

ADVANCE INFORMATION

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The Passage of Roses

Tie Ning translated by Hongling Zhang and Jason Sommer

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PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

‘Tie Ning’s command of psychological realism is practically Jamesian... She is an acute, sympathetic observer of Chinese society’ - **Julia Lovell, *The Guardian***

‘A gifted storyteller... intelligent and evocative’ - ***South China Morning Post***

‘Masterfully pins down the kaleidoscope of emotions aroused by her characters’ actions, and moments of pain and conflict are colored with heartrending beauty’ - ***Booklist***

KEY SELLING POINTS

- A novel addressing the legacy of the Cultural Revolution, focusing on the effects of its unspoken trauma - will appeal to readers of Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*
- The first full-length novel from one of China’s most significant female authors, first published in 1989 at a pivotal time in Chinese history
- A psychologically rich portrait of several generations of women portraying different, nuanced versions of the search for female empowerment, including a character that chooses to live as a man

Half the sky, all the weight

The Passage of Roses is an intimate depiction of inherited trauma that examines how women negotiate power across time. During the Cultural Revolution, Mei comes of age in a once-grand courtyard dominated by her grandmother, a survivor of violence who inflicts the same kind of control upon her family that she once resisted. But the matriarch is unable to repel the political storm that comes to their home and leaves death in its wake. Years later, Mei becomes an artist, committing memory to canvas. When the faultlines of the revolution are recorded as scars, can she learn to reframe the female form as a subject for liberation?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tie Ning (1957-) is the author of more than fifty works of fiction and essays and a recipient of major national literary awards. She served as the first female chair of the China Writers Association until 2024, where her leadership has seen modernisation and a much-needed diversification of its membership. Her novel *The Bathing Women* was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize.