

[PDF] The Little Red Guard: A Family Memoir

Wenguang Huang - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Author: Wenguang Huang
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Description:

From There's a funny and telling scene in Huang's memoir in which the author, raised in central China in the 1970s, recalls his first trip to London on a student visa, and recounts his wonder at seeing grass grown just to be mowed. Yet as mysterious and misunderstood as the West is to Huang, so his description of life under Mao will come as a revelation to readers. The food rationing, party politics, and Cultural Revolution that Westerners have a vague knowledge of are all viewed through the highly personal lens of Huang's family. Using his grandmother's stubborn insistence on a traditional burial, banned under Mao, as a set piece, Huang demonstrates the tightrope many Chinese walked between their personal belief in ancient Confucian teachings and the public

demands of the Communist government. Restrictions are relaxed, only to be renewed, and Huang struggles to come to terms with where his true allegiances lie. Today, as China continues to rapidly evolve, Huang, who now resides in the U.S., is firmly on the side of family and freedom. --Patty Wetli
--This text refers to the edition.

Review "A gripping, lyrical memoir . . . revealing, ironic, and effortlessly elegant."
—*Chicago Tribune*

"There is no overstating the profound effect of the Cultural Revolution on the lives of every single Chinese, and the Huang family's struggles to bury their grandma is a heartrending example...perfect, moving."
—*The Daily Beast*

"Lively...inspires as many laughs as it does tears."
—*The New Yorker*

"Fascinating"
—*The Washington Post*

"A memoir centered on a coffin? Yes, and it works."
—*O, The Oprah Magazine*

"A riveting, well-crafted story... at times comic and at times heartbreaking... there are plenty of fresh and unforgettable revelations."
—*Oprah.com*

"An interesting look at China through the lens of family."—
New York Post

"Powerful...poignant."
—*Chicagoist*

"Mesmerizing and lyrical."
—*New Jersey Star-Ledger*

"New and refreshing and adds a different perspective into the canon of immigrant literature."
—*Chicago Sun-Times*

"Illuminating... Huang's coming-of-age story eloquently describes his family coping with change and how, in a turbulent time, he made sense of the world."
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"A trenchantly observed story that depicts the clash of traditional and modern Chinese culture with a powerful combination of sensitivity and mordant irony."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"[Huang's] description of life under Mao will come as a revelation to readers."
—*Booklist*

"Another interesting way to look at China, something readers crave."
—*Library Journal*

"*The Little Red Guard* is a remarkable memoir. Wenguang Huang gave it an ingenious dramatic structure, which reveals the tensions and emotional struggles within his family. At the psychological level, the story has some universal resonance that is beyond history and culture. Huang tells it with extraordinary candor, acuity, and the cruel irony of life. As a result, the story is full of gravity, absurdity, and grief."

-Ha Jin, author of *Waiting*

"*The Little Red Guard*—his first book—establishes Wenguang Huang as a master story-teller. Vividly engaging and often surprising, this memoir of coming of age in an ordinary Chinese family amid the social and political wreckage of Mao's Cultural Revolution is uncommonly wise and deeply moving."

-Philip Gourevitch, author of *The Ballad of Abu Ghraib*

"With brilliant humanistic insights, Wenguang Huang reveals how the terrors of youth, both large and small, imprint our lives with psychic markers and force us, eventually, to confront the irrational foundation on which strong character can be found."

—Patrick Tyler, author of *A Great Wall: Six Presidents and China*

"Although Wenguang Huang came to the West years ago from China, memories of his native country still resonate. Through his writing, time reverses itself, and the ghosts from his past have been revived, like falling leaves returning to their roots. Just as he has done in his translated works, Wen has transformed the intimate stories of a Chinese family into a gripping book that will appeal to readers of all cultures."

—Liao Yiwu, author of *Corpse Walker - Real Life Stories: China from the Bottom Up*

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