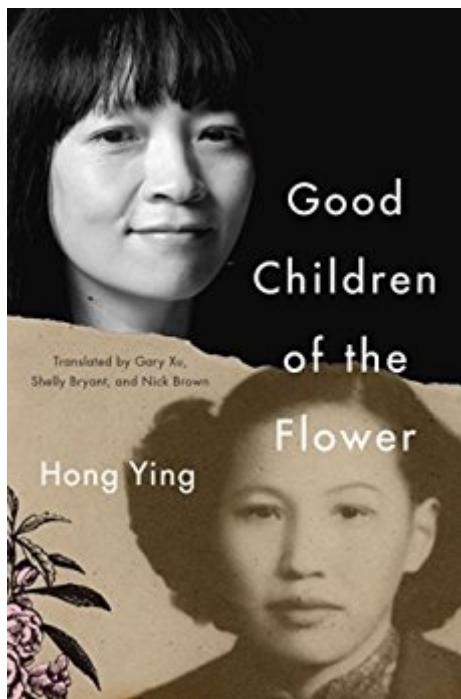


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# Good Children Of The Flower



## Synopsis

Decades after successful Chinese writer Hong Ying escaped the slums of her childhood, she discovers that time and distance cannot protect her from the past. When word of her mother's imminent death reaches Hong Ying in London, she races home to Chongqing only to find she's too late. While she tries to come to terms with her estranged mother's passing, she must navigate her family's delicate social structure and their long-held silence. Soon Hong Ying starts to ask unwelcome questions, and as old secrets are exposed, she must face not only what is revealed but also her own choices in love and marriage during the many years of her absence. In this bittersweet memoir, internationally bestselling author Hong Ying explores trauma, forgiveness, and truth and attempts to reconcile her painful memories with the beautiful life she hopes to create.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was hoping to be able to add another book to my œbooks about China written by Chinese people • list. Unfortunately, this book was a complete dud. I'm a little leery of speaking about

the use of language in Good Children of the Flower because I recognize that I read it in translation [but] I find it extremely hard to believe that such a critically-acclaimed author would turn out such underwhelming prose and overwrought narrative structure. I don't know whether to give her the benefit of the doubt and say the translators ruined the novel or to assume the translators did their best with what was a sub-par piece of writing. I won't comment on the actual plot of the novel other than to say the pacing was painfully slow. I fought my instinct to put the book in hopes that my efforts would be rewarded. I was sorely disappointed. Frankly, the story could have been told start-to-finish in about 100 pages. I gather from the novel that Hong Ying wanted to pay tribute to her late mother by highlighting both the suffering her mother endured during the political tumult of the 1900s and the sacrifices she made in an attempt to keep her family alive and together. Without the unnecessary detours into Hong Ying's life, (every now and then it seems like she is bragging about her numerous awards and ruminating upon the place of marriage in her life, though neither subject holds any importance in the grand scheme of the novel) Good Children of the Flower would be a pretty decent illustration of some of the horrors common people faced during the Cultural Revolution and the Great Leap Forward. I found myself cringing and on the verge of tears when I read what her mother went through.

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