



Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution

By Moying Li

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Most people cannot remember when their childhood ended. I, on the other hand, have a crystal-clear memory of that moment. It happened at night in the summer of 1966, when my elementary school headmaster hanged himself.

In 1966 Moying, a student at a prestigious language school in Beijing, seems destined for a promising future. Everything changes when student Red Guards begin to orchestrate brutal assaults, violent public humiliations, and forced confessions. After watching her teachers and headmasters beaten in public, Moying flees school for the safety of home, only to witness her beloved grandmother denounced, her home ransacked, her father's precious books flung onto the back of a truck, and Baba himself taken away. From labor camp, Baba entrusts a friend to deliver a reading list of banned books to Moying so that she can continue to learn. Now, with so much of her life at risk, she finds sanctuary in the world of imagination and learning.

This inspiring memoir follows Moying Li from age twelve to twenty-two, illuminating a complex, dark time in China's history as it tells the compelling story of one girl's difficult but determined coming-of-age during the Cultural Revolution.

Snow Falling in Spring is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Editorial Review

Review

“*Snow Falling in Spring* joins other important books about the Cultural Revolution . . . as childhood testimonies to national trauma, cautionary tales for our own time, and appreciations for homes, old and new.”
The San Francisco Chronicle

“At its essence, this is a book about the value of reading--to escape, to learn, to be sustained and to grow.”
The New York Times Book Review

“The simple, direct narrative will grab readers with the eloquent account of daily trauma and hope.”
Booklist, Starred Review

“Li effectively builds the climate of fear that accompanies the rise of the Red Guard. . . . Sketches about her grandparents root the narrative within a broader context of Chinese traditions as well as her own family's values, establishing a basis for Li's later portrayal of the individuals around her who respond to oppression with hope and faith in knowledge and education.” *Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*

“Beautifully written . . . offers a somewhat broader view of a nation in turmoil and illustrates the grit and determination necessary for survival in a dysfunctional society.” *School Library Journal*

“The narrative will enable readers to sympathize with Li and feel relief when she leaves to study at Swarthmore College after ten years of education in China.” *Kirkus Reviews*

“Anyone under the impression that liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness is a birthright will find this book illuminating.” *Peter Sís, author of The Wall*

About the Author

MOYING LI, one of the first students to leave China for study abroad after the Cultural Revolution, came to the United States in 1980 on a full scholarship from Swarthmore College. She holds an M.A., an M.B.A., and a Ph.D. She lives in Boston and Beijing.

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From Snow Falling in Spring

In front of Baba's eyes, they flung book after book onto the stone floor. One of them reached into a lower shelf for Baba's rare books. Dragging them out by their silk strings, he yanked them open.

“Please,” Baba pleaded, trying to free himself from the hands of his guard. “Don't touch those.”

The guard pulled Baba's arms back and tied a rope around them.

Then the soldiers dumped all our books into large hemp sacks that they pulled from the back of the truck. "The paper factory will turn this trash into pulp in no time," they announced. When Lao Lao tried to plead with them, a soldier just pushed her away. Dragging the sacks through our gate, they flung them, one after another, onto the open truck. Then, hurling Baba on top of the bulging bags, the soldiers drove away in a cloud of dust, leaving my grandmother filled with sorrow . . .

With our neighbors' help, I cleared the rubble. After everyone had left, I closed the door and all the windows and sank to the cold stone floor, my face buried in my arms. The sun was setting, and darkness was creeping into the house.

Our bookshelves now stood naked in the shadows— like proud but defeated old warriors.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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The book *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution* to get your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open and read a book *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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The reason why? Because this Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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