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Madame Mao: The White-Boned Demon: Revised Edition



Synopsis

This is the most complete and authoritative account of the childhood and tumultuous life of Jiang Qing, from her early years as an aspiring actress to her marriage and partnership with Mao Zedong, the controversial years of power after Mao's death, her final years of disgrace and imprisonment, and her suicide in 1991.

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Customer Reviews

Terrill made a very impressive life-account of Jiang Qing a.k.a. Madame Mao. I am very impressed by this truthful and honest account of Jiang Qing. Madame Jiang Qing is totally unlike any modern communist Chinese personality; she was a political wife, the woman behind the charismatic Chairman Mao Zedong. Who is this lady? How was she able to survive the turmoil of prewar Shanghai period, the Communist Revolution and lastly the Cultural Revolution. Modern China is famous for a few women, e.g. Madame Soong Qingling, Madame Wang Guangmei, Madame Deng Yingchao, and lastly Madame Jiang Qing. For all these women except for Madame Soong Qingling were women of power due to their husband who had privileged positions within the Communist Party. On the other hand, Madame Soong was the symbolism of the previous Republican Era, perhaps the torch-bearer of Dr Sun Yat Sen's idealism. Jiang Qing is a paradox in Chinese Communism, she was not the typical peasant woman nor is she the idealistic communist comrade. She was neither, instead she was an ambitious and budding film star, gaining popularity in the Shanghai prewar era. In all accounts, she is a true bourgeois and capitalistic person. But, nevertheless this lady rose to become the greatest revolutionary leader of the Great Proletarian

Cultural Revolution. Li Shumeng, the infant name of Jiang Qing, was born in Shandong province in Northern China in 1914 where the Chinese Revolution was still in action. Although the Chinese Revolution brought to an end to the 2000 years of Imperial China but nothing much change, it was very much like the old order. The Confucianist China was in fact retrogressing towards the Warlord Era where the might of the sword becomes the law in Peking.

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