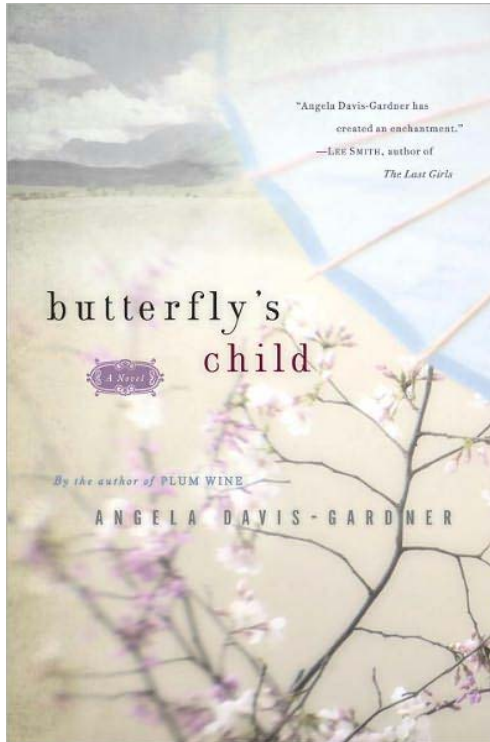


Butterfly's Child
by Angela Davis-Gardner

Reviewed by Barbara Marsh



Have you ever watched the opera “Madame Butterfly” through to its tragic ending, and wondered how the story might have continued?

Well now you can find out, thanks to the efforts of the talented novelist Angela Davis- Gardner, author of “Plum Wine.” In her recently published novel, “butterfly’s child,” the reader is treated to a powerfully written, fast-paced tale that is hard to put down.

Benji, the child of Butterfly and American Navy officer Frank Pinkerton, is taken from Japan after his mother’s death to the cornfields of Illinois. There he endures a very difficult childhood that includes cruel punishment by his father, Pinkerton, painful prejudice from his fellow classmates, and a half-hearted attempt by his fragile stepmother, Kate, to give him a normal childhood.

Benji struggles throughout his boyhood to retain what he remembers about his Japanese heritage. By exercising great courage, focus and discipline in his teenage years, he accomplishes the goals he so steadfastly set as a young child.

The novel, carefully researched from all aspects, stands firmly on its own merits, with or without the epic opera as the story’s origin. A historical novel has always been my favorite form of reading material, for one is entertained by the story while having the chance to learn about the history involved at the same time. In “butterfly’s child” I give both objectives an “A” for effort!

Butterfly’s Child: a novel can be found in the **NEWBOOKS** section cataloged under “**F DAV.**”