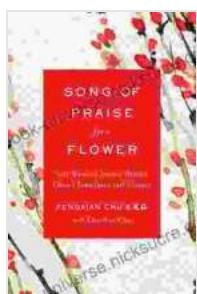


One Woman's Journey Through China's Tumultuous 20th Century

Zhang Rong was born in 1914, just as the Qing dynasty was collapsing and China was entering a period of great turmoil. She lived through the warlord era, the Japanese invasion, the civil war, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China. She witnessed firsthand the rise and fall of Mao Zedong, the Cultural Revolution, and the Tiananmen Square protests.



Song of Praise for a Flower: One Woman's Journey through China's Tumultuous 20th Century by Charlene Chu

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 782 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 488 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Zhang Rong's memoir, *Wild Swans*, is a powerful and moving account of her life and times. It is a story of survival, resilience, and hope. It is also a story of China's transformation from a feudal society to a modern nation.

Zhang Rong was born into a wealthy family in Sichuan province. Her father was a high-ranking official in the Qing government. Her mother was a devout Buddhist. Zhang Rong grew up in a world of privilege and tradition.

But her world was shattered when the Qing dynasty collapsed in 1911. Her father lost his job and the family was forced to move to a small village.

Zhang Rong's life continued to be turbulent during the warlord era. She was kidnapped by bandits and sold into slavery. She escaped and eventually made her way back to her family. In 1937, the Japanese invaded China. Zhang Rong and her family were forced to flee their home. They spent the next few years living in refugee camps.

In 1945, the war ended and Zhang Rong returned to her home province. She married and had two children. But her happiness was short-lived. In 1949, the Communists came to power. Zhang Rong's husband was labeled a "rightist" and sent to a labor camp. Zhang Rong and her children were forced to live in poverty.

The Cultural Revolution began in 1966. Zhang Rong was denounced as a "landlord's daughter" and sent to a re-education camp. She was forced to do hard labor and was subjected to political indoctrination. Zhang Rong's children were also sent away to be re-educated.

Zhang Rong was released from the re-education camp in 1972. She returned to her home province and worked as a teacher. She never forgot the horrors of the Cultural Revolution. She began to write about her experiences in secret. In 1986, Zhang Rong's memoir, *Wild Swans*, was published in the United States. The book became an international bestseller and was translated into more than 30 languages.

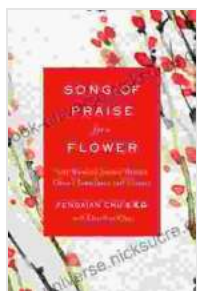
Zhang Rong died in 2008. She was 94 years old. She left behind a legacy of courage, resilience, and hope. Her memoir, *Wild Swans*, is a powerful reminder of the human cost of war, revolution, and political turmoil.

Long Tail SEO Keywords

* Zhang Rong * China * 20th century * memoir * history * Qing dynasty * Cultural Revolution * Red Guards * Long March * Great Leap Forward * Tiananmen Square * warlord era * Japanese invasion * civil war * People's Republic of China * Mao Zedong

Alt Attributes

* **Image 1:** Zhang Rong as a young woman * **Image 2:** Zhang Rong and her family during the warlord era * **Image 3:** Zhang Rong during the Cultural Revolution * **Image 4:** Zhang Rong in her later years



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