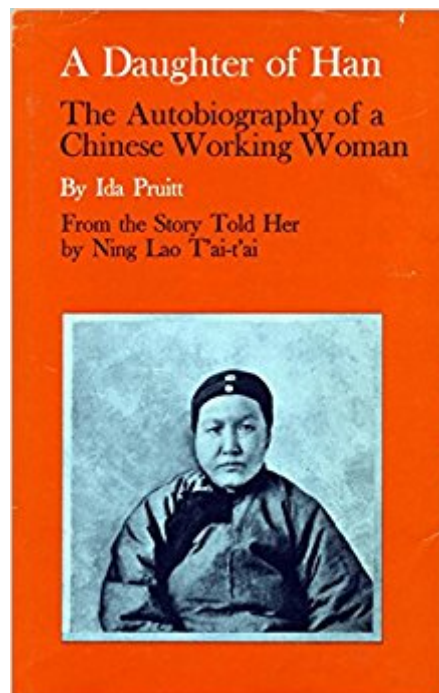




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A Daughter Of Han: The Autobiography Of A Chinese Working Woman



Synopsis

Within the common destiny is the individual destiny. So it is that through the telling of one Chinese peasant woman's life, a vivid vision of Chinese history and culture is illuminated. Over the course of two years, Ida Pruitt—*an* a bicultural social worker, writer, and contributor to Sino-American understanding—*visited* with Ning Lao T'ai-tai, three times a week for breakfast. These meetings, originally intended to elucidate for Pruitt traditional Chinese family customs of which Lao T'ai-tai possessed some insight, became the foundation for an enduring friendship. As Lao T'ai-tai described the cultural customs of her family, and of the broader community of which they were a part, she invoked episodes from her own personal history to illustrate these customs, until eventually the whole of her life lay open before her new confidante. Pruitt documented this story, casting light not only onto Lao T'ai-tai's own biography, but onto the character of life for the common man of China, writ large. The final product is a portrayal of China that is "vividly and humanly revealed."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is surely the warmest, most human document that has ever come out of China. . . . The report of her life and labors has the lasting symbolic quality of literature."*The American Journal of Sociology*"No recent book has better portrayed the common man in China. . . . This short autobiography is right in description of Chinese Social customs. . . . In writing this book, Ida Pruitt has rendered a great service to the Chinese people. For she has accomplished more than sociologists and novelists in their treatises and fiction can do. She has written a personal story

through which the spirit of the common people of China is vividly and humanly revealed." — Pacific Affairs "This book opens a window into the Chinese world. Although the story is of one Chinese woman, the events of her life reach out into the experiences of many other people. They are a part of that wider social and imaginary world from which the Chinese draw meaning to their life." — The Far Eastern Quarterly

Ida Pruitt was a social worker, interpreter, and speaker who worked to advance cultural understanding between China and the United States. She authored several books including *A China Childhood*, *Old Madam Yin: A Memoir of Peking Life, 1926-1938*, and *Tales of Old China*.

for long i have not read such a good story in english. ning lao taitai (ning is a surname, and lao taitai meaning old lady, a polite form for an elderly woman in chinese), is an epitome for a peasant woman in old china. while reading the story, i cannot help thinking of my mother who suffered untold hardships and bitternesses in her life to bring up her 6 children standing on this miserable world. life is much easier here and now ,and ning lao taitai is just a story written in the past tense. as a chinese, i highly value this story, for it provides past customs, traditions and cultures, et al, which are fading out in china.

In this book, Myra Scovel, the brave wife--with a sense of humor--of an American missionary doctor in China before, during, and after the Japanese occupation and then the Communist takeover relates in detail their many experiences. This is a book to cherish.

great

shows how Chinese life has followed traditional patterns that reappear in current Chinese society. Stories of everyday life with love, hate, quarreling and mutual support in the family are like those in the West while the details of the mores differ from those of Europeans and Americans.

awesome book that seriously will make you reflect and appreciate your life.

A very insightful book into the peasant life of a chinese woman. It's often difficult to find biographies of people who weren't nobility or otherwise famous in history.

great reprint at affordable price

One of the worst books I've ever read. So boring

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