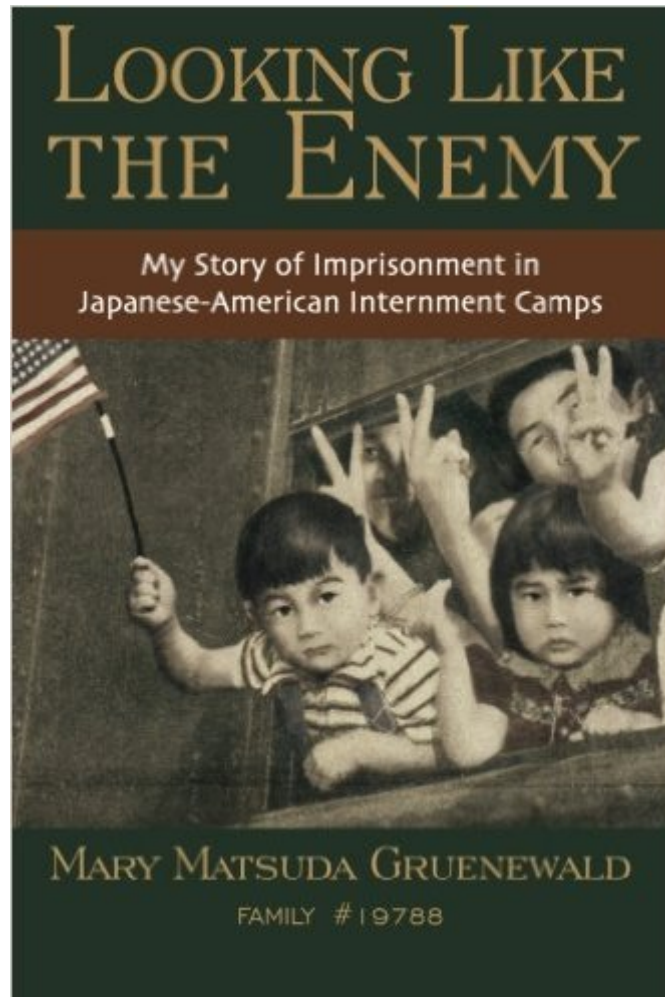


The book was found

# Looking Like The Enemy: My Story Of Imprisonment In Japanese American Internment Camps



## Synopsis

The author at 16 years old was evacuated with her family to an internment camp for Japanese Americans, along with 110,000 other people of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast. She faced an indefinite sentence behind barbed wire in crowded, primitive camps. She struggled for survival and dignity, and endured psychological scarring that has lasted a lifetime. This memoir is told from the heart and mind of a woman now nearly 80 years old who experienced the challenges and wounds of her internment at a crucial point in her development as a young adult. She brings passion and spirit to her story. Like "The Diary of Anne Frank," this memoir superbly captures the emotional and psychological essence of what it was like to grow up in the midst of this profound dislocation and injustice in the U.S. Few other books on this subject come close to the emotional power and moral significance of this memoir. In the end, the reader is buoyed by what Mary learns from her experiences and what she is able to do with her life. In 2005 she becomes one more Nissei who breaks her silence.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: NewSage Press; F First Paperback Edition Used edition (March 10, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0939165538

ISBN-13: 978-0939165537

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (58 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #76,481 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Japanese](#) #38 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies](#) #262 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > World War II](#)

## Customer Reviews

Even if one is aware of the internment of the American Japanese, I doubt that most people can form any real idea of what it was like without reading a personal chronicle like this. It is difficult to express how painful it is to read, and I already knew the basic story. Sure, now we know that it didn't turn into a second Holocaust, but the people in the camps didn't have that comforting foreknowledge. One needs to be reminded that although the intense portions of a tragedy may be long over with,

the ramifications for the people who suffered through it can last all their lives, even for those who didn't lose everything that they had owned before the catastrophe. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston also wrote a classic memoir: *Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment*, and it is well worth reading both of the books for the similarities and differences between the two experiences. Houston was perhaps 8 or 10 years younger than Mary Matsuda, and her family dynamics were quite different, so they really complement one another. Being older, Mary Matsuda had to confront personally and directly issues that Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston didn't, although of course her family members did. JWH tells us more about her life after the camps; MMG ends her books in 1945, with only an afterword summarizing the later lives of the Matsudas. I found the book very vivid. I could easily imagine how I would feel having to destroy so much family history, even being afraid to keep a set of dolls lest it add fuel to the anti-Japanese fervor.

For sixty years, Mary Matsuda Gruenewald chose not to talk about her experiences in the Japanese-American internment camps during the Second World War. Forced into those camps as a confused, naive seventeen-year-old, she was unable to comprehend her situation, and until the early twenty-first century was not prepared to explore this region of her personal - and her country's - history. When in her seventies, her children grown, her parents and brother gone, she finally admitted to herself the importance of stepping beyond "the self-imposed barbed-wire fences" (p. x) and telling her story. Mary Matsuda moved to Puget Sound with her family at the age of two, in 1927. She and her older brother, Yoneichi, aged four, were American citizens by birth. Her parents had emigrated from Japan, but due to complex and unforgiving American immigration laws at the time, they remained Japanese citizens. Life on Vashon Island was "idyllic," (p. 1); her family rented a small strawberry farm which they worked; Mary and her brother attended the local school and church; and all the residents were friendly and warm-hearted. There were only a handful of Japanese on the island, and Mary was one of the few in her schoolhouse, but rarely were any in her family victims of prejudice. In December 1941, the Matsuda family trembled as they listened to radio broadcasts of the Pearl Harbor bombings. Though their neighbors and friends gathered around them in support, and though they were loyal residents, citizens, and believers in America, they were concerned the government might move against them. They burned all their cultural belongings; all their records, all their dolls, and all their photographs. The only Japanese item they did not burn was her parents' copy of the New Testament.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Looking Like the Enemy: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese American Internment Camps I  
Love to Eat Fruits and Vegetables (English Japanese bilingual, Japanese baby books): japanese  
children books, japanese kids books,japanese bilingual ... Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) I  
Love My Mom (japanese kids books, japanese children stories, bilingual japanese books): japanese  
for kids (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) I Love My Dad (English  
Japanese bilingual books, japanese children books): japanese kids books,japanese children stories  
(English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) Childrens Japanese book: Lisa can  
Read.ã ã•ã •ã^ã•¶ã “ã•§ã ~ã •ã <ã ~: Children’s English-Japanese Picture book (Bilingual  
Edition) (Japanese Edition),Japanese children books,Japanese ... English picture books for children  
9) I Love My Dad ã• ã”ã†ã•ã “ã•ã•,ã™ã•• (Japanese Kids books, English Japanese bilingual,  
japanese children books bilingual,ã...•ç«¥æ»„, japanese children stories) (English Japanese  
Bilingual Collection) I Love to Eat Fruits and Vegetables(English Japanese bilingual, Japanese  
children books, Japanese kids books,japanese kids  
language,ã...•ç«¥æ»„)ã•ã•ã ãã•ã•ã „ã•ã•,ã•CEã•ã•,ã™ã•• (English Japanese Bilingual  
Collection) Not Forgotten: The True Story of My Imprisonment in North Korea Peekaboo baby.  
Japanese Baby Book: Children’s Picture Book English-Japanese (Bilingual Edition) Bilingual Picture  
book in English and Japanese ... for children) (Volume 1) (Japanese Edition) My Daddy is the best!:  
(Bilingual Edition) English Japanese Children’s Picture Book Bilingual Picture book in English and  
Japanese,Japanese kids book ... for children) (Volume 7) (Japanese Edition) I Love My Mom  
(Japanese Kids books, bilingual japanese books, japanese children books bilingual,ã...•ç«¥æ»„)  
ã•ã•ã•ã•ã “ã•ã•,ã™ã•• (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) Living Language Japanese  
Complete Course, Revised & Updated (40 Lessons on 3 Compact Discs \* Coursebook \*  
Japanese-English/English-Japanese Dictionary) (English and Japanese Edition) The Train to  
Crystal City: FDR’s Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America’s Only Family Internment  
Camp During World War II Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About  
Looking at People Looking at Animals in America Senior Moments: Looking Back, Looking Ahead  
Cengage Advantage Books: Looking Out, Looking In Looking Out Looking In, 13th Edition Looking  
Out, Looking In, 13th Edition (Available Titles CourseMate) Cengage Advantage Books: Looking  
Out, Looking In, 14th Edition Looking Out, Looking In