts about the marriage. That's when Ailin's life has found a crossroad.

You see, feet binding was a physical body change that was forced on young women in China, as young as the age of three! It is a very painful process in which the victim's feet were wrapped in cloth bandages, but in an odd position so to misshape their feet until the feet took on the new form, that was almost bone breaking. Apparently the Chinese men found it attractive.

Of course, Ailin decides she would much rather leave her feet "big" as Chinese in this time called it, but ruins her chances of being married to her fiancé, because her feet are now improper and insufficient for a bride. In fact, "big feet" leaves very little choices for women in that era, and she has to find a way to provide for herself, as she no longer has the support of her family. She finds few opportunities, but finds herself doing something she enjoys.

This is a book I thought sufficient, and helped me better understand women suffrage. I suppose I would recommend this for certain groups of people, but not all.