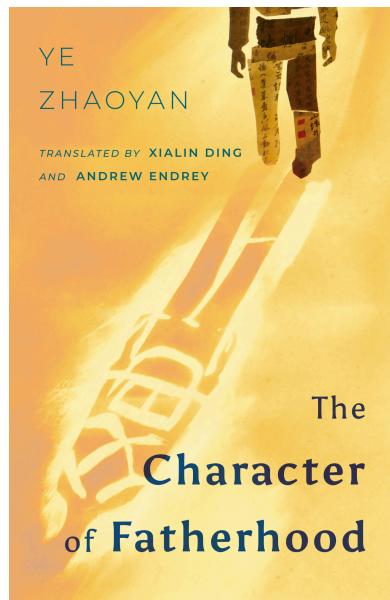


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The Character of Fatherhood

Ye Zhaoyan translated by Andrew Endrey and Xialin Ding

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PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'A treasure ... impeccable and fascinating' - **Carolyn See, *The Washington Post***

'The most generous and satisfying novel to emerge from China in a long time' - **Aamer Hussein, *The Independent***

'A moving and fascinating account' - **Kirkus Reviews**

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A short but poignant illustrated novella about a man's life-long quest to understand his distant father
- An accessible telling of recent Chinese history and a semi-autobiographical work from one of China's most popular authors, who comes from a family of notable writers
- Deals with relatable themes of imperfect relationships, living up to familial expectations and seeking to understand one's own heritage

It takes a lifetime of learning to understand a childhood

The Character of Fatherhood focuses on the search for connection between father and son, set against the history of twentieth-century China. For Zhang Zuo, his father's darkest moments hold tender memories. Abandoned by his parents in early childhood, when he visits his father, a scholar sent to labour in the countryside during the Cultural Revolution, the two bond for the first time. Their paths cross years later when the son is tasked with editing the now-famed academic's writings and uncovers his family's past, a bittersweet story of estrangements and reconciliations much like his own. But he only starts to understand his father's choices when he becomes one himself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ye Zhaoyan (1957 -) is one of China's most popular and prolific writers. Born in Nanjing, he worked as a college teacher and a literary editor before writing full-time. Coming to prominence in the 1980s, he has won many awards including China's Best Novella Award in 1988 and the Writer of Excellence Award in 2018. His books have also been translated into Italian, Korean and other languages.