

Autobiography – Yukino Jennings

I was born in Tokyo two months before the due date. My mother told me later that I nearly died a few times before I was six months old. I have large brown eyes but I need to wear a contact lens in my left eye to see well. I am like an ocellus animal as rarely I can see with my right eye. I was originally left handed but I realised when I had to do calligraphy when I was about eight, it was unnatural and difficult to do the strokes with my left hand. Since then I have been using my right hand for writing. I use chopsticks with my left hand and a pen with my right hand. I didn't notice until I was 18, people put their pencils down to use the rubber as I always used my left hand to rub out without putting down my pencil. It is sometimes quite useful to be ambidextrous.

I dream a lot, in colour and in detail. If I like the dream, I can continue the dream the next day. It is a really pity that I cannot invite anyone else to share my interesting dreams which is more exciting than most of the detective stories on TV.

English is not my strong subject. I initially came to England to study English. Then I went on to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Education at the Institute of Education in London. It was during this time that I met John who was to become my husband. I returned to Tokyo to finish my MA before getting married. I have three children. I wanted three after I lost my second baby prematurely. My third or fourth, it depends how you want to count, was born on the move, on the roundabout where three London boroughs meet. It was a big surprise not only because of the baby's early appearance, but the baby was the first girl in the family for at least 160 years! I wrote to the Guinness Book of Records, but unfortunately they were not interested in that sort of record! I suppose if I had 160 children instead of just one girl, they may be interested. The only gift I can give to my children is a language so I made sure that they are exposed to Japanese as much as possible. I feel it is important for them to learn Japanese and culture for their identity although it is also true that I wanted to talk to my children in my own language.

I worked in the City in Eurobond Sales after doing New Issues documentation until my first child was five. I currently have two jobs. I am a Community Interpreter working mainly in hospitals and a Cover Supervisor at a local grammar school. Both jobs are pretty demanding. I help with a local Brownie pack and sing in a church choir together with three of my family. I like the richness of Choral music and my love of singing hymns started when I went to an Anglican Church school in Tokyo when I was 12. I grew up mostly in Tokyo except I had to change four schools in my first four years of primary school because of my father's job which even that age I was not pleased to do. I do Pilates and play tennis. I also like to play the piano but I do not have time nowadays. I do Sudoku everyday. I cannot finish the day without doing one at least one. I like Minesweeper as well. I am at the stage that I cannot achieve a better record anymore. I collect stamps, post boxes and commemorative coins.

What I am not good at is sewing on buttons. I sew buttons more often than anyone else as they keep coming off because I cannot make them stay for long. I believe it is due to the thread and the button and not my skill!!

I like to try anything new. Recently I tried Quilling. It is not as hard as you think. I wonder what I am going to do next.