

SYNOPSIS

This story is about Shelby, a girl 13 years old who is very close to her three older sisters and their gorgeous, unconventional mother who had each of them with a different man. Shelby is also the narrator of the novel. Shelby and her sisters can describe their mother: She is a sexpot it means that Helen Kimura collects men (and loans, spending money, and gifts of all kinds) from all over the country. Sure, she is not typical role model, but she is also not just a pretty face and nail polish. She is confident and brave, she lives life on her own terms, and her four daughters simply adore her. These girls have been raised outside the traditional boundaries. They know how to take the back exit. They know how to dodge crazed lovers in highway car chases. They do not, however, know how to function without one another.

Shelby has her own meaning of beauty which against the perspective of her mother about beauty. The novel also talked about the process how struggle Shelby as the one who has different meaning of beauty. She knows that beauty appearance not always bring happiness but also suffering it is become real when suddenly they got a late-night phone call unexpectedly shreds the family apart, catapulting the girls across the country to live with their respective fathers. But these strong-willed sisters are, like their mother, determined to live life on their own terms, and what they do to pull their family back together is nothing short of beautiful. They start to face the suffering because they can not be together anymore. At turns wickedly funny and

insistently thought provoking, *Outside Beauty* showcases Cynthia Kadohata's unerring ability to explore the bonds that bind.