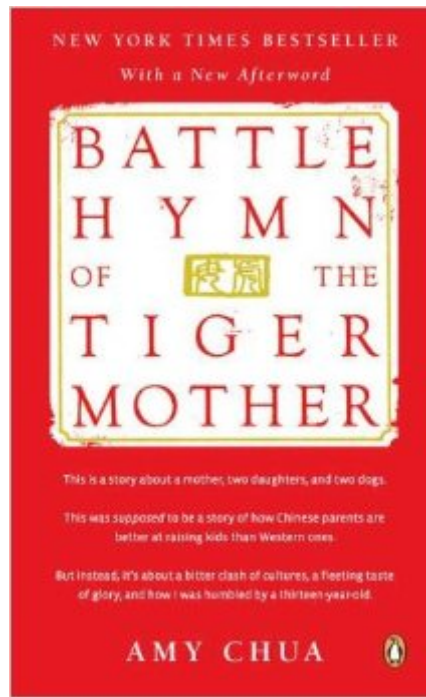


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# Battle Hymn Of The Tiger Mother



## Synopsis

The New York Times Book Reviewâentertaining, bracingly honest and, yes, thought-provoking.â At once provocative and laugh-out-loud funny, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* ignited a global parenting debate with its story of one motherâs journey in strict parenting.â Amy Chua argues thatâ Western parenting tries to respect and nurture childrenâs individuality, while Chinese parents typically believe that arming children with skills, strong work habits, and inner confidence prepares them best for the future.ââ *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* chronicles Chuaâs iron-willed decision to raise her daughters, Sophia and Lulu, the Chinese way â and the remarkable, sometimes heartbreakingâ results her choice inspires.â Achingly honest and profoundly challenging, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* is one of the most talked-about books of our times.â Few have the guts to parent in public. Amy [Chua]âs memoir is brutally honest, and her willingness to share her struggles is a gift. Whether or not you agree with her priorities and approach, she should be applauded for raising these issues with a thoughtful, humorous and authentic voice.â

â "Time Magazineâ [A] riveting readâ | Chuaâs story is far more complicated and interesting than what youâve heard to date -- and well worth picking upâ | I guarantee that if you read the book, thereâll undoubtedly be places where youâll cringe in recognition, and others where youâll tear up in empathy.â

â "San Francisco Chronicleâ Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother hit the parenting hot button, but also a lot more, including peopleâs complicated feelings about ambition, intellectualism, high culture, the Ivy League, strong women and Americaâs standing in a world where China is ascendant. Chuaâs conviction that hard work leads to inner confidence is a resonant one.â

â "Chicago Tribuneâ Readers will alternately gasp at and empathize with Chuaâs struggles and aspirations, all the while enjoying her writing, which, like her kid-rearing philosophy, is brisk, lively and no-holds-barred. This memoir raises intriguing, sometimes uncomfortable questions about love, pride, ambition, achievement and self-worth that will resonate among success-obsessed parentsâ | Readers of all stripes will respond to [Battle Hymn of the] Tiger Mother.â

â "The Washington Post

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I give the book three stars because it seems to me an honest account of the author's family life. It's even funny at times, when I'm not aching for her daughters. I listened to the audio book read by Ms Chua herself and she reads well. She's certainly very talented. Otherwise I'd rate the book one star. Ms Chua claims herself a representative of Chinese mothers. I'm a native Chinese and came to this country with an advanced degree earned in China -- I'm no stranger to educating children the Chinese way. Yet I don't treat my children as she does and I know that most of the Chinese in the US (and in China, for that matter) don't "educate" their children in that extreme fashion. From reading the book I believe that her philosophies and behaviors are largely due to her seriously flawed personality. I list some revealing examples below. Since I don't have the paper copy handy, my quotes are not accurate to every word.\* When she learned that her dog was not among the most intelligent breeds, she felt "nauseated". To her, everyone, everything is a tool for competition.\* She bitterly criticizes the American "shopping mall" materialism. Yet she herself is a huge spender. To celebrate her daughter's Carnegie Hall debut, she threw a party that cost the family's winter AND summer vacations. How she spends her money is her own business. But condemning others for going to the mall? That sounds hypocritical to me.\* She has a strong sense of superiority that shows here and there throughout the book. She says some white men have "yellow fever". They would date any Asian woman, "no matter how ugly she is and what part of Asia she is from". That's deeply racist and offending.

People who are taking this book the wrong way (particularly those who read the excerpt in the newspapers and not the book itself) are missing the big picture. The book is a memoir, and Chua tells her story no-holds-barred. Her mother is a central figure and her discipline (right or wrong) has shaped who Chua has become. Like all of us, Chua has had to find the good in her parents, particularly the good in their intentions (even when they aren't easy to find). Those who are treating

this as a parenting manual advocating parents raise their children the way Chua was raised either haven't read the book or have completely missed the point. You also get to go along with Chua as she raises her two daughters. They had incredibly strict rules to follow: no play dates, no sleepovers, and two hours a day of instrument practice. You see that her parenting isn't perfect in their achievements: the oldest played in Carnegie Hall at the age of 14 and the youngest...well I don't want to give away one of the best parts of the story but lets just say they had different paths. You live her struggle with a parenting style that's seen as extreme in America. Even though I'm deeply implanted in the "lax" Western style of parenting, I still related deeply to the struggles of raising children. The book is hilarious and shocking in places. The kind of book you can't put down. The transformation Chua moves through is powerful. Her writing still is brisk and lively and you're sure to empathize with her struggles and her dreams. The book is striking a chord with so many because it hits hard at the questions we all must answer for ourselves in life: love, achievement, self-esteem, ambition, pride...

As an Asian-American myself, I was raised by parents who believed in the "Chinese" parenting philosophy that Amy Chua espouses in her book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. Because of my background, I took this book very personally. How could I not? I imagine that most people are drawn to this book because of the WSJ article, "Why Chinese Mothers are Superior." Is the book just more of the article? For the most part, yes. In this memoir type of a book, Amy Chua sets out the dreams she has for her daughters and recounts her relentless pursuit of those dreams at all costs. Her stories alone would not be so offensive had she not tied them all together with the assertion that the Chinese parenting philosophy produces better progeny than the Western parenting philosophy. First of all, I completely disagree with the Chinese parenting philosophy. It is true that the Chinese parenting philosophy might produce high achieving children. But it is equally true that it might produce some very miserable ones. There is a cost in terms of time, energy, missed social interaction, and mental health. Amy Chua casually dismisses the idea of any harm to self-esteem, but I couldn't disagree more. Perhaps it's true that Amy's two daughters don't have any self-esteem problems. But their mental health may be attributed to just plain luck rather than to Amy - that is, nature rather than nurture. If Amy had more sensitive children, I wouldn't be surprised if they ended up in the mental hospital. In the book, Amy Chua spends a disproportionate amount of time on her daughters' musical pursuits.

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