

Junior high school students are dissatisfied with high school lottery admissions, write novels, compare the Soviet Union and the United States



Raevsky and her new book.

Kristina Raevsky, a student at Halsey JHS 157 in Queens, has felt that there is a problem with basic education in the United States since she was a child. This year, the Municipal Education Bureau implemented high school lottery admissions, which further deepened her dissatisfaction with the education system. She poured that dissatisfaction into her recently published novel, "A Sheep's Tale," the 12-year-old Raevsky's second book this year. Although she is obsessed with writing, she said that her dream in the future is not to be a writer but to become a politician, so that she can more directly change the unreasonable system.

Born in the former Soviet Union, Raevsky's parents had fresh memories of the plight of the Soviet socialist system. Raevsky loved to write since she was a child. When she was 10 years old, her mother read to her the novel "Dog Heart" by Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov, which tells the story of a doctor who turns a dog into a human through surgery. But because the man lost his conscience and turned him back into a dog, Raevsky was inspired to create "The Fantastic Journey of a Sheep". Raevsky said that since elementary school, she felt that there was a problem with basic education in the United States, and the curriculum was too simple and boring for her. This year's high school was changed to lottery, which made her even more uneasy. "The lottery is entirely based on luck, so it's useless for us to study hard," she said.

In "The Fantastic Journey of a Sheep", Raevsky tells the story of a little girl in the Soviet Union a hundred years ago who turned into a sheep and traveled to the contemporary United States, but found that many strange phenomena were similar to those of the socialist Soviet Union. . Through the narration of the characters in the book, Raevsky does not pay attention to grades in the current American public schools, and makes everyone get good grades by reducing the difficulty of schoolwork. "They say this is for the benefit of children, to help them grow, and to make education more equitable, but how can every student get falsely good grades in composition classes to solve all the problems?" "School admissions no longer look at grades. It's a lottery instead. How is it fair that a student like me who studies hard to get good grades has the same chance as a student who doesn't study and is always late for class?" the book said.

"The Fantastic Voyage of a Sheep" is already Raevsky's second book. She published the story collection "Fly Me to the Moon and Other Stories" a year ago, but this new book is her first in a work. Talking about the current politics of the United States. Now that the political environment in the United States is difficult and the camps of different views are often at odds, Raevsky said that her relatively conservative views did not prevail in school, and sometimes she avoided talking about herself in order to maintain a friendly relationship with her classmates. the opinion of. But she said she was not worried that revealing political views in the book would make her a target. "That's my opinion, what I say is based on facts, I'm not going to change my opinion just to make others happy, if you don't like it, that's your business," she said.

Both Raevsky's parents worked in the government. Her mother, Irene Raevsky, said that she was born in what is now the former Soviet Union in what is now Ukraine, and came to the United States when she was 12 years old. She felt that today's public school education has increased too much. The ideological preaching of education should not be introduced, and she supports her daughter's voice on these issues. Irene said that she is not worried about the trouble that the publication of this book will cause her daughter, but her daughter's ideal is to elect a senator in the future. Therefore, before the book was published, she had a long talk with her daughter, analyzing various situations that might happen. "But she was very determined, and she said she was going to say it because it would help America be a better country," Irene said. Our reporter Rong Xiaoqing reports from New York