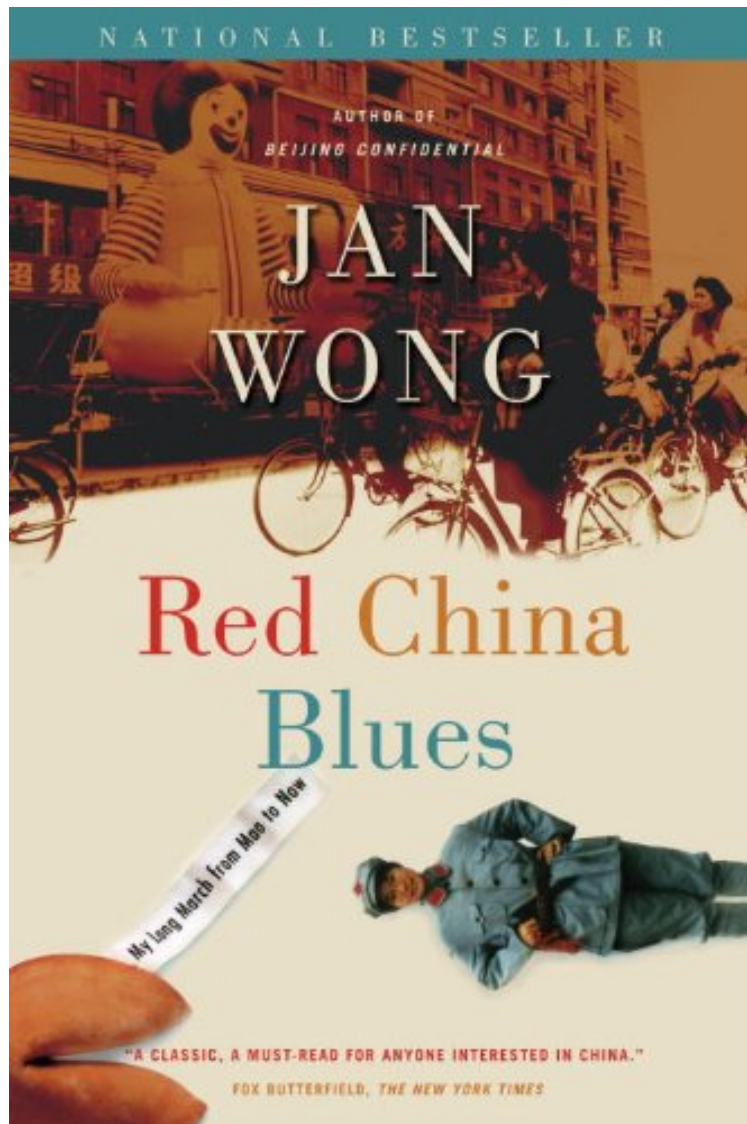


[Ebook free] Red China Blues (reissue): My Long March from Mao to Now

Red China Blues (reissue): My Long March from Mao to Now

Von Jan Wong

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Von Jan Wong : Red China Blues (reissue): My Long March from Mao to Now before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red China Blues (reissue): My Long March from Mao to Now:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thanks to Jan Wong, I can't get China our of my head.Von Ein KundeRed China Blues is an intensely personalized historical account that covers nearly a quarter-century in China's recent and temultuous past. In this often humorous, often

harrowing memoir, Jan Wong recounts her own rocky relationship with the nation of her ancestors. Having been raised in a middle-class family in Canada, the daughter of a successful Chinese restaurateur, Wong travels to the People's Republic of China in 1972--the height of the Cultural Revolution--as one of only two Westerners permitted entrance to Beijing University. Naively devoted to the "Great Helmsman" Mao Zedong and determined to purge herself of bourgeois privilege and capitalist guilt, Wong fervently adopts the teachings of the Communist party and eagerly joins the tide of students who spend the better part of their University years laboring in the paddy fields. Her Communist fervor is such that she even turns in a fellow student who asks for Wong's help in going to the United States, and joins in chanting criticisms at an accused counter-revolutionary. A series of lies and propagandist maneuvers--including the University's attempt to expel her on false claims that her parents have asked her to return home--begin to unravel Wong's faith in the Party. Following the first silent uprising at Tiananmen Square after Premier Zhou Enlai's death in 1976, Wong comes to a startling realization: "Nobody believed in the revolution anymore. They hadn't for a long time, and I had been too stupid to see it." In the aftermath of Mao's death and the declaration of the end of the Cultural Revolution the same year, she also begins to understand the nature of China's system of rule: "One announcement, and we were consigned to the dust heap of history. That, I suddenly realized, was how dictatorships worked. Overnight, every single person I knew made an abrupt ideological switch." Years later, the author's metamorphosis is complete when she returns to China as a reporter for the Toronto Globe Mail, and watches ! the massacre of Tiananmen Square from her balcony at Beijing Hotel. She paints a vivid, horrifying picture of the days of violence and chaos, when soldiers opened fire on their own people and tanks mowed down protestors in cold blood. Over and over again, the mass of protestors--comprised of students, police, and ordinary citizens--stampedes away from the army's gun volleys, only to regroup and come back for more. Red China Blues is a fascinating read for anyone interested in recent Chinese history, but the scope of the book is broader than that. It is about human psychology-- our incredible willingness to be led, our instinctual inclination for rebellion when the leaders we have vehemently followed overstep some invisible boundary. It is a criticism of absolutism delivered by a former absolutist, the story of how an idealist young girl came to realize that no single nation, party, or political regime possesses a monopoly on truth.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wong helps to peel back the layers of Chinese society. Von Michael_Gee@bc.sympatico.ca Before leaving for China, I had always appreciated Jan's work that often appeared in the Globe Mail. Then having spent several years in China, I began to recognize some of the peculiarities during my time there helped by the observations from Jan's writing. I taught at The University of Science Technology in Hefei, Anhui province where I met one of the leaders of the Democracy Movement who was then under house arrest. I also witnessed many student demonstrations on the campus and lively notice board discussions. In 1978 I left there for Canada after my first contract hoping to return the next year, but the Tiananmen "Incident" intervened. The first person I turned to in Canada for information about China was Jan Wong who continued to write cogently about the turmoil in China. Her book, an excellent collection of her work during her in and out doctrination in The Middle Kingdom, is required reading for those who wish to learn about recent developments in China's continuing dramatic social evolution. I hope she has something else in the mill to bring us up to date on the current economic revolution and its effect on this great but perplexing part of the world.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Loved it! Von Phillippa Crossan What a fascinating book! I loved it. It is a wonderful piece of writing and it's easy to see why Jan Wong is such an acclaimed journalist. I have been to China and have many friends from there. From everything they have shared with me regarding their own experiences, Red China Blues fits exactly with their descriptions of life in those times. Having been born in 1948 and lived under far different circumstances, I find the history of China during the Mao years fascinating. Red China Blues rings true and it is written with wicked humour as well as much sympathy/empathy. Jan Wong has heart and her account of the Tiananmen Square massacre is the most moving I have ever read. I believe it is a totally accurate account and I found myself weeping as I read it. I was profoundly moved and gained a much deeper insight of the events that took place at that time. In fact, I learned many things about China through this marvellous book and was hungry for more. I couldn't put it down and can't wait to read her latest, Jan Wong's China which I have just purchased.

Kurzbeschreibung Jan Wong, a Canadian of Chinese descent, went to China as a starry-eyed Maoist in 1972 at the height of the Cultural Revolution. A true believer -- and one of only two Westerners permitted to enroll at Beijing University -- her education included wielding a pneumatic drill at the Number One Machine Tool Factory. In the name of the Revolution, she renounced rock and roll, hauled pig manure in the paddy fields, and turned in a fellow student who sought her help in getting to the United States. She also met and married the only American draft dodger from the Vietnam War to seek asylum in China. Red China Blues begins as Wong's startling -- and ironic -- memoir of her rocky six-year romance with Maoism that began to sour as she became aware of the harsh realities of Chinese communism and led to her eventual repatriation to the West. Returning to China in the late eighties as a journalist, she covered both the brutal Tiananmen Square crackdown and the tumultuous era of capitalist reforms under Deng Xiaoping. In a wry,

absorbing, and often surreal narrative, she relates the horrors that led to her disillusionment with the "worker's paradise." And through the stories of the people -- an unhappy young woman who was sold into marriage, China's most famous dissident, a doctor who lengthens penises -- Wong creates an extraordinary portrait of the world's most populous nation. In setting out to show readers in the Western world what life is like in China, and why we should care, Wong reacquaints herself with the old friends -- and enemies -- of her radical past, and comes to terms with the legacies of her ancestral homeland. From the Trade Paperback edition. From Publishers Weekly This superb memoir is like no other account of life in China under both Mao and Deng. Wong is a Canadian ethnic Chinese who, in 1972, at the height of the cultural revolution, was one of the first undergraduate foreigners permitted to study at Beijing University. Filled with youthful enthusiasms for Mao's revolution, she was an oddity: a Westerner who embraced Maoism, appeared to be Chinese and wished to be treated as one, although she didn't speak the language. She set herself to become fluent, refused special consideration, shared her fellow-students rations and housing, their required stints in industry and agriculture and earnestly tried to embrace the Little Red Book. Although Wong felt it her duty to turn in a fellow student who asked for help to emigrate to the West, she could not repress continual shock at conditions of life, and by the time she was nearly expelled from China for an innocent friendship with a "foreigner," much of her enthusiasm, which lasted six years, had eroded. In 1988, returning as a reporter for the Toronto Globe Mail, she was shocked once again, this time by the rapid transformations of the society under Deng's exhortation: "to be rich is glorious." Her account is informed by her special background, a cold eye, a detail. Her description of the events at Tiananmen Square, which occurred on her watch, is, like the rest of the book, unique, powerful and moving. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA crackerjack journalist's (she's a George Polk Award winner) immensely entertaining and enlightening account of what she learned during several extended sojourns in the People's Republic of China. A second-generation Canadian who enjoyed a sheltered, even privileged, childhood in Montreal, Wong nonetheless developed a youthful crush on Mao Zedong's brand of Communism. She first visited China in 1972 on summer holiday from McGill University. Although the PRC was still convulsed by the so-called Cultural Revolution, the starry-eyed author enrolled in Beijing University and remained in the country for 15 months. Emotionally bloodied but unbowed by quotidian contact with the harsher realities of Maoism, Bright Precious Wong (as she was known to fellow students and party cadres) mastered Chinese and searched for ways to express solidarity with the masses. Leaving the PRC only long enough to earn a degree from McGill, the author returned in the fall of 1974 for a lengthy stay that made her increasingly aware of Chinese Communism's contradictions and evils. Disturbing encounters with dissidents raised her consciousness of the regime's oppressive policies. Although her zeal diminished, Wong soldiered on, eventually acquiring an American spouse (perhaps the only US draft dodger to seek asylum in the PRC) and a correspondent's job with the New York Times. When President Carter pardoned Vietnam War resisters, the author and her husband came back to North America. She returned to China in 1988 as the Beijing bureau chief of The Toronto Globe Mail. Experiencing something akin to culture shock at the changes wrought by Deng Xiaoping's capitalist-road programs, Wong was an eyewitness to the bloody Tiananmen Square confrontation. She ferreted out long-suppressed truths about penal colonies, the use of prisoners as unpaid laborers, and the public execution of criminals. Tellingly detailed recollections of the journeys of an observant and engaged traveler through interesting times. (Author tour) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.