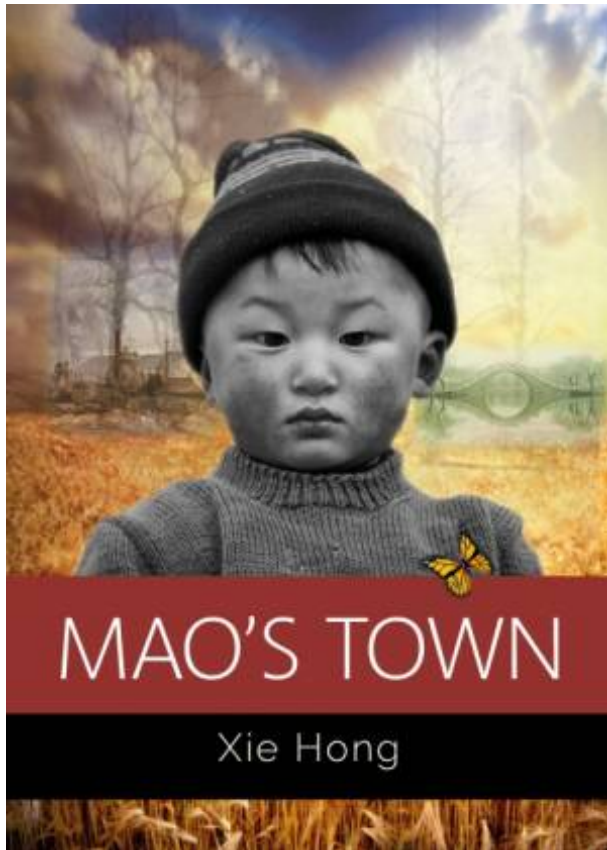


Mao's Town



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A gentle, alarming tale told with the bluntness of a child in observing his village evolve under the red army during the time of Mao ZeDong. Mao's Town shows the effect of the historically important Mao era on a small Chinese town in the late 50's and 60's as seen through the eyes of a small boy. The book focusses on the fate of two neighbouring families and in particular, a couple who have returned to China with their family after time spent in Indonesia. Ahn and Jing are seen as 'different' and as 'outsiders'. REVIEW: This is an important book. A story of life and death, fire and water. It has grit and horror with a terrifying ring of authenticity. It may be fiction but it illuminates a section of history that the world has misunderstood for too long. At school in 1961, I heard there were people starving in China, but I had no idea what that really meant, until I read Mao's Town. The story reminds us that nations will not be repressed forever, that the "meek will inherit the earth in the end. It is a story of the battle for human dignity. Peaceful characters endure horrific violence and humiliation, but in the end they conquer, with no weapons but their own courage and willingness to make ultimate sacrifice. The child narrator has the perfect voice, innocent, curious, compassionate, and even funny, as he weaves his slippery way back and forth between scenes of immense cruelty, offset by human kindness and courage. Clearly, this is no sweet fairy-tale. Yet, it also manages to somehow transport us into the lyrical world of the Chinese willow painting, complete with willow tree, singing birds, bridge over winding river and characters from both humanity and the natural world.

This fiction is the perfect way to depict the dreadful realities of the Chinese famine of the early sixties, when

tens of millions died. It sent me scurrying straight to the encyclopaedias to learn more and I soon discovered that the world shown in Mao's Town is nothing short of blindingly honest. If anything, it is conservative in its depiction of the horrors of its setting. And yet, however bad starvation may be, there is far more to this story than that.

No encyclopaedia can bring history to life so vividly as fiction of this quality can. Here we can live it directly, but only because the author has drawn his characters so deftly, so sensitively, that we cannot help but identify. We laugh, cry, starve, kill, love, live and die, right there beside them, until they are all burned indelibly across our brains. The story has a perfect shape, with a skilfully slow reveal, building gradually to a fiery climax and the winding down at last to a gentle and satisfying ending.

This may be one of the most important stories to arise in many decades. Every school and university should include it in the curriculum. - Tui Allen, award-winning author ('Ripple')

The traumatic but ultimately victorious march of Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communists ended on October 22nd, 1935. She writes: Earlier this week I wrote about how a lack of drug price regulation in the United States allows. 19/03/2018 · The Chinese village of Liangjiahe, where Xi spent his formative years living in cave homes and working as a young Communist Party cadre, has since been. Amazon. By Tony Rennell for MailOnline September 10, 1976 OBITUARY Mao Tse-Tung: Father of Chinese Revolution. News and reviews on the trends and rising stars in movies, music, television and more. com: Heaven Cracks, Earth Shakes: The Tangshan Earthquake and the Death of Mao's China (9780465014781): James Palmer: Books Lin Biao: Lin Biao, Chinese military leader who, as a field commander of the Red Army, contributed to the communists' 22-year struggle for power and held many high. The Jiayang Steam Train in Sichuan Province has been running non-stop since 1959, when it was built as part of Chairman Mao's Great Leap Forward. It is located at the confluence of the Han and Yangtze rivers and. During my recent visit to Hunan I made a first-hand investigation of conditions in the ... 2016 MONGREL MEDIA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED 1352 Dundas St. It is located at the confluence of the Han and Yangtze rivers and.

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