

The Great Flowing River

A Memoir of China, from Manchuria to Taiwan

Chi Pang-yuan.
Translated by John Balcom

A magnificent translation of a Chinese masterpiece.

SELLING POINTS

- *The Great Flowing River* is a grand memoir. It tells a story of loss, suffering, fortitude, and the nobility of sacrifice. There is a calmness and tremendous power in the wise narrative voice, whose resonance lingers long after the last page is turned. - **Ha Jin, author of *Waiting and other novels***
- This is a memoir of epic proportions. Chi's work is a testimony of this tremendous historical period that is the long twentieth century for the Chinese and the Taiwanese peoples. The English translation of this epochal memoir is most certainly significant. - **Letty Chen, author of *Writing Chinese: Reshaping Chinese Cultural Identity***

THE BOOK

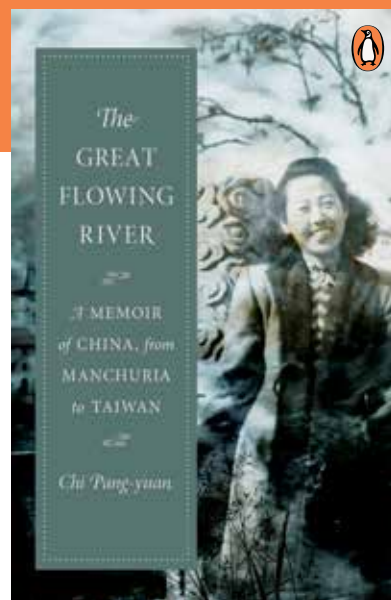
Heralded as a literary masterpiece and a best-seller in the Chinese-speaking world, *The Great Flowing River* is a personal account of the history of modern China and Taiwan unlike any other. In this eloquent autobiography, the noted scholar, writer, and teacher Chi Pang-yuan recounts her youth in mainland China and adulthood in Taiwan.

The Great Flowing River begins as a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of China's war with Japan. Chi depicts her childhood in pre-occupation Manchuria and gives an eyewitness account of life in China during the war with Japan. She tells the tale of her youthful romance with a dashing pilot that ends tragically when he is shot down in the last days of the war. The book describes the deepening political divide in China and her choice to take a job in Taiwan, where she would remain after the Communist victory. A novelistic, epoch-defining narrative, *The Great Flowing River* unites the personal and intimate with the grand sweep of history.

THE AUTHOR

Chi Pang-yuan (b. 1924) is an internationally recognized educator, scholar, and author. She is professor emerita of English and comparative literature at National Taiwan University. She is coeditor of *Chinese Literature in the Second Half of a Modern Century: A Critical Survey* (2000) and *The Last of the Whampoa Breed: Stories of the Chinese Diaspora* (Columbia, 2003), among other books.

John Balcom teaches at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. His Columbia University Press translations include Cao Naiqian's *There's Nothing I Can Do When I Think of You Late at Night* (2009); Huang Fan's *Zero and Other Fictions* (2011); and Yang Mu's *Memories of Mount Qilai: The Education of a Young Poet* (2015).



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