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960pp

Old Kiln

By **Jia Pingwa**

Translated by

Christopher Payne Olivia Milburn James Trapp

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REVIEWS and PRAISE

'Jia Pingwa is meticulous as a miniaturist.' - Rónán Hession, *The Irish Times*

'Jia is an anthropologist as much as he is a poet' - *LA Review of Books*

'Jia's reputation as one of the greatest living authors is hard to dispute' - *The China Project*

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Draws from one of China's greatest living author's own memories of the Cultural Revolution as a young bystander
- The frankest account of one of the most controversial episodes in Chinese contemporary history to be published in the People's Republic
- Evocative, detailed depiction of a rural life almost lost to time
- Grapples with the legacy of the violence with a nuanced depiction of how ordinary people can get caught up in zealous hate

Old Kiln follows the residents of one ancient village in rural China as their home descends into chaos during the Cultural Revolution.

Two families preside over Old Kiln, whose existing enmities fan the flames of erupting violence and become warring revolutionary factions. Between them stands Inkcap, a young boy with mysterious origins whose premonitions of impending catastrophe and ability to talk with animals give the novel elements of magical realism. With a panoramic view of the impact of the upheaval on the tight-knit community, the novel offers a realistic depiction of how violence comes to punctuate daily life set against a background of natural beauty rich with history and myth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jia Pingwa began his life as a published author in 1980 and published his first novel in 1986. His 1993 novel *Ruined City* was banned for explicit content and became one of the most pirated books in modern Chinese literature. Jia Pingwa went on to publish a further 11 novels and has won multiple literary prizes.