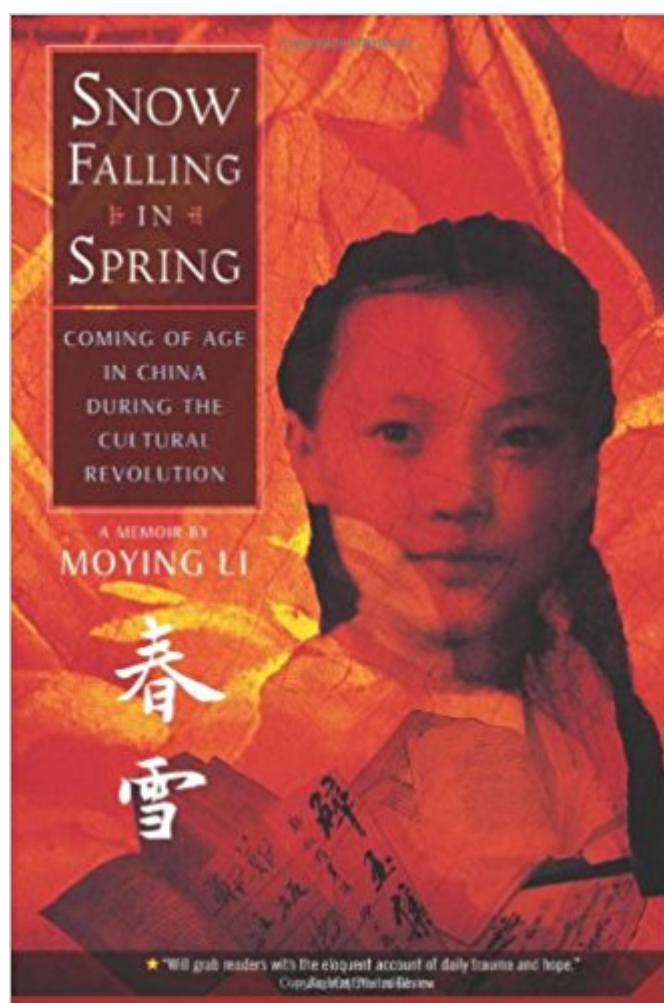


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# Snow Falling In Spring: Coming Of Age In China During The Cultural Revolution



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; 1 edition (March 16, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312608675

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 12.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #306,601 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > Asia](#) #72 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Women](#) #102 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government](#)

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

“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*

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.

There is nothing wrong with this book, but I’m only giving it 3 stars because I have read other memoirs about the cultural revolution that offered a clearer look. *Wild Swans* is one of those books. *Snow Falling in Spring* is a good book for someone who doesn’t have time to spend on another book like *Wild Swans* (500+ pages). It also isn’t as explicit about the hardships and pain that people endured.

A beautifully written account the the events experienced by a young girl during China’s cultural revolution, a sad and dangerous time in the country’s development. I thought this book would be a good one for a social studies class on China, perhaps to follow *The Good Earth* Makes the reader appreciate books, knowledge, truth and freedom wherever they may be found.

This book is great. I love to read history related books. I would like to read it again and again.

This was a really good book, and very interesting if you're interested in books about China under the Communist Party.

interesting book

Great book! I got the book fully intact and in great condition! Can't wait to read it again!

It really just started with something to catch the reader's attention and keeps them wondering what's gonna happen next until the happiest ending ever

Great addition to my Chinese Revolution collection in my classroom!

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