

Thinkingdom

Foreign Rights

Autumn 2026

Authors and Titles

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- Dong Lai, YEAR OF WONDERS
- Jiao Dian, PEACOCK BODHI
- Mai Jia, THE LIGHT OF WOUNDS
- Wang Xiaobo, GOLDEN AGE
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Non-Fiction

- Alessandro Ceschi, DREAMING IN MANDARIN
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A SUBMARINE IN THE NIGHT

《夜晚的潜水艇》

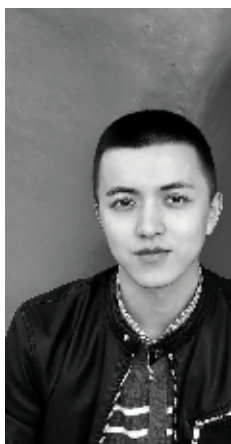
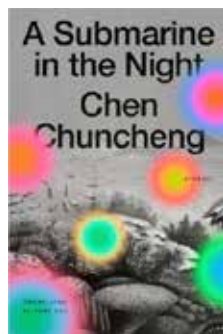
Short Stories, 2020, Imaginist, 224 pages.

Full English translation available soon.

Rights Sold:

- Complex Chinese (Ryefield)
- English (UK/ANZ: Honford Star, US: Riverhead)
- Italian (Quodlibet)
- Japanese (Astra House Japan)
- Spanish (Aristas Martínez)
- Vietnamese (ZGroup)

- ◎ More than 300,000 copies sold
- ◎ PageOne Bookstore Literary Award, Spring 2021
- ◎ One Way Street Bookstore Book Award, 2020
- ◎ Asia Weekly 10 Best Fiction Books of 2020
- ◎ Douban Best Chinese Literary Fiction of 2020
- ◎ Blancpain-Imaginist Literary Prize, 2021



陈春成

CHEN CHUNCHENG

Chen Chuncheng was born in Ningde, Fujian in 1990. He was a landscape engineer when he began to publish fiction online in 2017. His short story "The Musicians" was listed as one of the 10 best short stories in 2019 by the prestigious Chinese literary magazine *Harvest*. His debut short story collection *Submarines in the Night* (2020) has been a critical success, garnering the inaugural PageOne Literary Award and the Blancpain-Imaginist Literary Prize in 2021. Chen Chuncheng currently lives in Quan-zhou, Fujian, where he works at the local botanical garden.

A dazzling collection of stories in the tradition of Borges and Calvino, Chen Chuncheng creates worlds of quiet mystery that reveal the strange hidden beneath the everyday.

A collection of nine short stories delving into the unbearable weight of norms, the excess of imagination, and the fierceness of art, interweaving the speculative genre with Chinese folklore.

These stories turn the spotlight on characters who throw themselves into the suicidal beauty of art-making and becoming. A young painter-to-be, caught by a daydreaming compulsion, pictures his bedroom as a submarine every night. A group of Buddhist monks are convinced that the best way to save a splendid calligraphic work from the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution, is to keep it out of sight once and for all. After three thousand years of slumber, a man wakes up to find that the entire universe will be at stake if he loses memories about a canonical novel. After serving at the Office of Music Censorship in Leningrad for decades, an officer finds himself deeply attracted to the illicit music submitted by a mysterious author, the revelation of whose identity will forever change the officer's life.

Effortlessly swinging from ruminations on craftsmanship to satires about efficiency and stability, these stories remind any reader of the sheer pleasure of encountering a lyrical language and genuinely inventive narratives. Elegantly summoned and revived, the sensibility of classical Chinese literature seeps through these pages, gesturing toward how alternative ways of being can be radically imagined and lived.

Chen Chuncheng writes in a clear and elegant way rarely found among the younger generation of writers. These stories bring about a happy marriage between world literature and the classical canon. His writing feels neat and tidy, and yet it relentlessly probes into all kinds of crises: totalitarianism, paranoia, the end of history, memory loss, distressing evenings, uncanny dreams, and the ever-deferred redemption.

— David Wang, Professor of Chinese Literature, Harvard University

Chen Chuncheng is a surprise. What makes his writing stand out is how it strikes the balance between lightness and rigorousness - highly imaginative, yet rigorous in engaging with the reality.

— Yu Hua

A book of short stories by one of the most powerful voices in contemporary Chinese literature. Here you'll find surprising tales, such as one about a company that trims clouds for advertising purposes, or the hidden garden where a young woman reminisces about the happiest day of her life. All these stories share an invisible thread: Borges. How could you not read it?

— Página Dos, Spain

YEAR OF WONDERS 《奇迹之年》

Short Stories, 2021, Shanghai 99 Readers, 260 pages.
English sample available soon.

Rights Sold:

- Italian (Palingenia)

© PageOne Bookstore Literary Award, Fall 2021



东来 DONG LAI

Dong Lai (b.1990, Jingdezhen, China) received the First Prize of the Douban Writing Contest for her novel *Escaping the Heat Island* in 2019. She is the author of the short story collections *Deep in the River* (2019) and *Year of Wonders* (2021). *Year of Wonders* won the PageOne Literary Award in 2021. Prior to becoming a freelance writer, Dong Lai worked in journalism and advertisement.

Fiction / Short Stories

A kaleidoscopic survey of life in contemporary China, delving into topics such as loneliness, alienation, belonging and the nostalgia of what gets lost with development.

Dong Lai is representative of a new generation of writers that refuse to just paint away individual struggles with loss, dislocation and anxiety during China's period of intense growth. With *Year Of Wonders* she offers a kaleidoscopic survey of life in contemporary China, delving into topics such as loneliness, alienation, belonging and the nostalgia of what gets lost with development.

Amid the feverish pursuit of psychic powers during the 1980s, a child finds himself unexpectedly gifted with the talent of bending metal cutlery by simply staring at it, only to see his supernatural power suddenly disappear on December 21st 2012, the day the end of the world was predicted. A millionaire writes an epic play for a lover who never reads it. Two veterinarians, while wandering around to perform pet euthanasia, gradually lose the ability to recognize human faces. A mesmerizing fictional city looms on the horizon as a young couple goes for a long walk around a city they do not recognize anymore. When a high schooler turns his back on a potentially bright future with a senseless act of violence, everyone desperately strives to understand what lies beneath his impulsive murder of the only person who could have empathized with him.

Each story in this collection confronts readers with a definite sense of disenchantment in a unique, unforgettable outlook, shaking the boundaries between reality and fiction. With incredibly rich sensual details and surprisingly diverse narrating voices, Dong Lai timely and powerfully calls back a world that was once full of wonders and magic, and yet vanished without a trace before anyone could fully grasp the profound implications of such a loss.

A plurality of temporalities operates in her language ... A young writer with multiple selves, who opens herself up for suspension, leaps forward to the possibility of language, and pays homage to the vanishing.

— Hu Sang, poet

Borderless writing ... Capturing the collective memories that have once existed with such sharpness but faded away into the mist too soon.

— Committee of the PageOne Bookstore Literary Award

PEACOCK BODHI

《孔雀菩提》

Short Stories, 2023, Thinkingdom, 272 pages.

English sample available soon.



◎ Longlisted for the Blancpain-Imaginist Literature Prize, 2024

◎ People's Literature Newcomer Award, 2024

◎ Douban Chinese Literature Award, 2023



焦典

JIAO DIAN

Jiao Dian, born in Yunnan in 1996, is currently pursuing a PhD in literary creation at Beijing Normal University. Her novels and poetry have been published in *Harvest*, *People's Literature*, *October*, *Chinese Literature Selections*, and other literary journals. She has won several awards, including the sole Gold Prize at the inaugural “Beijing Normal University-Oxford” Youth Literary Star Award, the Short Fiction Prize at the 6th Youth Literature Award, and the 2020 China “Stars” Annual Young Poet Award.

[Fiction / Short Stories](#)

A powerful collection of short stories that delves into the complex intersections of feminism, environmental challenges, modernity, and the generational divide in contemporary China, set against the vibrant backdrop of the country's southwestern border.

A powerful collection of short stories that explores the complex intersections of feminism, environmental challenges, modernity, and the generational divide in contemporary China, set in Yunnan—a border region renowned for its magnificent natural scenery, abundant resources, and cultural and ethnic richness. Through the lens of rural life and mystical elements, led by witchy female protagonists, *Peacock Bodhi* presents tales of women confronting harsh realities such as human trafficking and enduring inequalities, as well as their quest for identity in a world increasingly alienating by its modernity.

Yuen, an elderly shaman who claims to smell wild elephants at night and uses cracked eggs in mystical rituals to locate the missing; Chunshui, a resilient motorcyclist who navigates the turmoil of domestic violence while rescuing women trapped in the mountains due to human trafficking; Li Hou'er, a policewoman, ventures deep into the mountains searching for a missing woman, only to discover a hidden community of women who have found refuge from various forms of abuse in the isolation of the remote wilderness. Meanwhile Li, having lost her sense of purpose after the tragic death of her daughter and her husband's departure, becomes inexplicably drawn to the news of a herd of elephants who mysteriously leave their natural habitat for an unknown destination.

Jiao Dian's stories are steeped in the rich natural landscapes of Yunnan, where ancient rituals, witchcraft, and environmental decay collide, offering both peril and solace. This collection invites readers to witness the struggles of a younger generation caught between the pull of tradition and the harsh realities of a changing environment, all while highlighting the enduring resilience of the human spirit amidst a rapidly transforming society.

Jiao Dian's understanding of the novel crafting makes me both proud and envious. Although she hasn't been writing for long, her talent is already shining through. *Peacock Bodhi* is as splendid as a peacock and as simple as an ostrich; as lively as a little monkey and as weighty as an elephant. In the dense forests, border towns, and mountain villages, her characters live as freely as fish in water. There is pain, joy, love, hatred, unsolvable problems, and glimmers of hope.

— Mo Yan, Writer, Nobel Prize laureate

THE LIGHT OF WOUNDS

《人间信》

Novel, 2024, Thinkingdom, 324 pages.

Sample Translation available.

Rights Sold:

- Complex Chinese (INK)
- English (UK: Penguin Press)

- ◎ More than 380.000 copies sold
- ◎ October Literary Award, 2025
- ◎ Taofen Literary Award, 2025
- ◎ CCTV Reading: Best Books of the Year, 2024
- ◎ China Novel Society, Best Novels of 2024
- ◎ Top Ten Books, Southern China Book Expo, 2024



麦家

MAI JIA

Born in 1964, Mai Jia is one of the most accomplished writers in contemporary China. He has received numerous awards, including the Mao Dun Literature Prize, the country's highest literary honor. His books have sold over 15 million copies in China alone and have been translated into 34 languages, reaching readers around the world.



A compelling coming-of-age novel set in 1960s southern China, in which a boy struggles to define himself in the shadow of his charming yet disgraced father, a man whose past is steeped in shame and rumor.

At the heart of the story is the narrator's complex and often painful relationship with his father — a man defined by contradiction; playful and charismatic yet profoundly unreliable, the father is both admired and scorned. Known to some as “the loogan” and to others as “Jap”, a nickname tied to his wartime captivity and controversial past, he casts a long shadow over the family, burdening them with a legacy of shame and suspicion. This relationship is a wound that quietly shapes the boy's journey into adulthood.

In a village mired in prejudice, gossip, and still echoing from the clamor of war, the narrator struggles to forge his own identity. He is raised by a strong-willed grandmother whose rituals and unshakeable faith serve as a shield against the villager's harsh judgments, and by a quiet, resilient mother whose strength and sacrifices hold the family together. Despite this, the boy can't avoid facing the village's scorn and suspicion over his father's dark past, erratic behavior, mounting gambling debts and broken promises.

As long-buried secrets from the father's past come to light, the family's fragile balance shatters, forcing the narrator to make an impossible choice: should he remain bound by loyalty to his family or to break free from his father's shadow.

The Light of Wounds is a poignant and unforgettable story of love and betrayal, belonging and estrangement, an intimate meditation on the scars left by family and history, and the enduring hope for reconciliation.

Mai Jia has devoted himself to capturing everything he perceives of the 'world' in this single book. Within over 200,000 words, the modern history of a remote mountain village, the survival and transformation of a family, the conflicts and estrangement between father and son, and the joys and sorrows of ordinary people's lives and loves intertwine to form a corner of the human tableau.

— *Guangming Daily*

What *The Light of Wounds* truly addresses is not how we deal with family relationships, but how to come to terms with the flawed self we once were. This is a book of self-redemption.

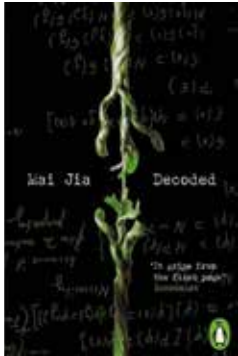
— *The Paper*

MAI JIA'S BACKLIST

“A literary superstar”

—The Telegraph

DECODED 《解密》



Novel, 2002. 320 pages.

★ New edition coming out in August 2026 in the [Penguin Modern Classics – Crime & Espionage](#).

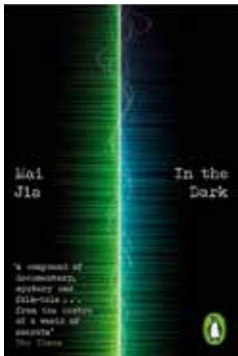
Rights sold to more than 30 languages.

Mai Jia's bestselling debut is the story of Rong Jinzhen, an autistic math genius, who is forced to abandon his academic studies and recruited into the mysterious Unit 701. As China's greatest cryptographer, Rong discovers that the mastermind behind the maddeningly difficult Purple Code is his former teacher and best friend, who is now working for China's enemy. A unique mix of spy thriller, historical saga, and mathematical puzzle.

“It grips from the first page.”

—The Economist

IN THE DARK 《暗算》



Novel, 2003, 304 pages

★ New edition coming out in August 2026 in the [Penguin Modern Classics – Crime & Espionage](#).

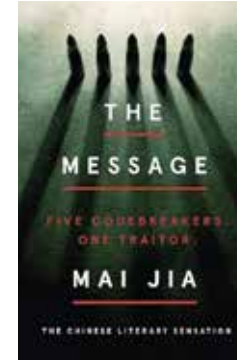
Rights sold to 7 languages.

Hidden deep in the mountains, the recruits at 'Unit 701', China's secret services, operate in a dark, shadowy world. There is the 'wind-listener', a blind surveillance officer who can hear sounds from miles away; the beautiful, unstable maths genius who meets a violent end; the old man who deciphers codes in his dreams; the spy who recounts a dangerous mission from beyond the grave. In this story of conspiracies, geniuses, revolutionaries and terrible moral choices, people sacrifice everything for a world of secrets – until, ultimately, it destroys them.

“A compound of documentary, mystery and folk-tale – an unfamiliar voice from the centre of a world of secrets.”

—The Times

THE MESSAGE 《风声》



Novel, 2007. 260 pages.

THE MESSAGE is a dazzling literary thriller set in Japan-occupied China. Five codebreakers are imprisoned in a haunted mansion to find out who among them is a communist spy. A fiendishly clever Agatha Christie-esque locked room mystery told in Rashomon-style narrative.

“This is a spy novel on a grand scale in which nothing is as it seems” .

—The Times

Rights Sold: English (UK & Comm: Head of Zeus), Hungarian (Libri), Italian (Marsilio), Korean (Minumsa), Portuguese (Quetzal), Romanian, Turkish (Marti)

THE COLONEL AND THE EUNUCH 《人生海海》



Novel, 2019. 345 pages

The phenomenal #1 Chinese bestseller, with over 4 million copies sold.

The boy grows up in a small village in south China listening to stories about the Colonel: some say he was a legendary army doctor during the war, some say he was a traitor to the Party, still others say he is a wicked sex machine. The stories are bawdy and mesmerizing, always larger than life. Yet in reality, the Colonel is just a middle-aged man who loves his cat. And why on earth does everyone call him 'the Eunuch'?

From these disparate sources, the boy tries to piece together who the Colonel really is, just as he himself grows up in a rapidly changing China. It is not until many years later, when the boy also becomes a middle-aged man, that he would look back and finally solve the puzzle.

“Mai Jia's masterpiece; it's both perfectly representative of his work, while also being completely different. I think the term 'hypnagogia', that transitional state between dreams and reality, might be the best one to describe the book” .

—Wong Kar-wai, Film Director

Rights Sold: Complex Chinese (INK), English (UK & Comm: Head of Zeus), Iranian, Korean (Minumsa), Russian (Eksmo).

GOLDEN AGE

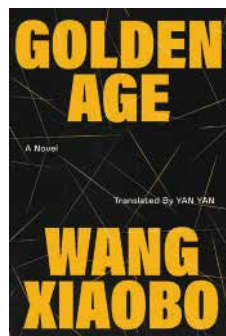
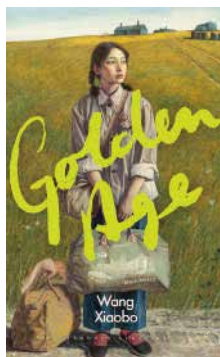
《黄金时代》

Novel, 2021, Thinkingdom, 244 pages.

Full English translation available.

Rights Sold:

- Arabic (Bayt Alhwkma)
- Danish (Korridor)
- English (Astra House, US - Penguin Classics, UK)
- German (Matthes & Seitz)
- Hebrew (Modan)
- Italian (Mondadori)
- Japanese (Bensei Publishing Inc.)
- Korean (Changbi)
- Polish (P.I.W.)
- Portuguese (Tordesilhas-Brazil)
- Romanian (Alice Books)
- Russian (Corpus)
- Serbian (Blum Serbia)
- Spanish (Galaxia Gutenberg)



王小波

WANG XIAOBO

Wang Xiaobo (1952–1997) was one of the most original and influential voices in contemporary Chinese literature, celebrated for his wit, irreverence, and intellectual independence. His fiction combines dark humour, absurdism, and sharp social criticism to explore individual freedom and desire in modern China. Since his early death at the age of forty-four, he has acquired cult status among generations of Chinese readers and remains a major influence on contemporary writers.

The bestselling novel by cult writer Wang Xiaobo, a brilliantly irreverent satire that invites us to reconsider the ironies and absurdities of history.

Golden Age chronicles the vicissitudes and the sexual awakening of Wang Er, a young, educated man who, like millions of Chinese youths during the Cultural Revolution, was sent to the rural province of Yunnan for his reeducation. There he tediously spends his days, between the dull tasks of taking the buffalo out to graze, and the quarrels and foolish accusations among his colleagues in the production team. When he meets the young nurse Chen Qingyang, sex becomes Wang Er's way out from tedium and humiliation.

Accused of adultery, Chen and Wang are arrested by the local authorities and forced to write a confession for their crimes but instead, Wang takes it upon himself to write a modernist literary tract, exposing the absurdity and arbitrariness surrounding him. Twenty years later, when Wang and Chen run into each other in Beijing by chance, both reckon that, despite all the sufferings and the painful epiphany of the banality of their existence, those years in Yunnan were indeed their *Golden Age*.

What makes this novel both hilarious and important is Xiaobo's use of the awkwardness of sex as a metaphor for all that occurred during the Cultural Revolution. This achievement was revolutionary and places *Golden Age* in the great pantheon of novels that highlight the freedom and authenticity of human nature.

Both subversive and hilarious ... so enjoyable.

— **Chris Allnutt, *Financial Times***

Admired for his cynicism, irony, humor, readers and critics around the world now widely regard Wang Xiaobo as one of the most important modern Chinese authors ... His [writing is] considered crucial to understanding China's recent past.

— **Ian Johnson, *New York Review of Books***

Startlingly funny, darkly profound, *Golden Age* is one of the most memorable novels published in Chinese language in the past hundred years, and it will still be read a hundred years from now.

— **Yiyun Li**

Like a Chinese Kurt Vonnegut. By turns lyrical and satirical, Wang Xiaobo's sexual comedies set during the Chinese Cultural Revolution are as improbable as that genre sounds. His long overdue publication in English comes as a gift. *Golden Age* is funny and brave and profound.

— **Chris Kraus**

Fills the reader with aching poignancy, and yet makes them want to laugh out loud.

— **Jung Chang, author of *Wild Swans***

LU KEMING'S SECRET SMILE

《卢克明的偷偷一笑》

Novel, 2025, Thinkingdom, 208 pages.

Rights Sold:

- French (Actes Sud)
- Italian (Feltrinelli)
- Korean (Prunsoop)
- Turkish (Jaguar)

- © The first book in *The Bastard Biographies*, an epic series portraying contemporary China
- © Over 250.000 copies sold



余华

YU HUA

Now one of China's most beloved novelists, Yu Hua was born in Haiyan, Zhejiang province, in 1960, and grew up in and around a hospital where his parents were both doctors. His books include the best-selling *To Live* (Knopf, 2003), *Brothers* (Knopf, 2010) and *China in Ten Words* (Anchor, 2011). He is the recipient of numerous international awards and honors, including the Italian Premio Grinzane Cavour and Giuseppe Acerbi prizes, and the French Prix Courrier International. In 2004 he was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. His *Paris Review* *Art of Fiction* interview was published in 2023.



Yu Hua's *Lu Keming's Secret Smile* is a sweeping dark comedy and social satire that traces the social, emotional and moral transformations of contemporary China through the life of one marriage.

What if a married couple treated sex like a bank loan?

Lu Keming and Lan Ying meet in their thirties in a rapidly expanding Chinese city. He is the charismatic and ambitious owner of a fast-growing interior design company; she is a conservative bank employee who longs for stability and emotional sincerity. Before marriage, they jokingly coin the phrase “draw an advance” for premarital sex, with Lan Ying allowing Lu Keming only five “withdrawals.” But when Lu starts bargaining for more, the joke becomes a defining metaphor for a life shaped by boundless ambition, desire, and the constant pursuit of more.

As Lu Keming rises with China's real-estate boom, he becomes immersed in a world of luxury construction projects, corruption, kickbacks, drinking banquets, and the ruthless logic of social climbing. Meanwhile, his wife, Lan Ying, retreats into fertility treatments, temple rituals, and desperate efforts to hold together a marriage gradually hollowed out by ambition, excess, and emotional distance.

When the real-estate market collapses, Lu Keming finds himself crushed by debt, besieged by unpaid migrant workers, and consumed by mounting financial desperation. He embarks on a frantic cross-country debt-collection journey, ultimately sacrificing even his most loyal employees to save his own skin. But does he?. The ethos of “drawing an advance” eventually backfires on him: he too is consumed by a double exhaustion -of the body and of the spirit. Faced with his fading love for his wife and the cracking illusion of success, all he can do is offer a secret smile.

Blending deadpan humor, emotional tenderness, biting satire, and acute social observation, *Lu Keming's Secret Smile* becomes far more than the portrait of one marriage. It is a panoramic chronicle of China's explosive urban and economic transformation: a society driven by endless growth, ambition, and productivity, where moral values, sexual desire and emotional bonds are overdrawn, and even love itself risks turning into another form of transaction.

DREAMING IN MANDARIN

《我用中文做了场梦》

Non-fiction / Memoir-Essays

Memoir-Essays, 2024, Thinkingdom, 288 pages.

Rights Sold :

- Italian (EDT)

- ◎ **Douban Book of the Year Award, 2024**
- ◎ **Douban Author of the Year, 2024**
- ◎ **Southern Metropolis Daily, Top 10 Books of the Year**



亚历

ALESSANDRO CESCHI

Alessandro Ceschi, born in Padua, Italy in 1993, began his writing career in primary school, selling handwritten football newspapers. While studying, he worked as a sports journalist, which took him to China to cover the 2014 Youth Olympics. Inspired by the trip, he moved to Beijing after graduating, where he learned Mandarin, taught Italian, and appeared in phone ads and war films. In 2022, his writing on the life during Shanghai's lockdown won first prize in a nonfiction contest by the online magazine *Sixth Tone*. This piece was also published in German by the Swiss weekly *WOZ* and in Italian by the website *China File*. He later contributed to various Chinese publications and gained a following on Chinese social media. *Dreaming in Mandarin* is his first book, and impressively, he wrote it in Chinese.

A witty and warm account of a young Italian finding his way in China, offering a fresh and insightful portrait of contemporary Chinese life.

In the summer of 2016, Alessandro, newly graduated and unemployed, comes across an online article about the booming Chinese film industry. Having studied communications and cinema, he begins to see Beijing as a possible escape from Italy's economic stagnation. Within a month, he has packed his bags and moved to China.

Originally written in Chinese and an immediate literary sensation, *I Dreamed in Mandarin* is the account of an experience that continues to this day. With honesty and humour, Alessandro recounts the people he meets and reflects on the identity of a young man trying to find his place in the world. Through his adventures in Chinese society, he grapples with questions familiar to expatriates everywhere: if you try hard enough, is it truly possible to become part of another culture? Can China ever become home, or will he always be seen as an outsider?

Along the way, he attends the Beijing Film Academy, makes new friends, and improves his Mandarin by watching Chinese TV series on the subway. To make ends meet, he takes on all kinds of jobs, from teaching Italian to working as an extra in a patriotic war film.

Warm, witty and perceptive, *I Dreamed in Mandarin* offers an engaging insider-outsider's perspective on contemporary Chinese society.

THE RUNAWAYS: On Dropping Down of the Chinese Dream 《逃走的人》

Narrative non-fiction, 2024, Thinkingdom, 240 pages

Rights Sold :

- Korean (Gimmyoung)

- ◎ More than 25,000 copies sold
- ◎ Daofeng Prize for Nonfiction Writer of the Year, 2024
- ◎ Douban Best Books of the Year, 2024



李颖迪 LI YINGDI

Li Yingdi is a journalist and a writer. She studied journalism at Wuhan University before going on to work at *GQ China* and *Esquire China*, where she currently works as a journalist and editor.

A compelling and poignant work of narrative nonfiction about a generation of young Chinese searching for an alternative to the pressures and expectations of contemporary urban life.

“I don't want to live in stress, I want to lie flat. I want an easy life.”

In 2019, Hegang, a remote rust-belt mining town in China's far northeast, near the Russian border, where Siberian winters stretch long and dark, went suddenly viral for one improbable reason: its rock-bottom housing prices.

Ever since, a steady stream of lightly packed, often single young people, mostly in their twenties and early thirties arrived in this town of Soviet-style compounds and ghostly new developments. They stockpile food, raise cats, avoid any social and romantic entanglements, and reduce life to minimal needs. The city was hence named the capital of *lying flat*, hailing a growing trend in China in which young people move to smaller, cheaper cities to escape the pressure, overwork, and high living costs of major urban centers, seeking a slower and more affordable life.

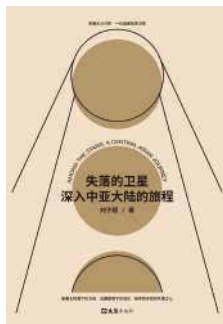
Journalist Li Yingdi was drawn to this quietly growing community and during a period of professional stagnation, she moved to Hegang herself in search of answers: What drove these young people to adopt such lifestyle? Is this way of life sustainable? Had they truly found what the freedom they were looking for?

The people she meets there each carry their own story of exhaustion and escape. There is Wang Hao, a former Foxconn factory worker who, after years of grueling shifts and manipulated working conditions, sinks into apathy before finding a fragile sense of relief in Hegang. Lin Wen leaves her customer-service job in search of independence, opening a small *malatang* business from her apartment, where she lives quietly with her two cats and two moonlight jellyfishes, soothed by their gentle glow. Huahua, who grew up as a left-behind child in the countryside, arrives to Hegang with her sister to build a new life for themselves. Or Wang Li, who made her living translating Japanese manga into Chinese, and was so thoroughly submerged in online life that when she went missing, the people around her didn't notice until it was too late.

In spare, emotionally precise prose, Li Yingdi chronicles a generation navigating compressed labor, economic decline, and the quiet weight of feeling left behind by a society that no longer seems to have a place for them.

LOST SATELLITES: A Journey Deep into Central Asia 《失落的卫星：深入中亚大陆的旅程》

Memoir/Travel, 2020, Thinkingdom, 416 pages.
English Sample available.



- ◎ Over 200,000 copies sold
- ◎ Honorable Mention, International True Story Award, 2019
- ◎ Douban Best Chinese Non-Fiction of 2021
- ◎ One Way Street Bookstore Award, 2021
- ◎ Fangsuo Bookstore Culture Book of the Year, 2021



刘子超 LIU ZICHAO

Liu Zichao, born in 1984, graduated from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking University. He was a journalist for *Southern People Weekly* and *GQ*. Regarded as one of the most promising non-fiction writers in China, he has published travelogues including *Arrival Before Midnight: A Central European Odyssey* (2015), *Chasing the Monsoon: Dispatches from India and Southeast Asia* (2019), *Among the Stans: A Central Asian Journey* (2020). He is also the translator of literary works such as *Thrilling Cities* by Ian Fleming, *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway, and *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler, among others.

A deep journey into the hearland of Central Asia, *Lost Satellites* is not just a travelogue; it's a profound exploration of a world at the crossroads of history and modernity.

For nine years, Liu Zichao traveled deep into the mystical hinterland of the Eurasian continent: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Following the steps of Xuan Zang, a seventh-century Chinese Monk who authored the epoch-making *Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions*, he wanders in between this borderland of globalization and superpowers, embarking on an exploration in search of the past and the future.

Drifting through Pamir's no-man's land, visiting the nuclear explosion test sites in Kurchatov, and treading the abandoned battlefields of the Tajik Civil War, Liu Zichao directs his gaze toward isolated places with the fervent heart of an explorer. Along the journey, he meets people across cultures and societies: a Tashkent princess who fled to the US in pursuit of becoming the "Lady Gaga of Central Asia," the offspring of North Korean exiles who can no longer speak the language of their ancestors, a Tajiki youth who eagerly learns Chinese in the hope of a brighter future in China. Through these encounters, he witnesses and feels the heartbeats of Central Asia's history of modernization. Combining historical and cultural references to the vestiges of the Soviet time, he ponders over the Soviet Union under the umbrella of socialism, leaving indelible marks on this land.

Drenched in the scents of carrot mutton stew, dazed after bowls of hot Kumis, through Liu Zichao's evocative narration, we savor the taste of unique charisma carried in the heart of Central Asia. Like a star derailing from its orbit, as he witnesses it, this land lingers on ambiguity and loneliness, sticking to buoyancy and strength, echoing the very paradox of this world.

Unlike most travel authors, Zichao Liu does not try to speak to the very important people and does not pretend to know it all. Instead, he speaks to the men and women on his way, asking simple questions and getting unusual answers. All this gives his work a touch of authenticity and sincerity which is hardly to beat.

— Margrit Sprecher, jury of True Story Award 2019

Zichao has a pleasingly spare and direct prose style, a unique sense of humor, and a curious and adventurous spirit. In this book, he has led us to a Central Asian heartland that is at once mysterious and surprisingly intimate. Zichao is a keen observer of human nature and a gifted writer, someone we are certain to hear more from in the coming years.

— Jon Lee Anderson, author of *The Fall of Baghdad* and *Che Guevara*

PLEASURE OF THINKING: ESSAYS

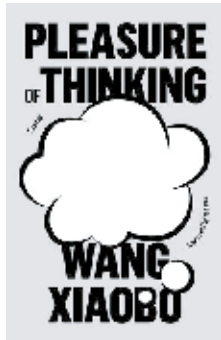
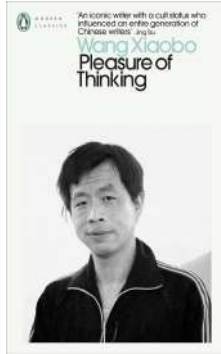
《我的精神家园》

Essays, 2017, Thinkingdom, 208 pages.

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王小波

WANG XIAOBO

Wang Xiaobo was born in Beijing in 1952. During the Cultural Revolution, as millions of urban youths, he was sent to Yunnan province to learn from the farmers and then to Shandong province, where he served as a community teacher. He pursued an undergraduate degree at Renmin University of China in Beijing in 1978. In 1984, he moved to the U.S. and received a master's degree from University of Pittsburgh. Coming back to China in 1988, he worked as a lecturer until 1992 when he resigned to become a full-time writer. He died in 1997 at the age of 44.

A leading literary icon in the 90s China, Wang Xiaobo's cerebral and sarcastic narratives are regarded as a vivid reflection on the failures of individuals, as well as the enormous political, social, and personal changes in 20th century China.

Non-fiction / Essays

A collection of the most representative non-fiction pieces on the importance of critical thought from one of the foremost Chinese intellectuals.

This collection of essays comprising some of Wang Xiaobo's best-known pieces offers insight into the author's time studying in the United States. From his personal take on the intellectual and social situations in modern China to musings about the future of the internet and science fiction cinema, Wang Xiaobo prods his readers, in a gentle, humorous way, to think about what it means to think.

In between, he questions the social sciences and offers his own understanding of how they should be practiced. Several pieces focus on literature, with notable essays devoted to Italo Calvino, Bertrand Russell, and Ernest Hemingway, whom Wang admired greatly. Other pieces are more personal in nature, ranging from vignettes on life in the United States, to a meditation on getting mugged, to the consideration of the question: why do I write? Like his fiction, Wang's nonfiction is never about one thing in particular, often juxtaposing and drawing parallels among disparate discourses. But taken together, his essays and fiction all coalesce toward a sort of intellectual optimism that brilliantly anticipates Chinese thought in the 21st century.

A companion to *Golden Age*, *Pleasure of Thinking* by Wang Xiaobo contains essays, travelogs, book reviews, and more. As well known in China for his essays as for his novellas, Wang's nonfiction pieces offer a key to understanding his at times enigmatic fiction. His central thesis—the importance of independent and critical thinking—is accessible and thought-provoking to readers of all backgrounds.

An ironist, in the vein of Kurt Vonnegut, with a piercing eye for the intrusion of politics into private life...Long after his death, of a heart attack, at the age of forty-four, Wang's views still circulate among fans like a secret handshake.

— **Evan Osnos, *New Yorker***

Consistently insightful and often charming ... A wide-ranging, humorous, often sharp collection.— **Kirkus Reviews**

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