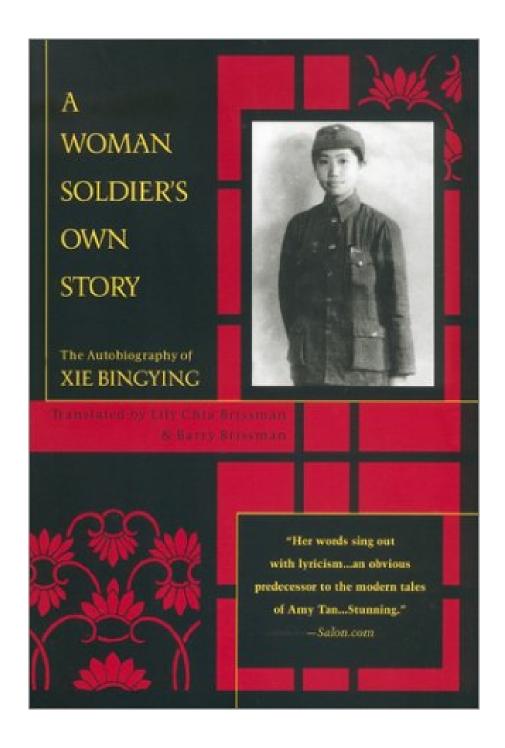


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This first English translation of Xie Bingying's entire autobiography (1906-2000) is the story of a rebellious child who became a soldier, a lover, a teacher-and a writer whose bravery and determination have inspired generations of readers. It provides a fascinating portrayal of a woman fighting to free herself from the constraints of ancient Chinese tradition amid the dramatic changes that shook China during the 1920s, '30s, and '40s.

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This is one of the most inspiring books I've read. Not only is Xie Bingying inspiring, but also the many selfless people whom she met and worked with. I enjoyed her descriptions of people and places. I compliment her family on their translation of her account; the book makes me feel as though I know Xie. It has also given me a much better feel for the Chinese people. Her account describes the magnitude and pain of the people's struggle against oppressive traditions, and mixed into this simultaneously are the fights against invaders and the infighting of the Chinese revolutionary and political movements. The period seems almost to have been all the world's history wrapped up into a single generation in China.

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