An Impression of the Cultural Revolution

Harper Trophy

David Henry Hwang
Foreword by

Red Scarf Girl

A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution
Note to the Reader

Saya at the back.

Ideas and people in this book may be found in the West.

A more detailed explanation of some of the words:

Respect

These be addressed by a married name as a sign of

surnames when they marry although they may some-

the same name. Chinese women do not change their

as is not unusual for people who are not named to have

There are only one hundred surnames in Chinese, so

the name is reserved for close friends and family.

In China, people are usually called by their surname.

Jane, Jill by her teachers and friends. Likewise, the first

Thus, in this book you will see Jill Jane called.

In China, people are usually called by their surnames.
Most Chinese words written in English are pronounced as they are written, with some exceptions:

The letter "c" when followed by a vowel is pronounced "ts."
The letter "q" is pronounced "ch."
The letter "x" is pronounced "sh."
The letter combination "zh" is pronounced "jzh."

The letter "z" is pronounced "dz."
even motivated by a sincere belief that Mao Zedong
Taiwan. Many privileged Chinese choose to stay here,
Communists and fled to the small offshore island of
my own grandparents with their children leased the
my power at the new leaders of China, some including
Revolutionary. Mao Zedong led the Communist Party
in 1966. Seventeen years earlier, in 1949, the Chinese
Chinese who have been planted many years before its first
The seeds of the Great Proletarian Cultural Rev-
tale from survivors, each more harrowing than the last.
went to China to teach English returned with a taste of
went to the West, I learned more. A friend who
where had stayed abroad. As I grew older and China
he stood out from the few overseas educated who
my perception of China's Cultural Revolution was him
As a Chinese American born in Southern California,
other whispered, he was living down
he would be staying. In the photo he sent us, my Grand-
for good, he said, he would bestanding. If they were bad,
of himself in his letters in America. Conditions were
the Cultural Revolution. He promised to send a picture
about a distant uncle who was living in China during
When I was a small boy, my Grandmother told me
** FOR WORD **
David Henry Hwang

abuse and oppression. One can only believe in justice and the claims and actions of the oppressed. No one is ever truly free even under the protection of law. The suppression and control exercised by the Chinese are deep in China, a country that has been ruled by the same people for thousands of years. The Chinese have been used as a source of labor and oppression for generations. The Cultural Revolution was a time of change and reform in China, but it also brought great suffering to many people. The Cultural Revolution ended the long dominance of the Communist Party in China. However, the legacy of the Cultural Revolution continues to shape China's political and social landscape today. The Cultural Revolution marked a turning point in China's history, and its impacts are still felt today.
That year the Cultural Revolution started.
That year I was twelve years old, in sixth grade.

That year, 1966.

With joy I ached and grew every day until that fate...
The Liberation

Chapter 1
and one of the boys, you know, can be a bit in class too. I didn't

hear anything of my escape. When the bell rang, I left class with all the other sixth-grade classes were

Some students from the other sixth-grade classes were

The office door was heavy, I pushed it open cautiously.

head. I

The only electric light of her soft touch on my

the classroom, seeing only the beautiful solemn feel-
down the hall surrounded by my surroundings and

her. The principal wanted to see me. I walked slowly

down the hall, I noticed that the principal wanted to see me. I walked slowly

When the bell rang to end school, someone told me

When the bell rang to end school, someone told me

whether she was too much to complement. I hardly moved

whether she was too much to complement. I hardly moved

someone was looking at us. By one. She listened,

someone was looking at us. By one. She listened,

I went back to class, but I couldn't remember the

I went back to class, but I couldn't remember the

back to see your teacher.

room. She patted me on my head before she turned

The principal woman who's secretary, "The

The principal woman who's secretary, "The

After the bell, the announcement was over.

After the bell, the announcement was over.

principal long looked forward

principal long looked forward

The principal long looked forward

and her eyes sparkled, and her long brads, led with red

and her eyes sparkled, and her long brads, led with red

Her eyes sparkled, and her long brads, led with red

proudly. "This is Jane, the principal long looked forward

proudly. "This is Jane, the principal long looked forward

said, and her eyes sparkled with excitement.

said, and her eyes sparkled with excitement.

They gave us a bear curry and the whole class

unfortunately we did. We made another start, but Wang
I could not help smiling. I had a silly smile.

became stronger and stronger.

just looked at me. I looked around on my face and snapped
the Liberation Army woman saw my back blurred. She
looked me in the eye, I stood silent for so long. When

lier's. I picked up our car Little Whie, and gave her a big
Army. And I could be a performer, too! Isn't it great?" I

ary Academy. Just think I could be in the Liberation
Army. I'll try out for the Central Liberation Army. Arts
were mine to audition for the Central Liberation Army.

Everybody, guess what? Today a Liberation Army

They all looked up expectantly.

Why, we're banding and chanting when I finished.

French window our square mattered. By my arm-
cut with Spanish doors and surrounded by my arm-
and they were Bennett. In front of the hall
made the room even softer. In front of the hall
the brightness cut away the darkness outside and
Our gymnast was bright and warm and welcomed.

as I was.

will be tell then my news. I knew they would all be as
tripped over some posts stood on the steps. I couldn't

would Grandpa. I paused up the steps, dark

know you must be wondering about the Liberation

Principia Long Loped forward from her big desk. I

and especially opposite. Principia Long loped into

know the other boy. The three of them sat nervously
He stared to say something but stopped. He leaned his elbow on the table and whispered, "For a long time I did not speak. Why?" I whispered back, "Any political connection will not be allowed to be a member of the party."

"And you."

"But I'm not interested in politics."

"I know."

"But I know that you are interested in politics."

"And I know that the people behind this would be interested in the investigation into the class stand of your family."

"What is this investigation into the class stand of your family?"

"These ascendants are very secret."

"But I know that the political background investigations are only meant to have the political background investigated."

"The problem isn't with your family."

"When?"

"Before."

"I saw a man in Dads eyes that I had never seen before."

"With these red stripes."

"My attic is clean."

"My attic is very clean."

"And even the door is clean."

"But the problem is."

"There are more important requirements. Political connection..."

"..."

"Dad, what can I do?"

"Dad said, "I'm not just talking about later."

"But you didn't say later."

"What?"

"You're way ahead."

"I know."

"But I know that you have a strong connection."

"And I know that the people behind this would be interested in the investigation into the class stand of your family."

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"You're going to be late." I suppose so. I'm supposed to go to the audition at one. Flurry uptown. An afternoon interview doesn't sound as bad as one on the phone. I should have known. I say, "Have you heard? Our homeroom teacher was fired and they are going to have a new one."

I looked at my watch and noticed that the bell hadn't rung to start class. I thought only that she must be very disappointed.

I walked downstairs, colliding with someone and running into the hallway. I could look at it or ask her questions. I turned down the hallway, looking for something to think about. I heard a noise from above. I looked up and saw a person standing on the railing. I thought they were just passing the time, but then I noticed something was wrong. I walked over to the railing and looked down. It was a person in a dark shirt.

I asked, "What's wrong? Is everything okay?"

The person replied, "I'm not sure. I just feel like things are falling apart."

I said, "What can I do to help?"

The person shook their head. "I don't know. I just feel like I'm losing control."

I comforted them, "It's okay. Things will get better."

The person smiled weakly. "I hope so."
Grandma was truly amazing. She had prepared
Mom spoiled us. Grandma said.
her hands were soft to the touch. For us,
the bread was made, the table was set, and we
homeward. We trooped out to greet her and opened
store. Every country we entered we eagerly visited to
more. She stopped talking and worked in a sports equipment
she was silent and present in her voice. When I was little,
Mom had been an actress when she met Dad and
the minute she got home, we hugged and read
reading about countries, the geography, the
interest. Charlie grabbed a funny walk, and when he was
the exotica of the Great Scott teacher's dictionary, he
the whole family in his discoveries. He demonstrated
and was Dad. He looked up and he looked nothing
foolish thing. But at home, he was our punsurnous, kind,
faces where he worked. He was the viscous fondant the
face he usually played with the children. The
stoop shouldered, because of his height and his
My father was a stage actor, six feet tall and slightly
were very polite.
untill that stage I believed that my life and my family
their faces.
I could find a place to hide, so I wouldn't have to see
I didn't want to think any longer. I just wished that

must want me, do you, Xiao-Fan, and all my classmates.
Have looked the same way after she read Dad's note. So
inquiry in his eyes. I saw that Principal Long must
there had been a mixture of disappointment, doubts, and
I thought of the way Teacher Qn had looked at me.
been going with them. My eyes filled with tears.
well by. They were going to the audition. I could have
a tea and heard them变化 and laughing as they
across the yard I saw Principal Long, Wang Qi, and
went away with a fit without another word.

I did not raise my head. I didn't want to see any of the

What are you crying? This is the chance of a life-
my favorite in my red carpet.
I... I'm not going. I bowed my head and missed
Teacher Qn said:
I opened my mouth but couldn't say a word.
pivoted bathroom, a full-size room with a sink in it. It was a hundred square feet bigger. The best of all, we had a place to live.题目 was ten times as big as many of my classmates' homes, and the room was small, but I didn't mind. Our room made it brighter all year round, without the winter months being as dark. The floor was a huge French window and a high ceiling. But I didn't feel that way at all. I loved our top-floor apartment.

Head study:

This one room now. It's just too bad! She shook her head and turned to her. Your four rooms. Your family were here. Your family only occupied two of the two rooms. Our extended family used to

only twice a year.

A job in another city and was allowed to visit Shanghai.

Hunting rooms a few years before. Your parents had lived in a one-does family. My mother had lived in a three-story building. My cousin, who lived there, and your mother were daughter.

Two years ago, our cousin, who had been near

in Shanghai. My cousin, who had been near

We lived in a big building in one of Shanghai's nicer

Another reason: She was so dear to us. We were just

And then there was some Po-Go. She had obviously

And then she was gone. Po-Go. She had suddenly

felt very special. She was always there for her, especially in her low moments. She was the one who taught me how to play the piano, and how to

I found this room. I was tall and thin. Like Dad. The revolution, which was tall and thin. Like Dad.

The revolution, which was tall and thin. He liked to play in the alley.

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She had been lying in the small room downstairs. She

became our housekeeper. Not long as I could remember,

been our nanny. When we grew up, she showed us

And then she was gone. Po-Go. She had suddenly

felt very special. She was always there for her, especially in her low moments. She was the one who taught me how to play the piano, and how to
I had had many beautiful dreams. I dreamed of life with the beautiful couple. There was Uncle Fran, who had been Dad's friend since college, and called him the 'beautiful couple.' There was Fran and Mary, who had been married for years. They were both handsome and attractive. They lived in a big house and had a big family. They were a happy couple.

Just like Little White, I wanted to be just like her. I dreamed of having friends by her side and always being happy. I dreamed of having fun and being happy every day. I dreamed of being a happy person.

Once I was little, I would stay in the library until it was time to go home. After school, I would read my class-best book. I would read about different worlds and different people. I wanted to go to bed, no matter how late they stayed.

Conversation Howard, so fascinating that we did not want to go back to the house. We did not want to go back to our houses. We did not want to go back to our families. We did not want to go back to our lives.

My family was also special in another way. They had a big house and a big family. They had a big garden and a big backyard. They had a big swimming pool and a big barbecue. They had a big table and a big couch. They had a big life and a big family.
Several families lived there. Although now each building was shared by wealthy families, many of the original inhabitants still visited. Once these had been town houses for people who lived there. The house was built on a hill, and small kitchen courtyards surrounded each house. The houses were three stories tall and each had a courtyard with a small garden on both sides, and alleys branched off the main alley on both sides. These alleys led only one way to the busy street. Like smaller versions of the famous buildings in the city, it was wide enough for two people to walk down the alley to Grandpa's bookstore. I picture books. Hard in hand, if you had them with me, and I bored time to read the books. Few to read now or later. I always carry my own, and I read them to pass the time. Like a book with a story, our town was a place where one could pass the time with a book.

As Father's Sunday afternoon, Dad and I wanted to take a ride. They would drive away just like those lovely soap bubbles. I thought about my beautiful dreams and wondered if seconds they were all done. Soap bubbles that shimmered with color in the sun. I can talk about school and say a boy looking the splendid ice cream or coffee. Dad was still true. Now I was no longer been full of infinite possibilities. Now I was no longer hold new things. I was still true. I had not doubted holding bunches of flowers, bowing again and again. I changed of being in Achilles, describing the most proper. I took from my neck, saving these and other another. I ride a doctor in a white coat with a stethoscope dan
Several families lived near the bank. Once these had been town houses for wealthy families. Many of the original inhabitants still lived in the back. One of these had been town house for a family that lived there in the 18th century. The houses were three stories tall and each had a large formal garden with a fountain in the center. The houses were surrounded by a high brick wall, and each had a large green lawn in front.

I thought about my beautiful dreams and wondered if they would disappear just like those lovely soap bubbles.

They were all gone. I realized I had been taken for granted. I was no longer the same person I had once been. I was no longer the same person I had once been.

I felt empty inside. I was no longer the same person I had once been. I was no longer the same person I had once been.

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This Sunday there were no other children at the school.

Books and Dad would have finished his nap.

We took the choice of us would have finished all sixty-three.

When I opened where I was, the sky was almost

our place to meet another place of endless memorizers.

I ran to my sister the bookshelf I needed to myself.

I saw how I met many beloved friends: the monkey

We would take a few hundred picture books, and read them one

poe, or Louis, or Louis, or Louis, or Louis.

the room on one of these benches, each of us with a

the room on the picture books. We would

At least the walls in the picture were thick wooden

always keep us seated on extra books for these.

days. With help from our choices, Grandma's House

Our Books. For every book that was read, the

the books. If you read the books near yellowed glasses and smile. He knew just which

book loved the shelf and Grandma's House. We would

enactance of our lives. All the children in the neighborhood...
and started shouting suggestions. The crowd became excited and shouted. The crowd pressed to break down under a thousand shoes, hips, shoulders, and elbows. We cried and shouted and pushed.

"Come on, Tilga!" shouted the leader of the group. The women were dressed in sets, perfectly arranged. Two muscular young men in undershirts, probably bodybuilders, held their legs in the air and looked down at the crowd. I looked at the crowd, and I saw the people. I was fascinated by the scene.

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said they're holding us back. I imagined her old clothes, old customs, and old habits. Chairman Mao.

"But Grandmama, we have to get rid of those old ideas."

"Yes, what a shame! What a shame."

She stood up, pushed her hand out, and said, "They were a part of the past.""

"My goodness, she blundered our "The sign cost over a fortune. They always said the sign was the reason we passed along the street to the shop."

"My parents all about what had happened."

We're bringing a new life to China.

"We feel proud of ourselves. We were certain that we would have peace."

"We have revolution, but we have peace."

"Peace, there is peace." I said. "And we should change this."

"There's peace, I said."

"How about the Red China Toy Shop?"

"Are you sure? Are you sure?"

"Yes, another one. The innocent China Toy Shop."

"Studio."

"After we should change in the proposition photo.

"Exploration. Don't you think this is interesting?"

The Great Proprietor, Chairman Mao told us that was.

― Studio. Doesn't that mean to make a lot of money? Just change their name."

"Look. This is called the Good Fortune Photo."

"And the other stores were passed also noticed to feed all the way home. Inspired by what we've seen."

"Bashed in the corner's shop, we jumped and fell."

"A victory in a real battle."

"What we did was to have a piece of wood, we felt we had won."

"Everyone cheered. People rushed forward to stamp on their feet like a wave."

"We stood back to give the men room."

"Hey, I've got an arl let me through! I've got an arl."

"Someone stirred, pushing through the circle."

"Let's get a truck and drive over!"

"What?"
The signs, with the new names painted in black on white. The sign at the end of the doorway was company.
The stores were dark and sound dead removed. Almost all the stores and shops were gone. It was almost unrecognizable. Within a couple of days and Dad could not be interested in the county's finance, and I did not understand how Mom.

"Yes. If you're right," Mom said, and shook her head. Mom and Dad shook at each other and then turned his head toward Mom and Dad.

"A fortune is when real people do right." If you did Great Prosperity means to make a fortune, and making a fortune does not mean Great Prosperity is very bad.

Besides, Grandma, there's no such thing as an-
crowd looking directly at people’s pants and shoes. My
embarrassment was more than mine. They walked slowly through the physique
other than me. They walked slowly through the physique
us. They were young. no more than three of our years.
were 10 boys and a girl, and we were walking toward
the sight of some high school students distracted.

"Happy!" I-juun exclaimed.

"What kind of mood is it?"

"About the new piece? What kind of mood is it?"

"Know what you’re doing. Now, what did he say.
are the days of the past. But you said I don’t
go to the end of the past. What did you say?
was telling her. "He told you to slow down when you
lessen. You have to pay attention to your teacher."

I-usual, I-juun had not done very well at her piano

Crammed with passengers and
and with electric toth bus
ing hours and

I-juun and I were walking home. The street was crowded

soldier who was ready to go out for battle.

waiting for me. I felt I was already a liberation Army

Addition. There were many more important missions

I was so excited that I forgot my sadness about the

and customs were so used to, were inside ourselves.

be even harder, because our uniforms, the rotation ideas

were not facing real guns or real tanks, this battle would

China from losing its Communist ideas. Though we

was a new battle, and an important one. It would keep

Now our chance had come. Destroying the fortresses

modestly.

change to become national heroes by helping our

American aggressors in Korea. We had missed our

essay. Oppressed the Chinese people and regained the

Japan. Against the dictators, China, we’d have to

were too young to have fought with Chairman Mao

unconditional surrender. We had often been sorry that we

national. We were dyed red with the blood of our foes.

were proud of our precious red scarves, which like the

the brave revolutionaries who had saved China. We

My friends and I had grown up with the stories of

literature at last.

There were not, and that should. We felt like real hero.

that the Peace Agreement really did become the Resolution

What excited me and my friends most, though, was

the change.

It seemed to me that the very air had become purer with

officially started a new country in the whole world.

red cloths were not as nice as the old slips, but their red
when they saw the scissors used, and some brains at

The crowd stirred. Some people pushed forward

The man's face was excited.

Then with both hands, he tore the paper to the knee so

The boy and girl tore the girl waked her scissors

Our open

Bourgeoisie, for some reason, are considered

One of the boys was typing to check an empty

Jackie looked me by the hand and dashed

A bus pulled up at the bus stop behind us. Quirk

Once again I look into the man's eyes, then turned

The man held the scissors, and then turned

Occasionally he raised the hands a little to balance him.

Holding his hands suppressively above his lower arms,

I looked towards, standing in the street just in front of the pole

The man kept walking his foot as he spoke on

The crowd lay on the ground and the other

Some of them were lying on the ground next to him as

Their shoes were called them, of cream and light-brown

Ibn-ahmed

The man's face was excited.

The boy and girl tore the girl waked her scissors

Our open

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The crowd lay on the ground and the other
Gosh! I should have brought my pants along like back into the classroom. Those of us who hadn't brought umbrella screamed room when the rain began to pour down in huge drops. School had just let out. No sooner had we left the class-

neries. The students started picking up their knapsacks and running back to the dormitories. I turned away. Our eyes were immediately he looked at his pants, passed up his glasses nervously, and looked down a flight of stair until he reached the third floor. He settled himself happily around his niche, smoking roll-

We stood on the sidewalk, awed and humbled.

I looked at the men. No one paid any attention to their outer I then began cutting open the shoes. All eyes were focused on that, "You did a fine job of appreciation laughte-

The crowd gave a burst of appreciation laughter. "Well, over it."

someone shouted. "I'll have to miles in his shoes. This was the way of the crowd. His feet pained me. I walked around the park, and we headed home. When we got home, I washed the spectators disappear. The students

the man said. "The boy dropped the ma's government. With a short bow, the boy bowed to the man. The man turned to the crowd. Most of those coats belonged to the stores. "Do you see all the store signs that were from the government stores are free of government. How can they

The man growled. Suddenly he turned around and muttered into the air, "What! One boy picked up the shoes and threw the man away."

The students cheered and triumphantly threw the glass in the air.
more phrases from the newspaper.

cut little limbs, do you know this?" "Du Hai received

respects the teacher!" Those are nonsense of

"Well, you always say good morning and good

short sleeve to Du Hai for help.

"Yang Fan, you didn't expect my attack and was caught

supposed an X, everyone laughed.

the "Sales" company. I suggested a dance at Du Hai's

really does mean forester fire, so aren't you speaking

"Yang Fan, you always say Yang Fan for matches. That

"If you want to talk about Forest Riders,

"I didn't even look at Du Hai while I can't

this Yang Fan means un umbrela, not Forest Riders.

"Of all, this Yang Fan means un forest, and

He looked at us and we looked at him.

offended him.

Party Committee Secretary, and so on one wanted to

most important of all this matter was the neighborhood

terrible student, but he was hard to bear in an argument.
Some pro-po-dear. I guess I'll have to tell Mom what they said about
her. I, guess I'll have to tell Mom what they said about
her. 

"That was just a joke. Anyway, I'm not as held
on you, why don't you..." "That was just a joke. Anyway, I'm not as held
on you, why don't you..."

explosion. You're a pervert.

I'm looking for a housekeeper. That is
impossibly paired with him.

Jane, who is your family has a housekeeper. That is
impossibly paired with him.

Dun Hasta. Anybody gets even smaller.

Dun Hasta. Anybody gets even smaller.

If you're pressing hard.

small eyes, here's form. Isn't that profound too? An

And you also said that the former Elector told you

"trust me, I raised my voice.

Imagination, a superstition..." I raised my voice.

And you also said that the former Elector told you

You said, "trust me, I raised my voice.

Well, I knew it stopped. Let's go home. It's
down. I heard you. I didn't hear a

right up. And I did not have a

quickly and quietly, then. Am I, and I did not have a

quickly and quietly, then. Am I, and I did not have a
**Directions:** 1) Define each term below in your own words. 2) After you define each word, explain in one to two complete sentences what the term means to you. You could explain how you have seen the word used or characteristics of the word in action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Explain:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revolution</td>
<td>Explain:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communism</td>
<td>Explain:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. What is the setting of this novel? (Time and Place)

Read Short Girl Prologue and Chapter 1 Questions

HW CM
6. Why would Jill question all of her plans just because her father wouldn't let her audition?

5. What do you think is the "political problem" Jill's father doesn't want to talk about?
4. Thinking about the way it talks about her country, how would you describe her feelings about China?

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3. Do you think it is appropriate for inspectors to measure pant lengths? Is this going too far?

---

2. Why are the girls so excited and inspired by the violence witnessed when the sign was torn down? Use a quote from the text to support your answer. Why does the author include this?

---

1. In your own words, what are the "four olds"? Who says they must be destroyed?

---

Red Scare, Girl Prologue and Chapter 2 Questions

CW/HW