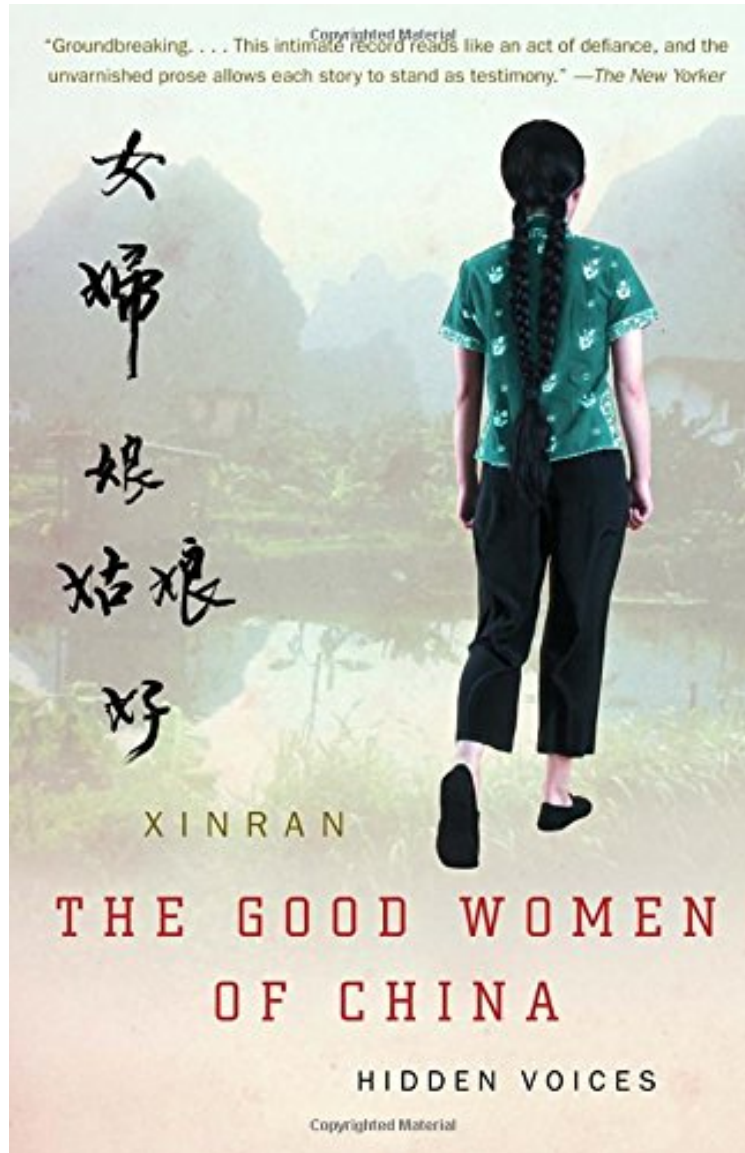


## The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices

Xinran

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#109443 in Books Xinran Xinran 2003-11-11 2003-11-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.201, .43 #File Name: 1400030803256 pages The Good Women of China Hidden Voices | File size: 76.Mb

**Xinran : The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Amazing journalism By Anne from California I assigned this book for my Community College students in my Reading classes for several semesters. It gave me a look at customs so different from our own, and many of the vignettes were absolutely heart breaking. It is a must-read. Pick it up, read it, and share it with everyone you know. Help them to understand the plight of women in China. 0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Heartbreaking but hopeful...By Kindle CustomerWhat an amazing account of such a diverse group of Chinese women including both cultural norms and historical context. I was captivated by the author's compassion and honesty as she discussed patriarchy, homophobia, prison life, natural disasters, death, aging, sexual terrorism, domestic violence, politics, and so much more. Although not written for the faint of heart, this work is a labor of love and an exceptional account of the multiple realities of women's lives in China.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FantasticBy CustomerIt was so deep. Horrifying and beautiful all at once. Chinese women have it tough. They are indeed tough women. Wow... but so are we. Women are tough...

When Deng Xiaoping's efforts to open up China took root in the late 1980s, Xinran recognized an invaluable opportunity. As an employee for the state radio system, she had long wanted to help improve the lives of Chinese women. But when she was given clearance to host a radio call-in show, she barely anticipated the enthusiasm it would quickly generate. Operating within the constraints imposed by government censors, *Words on the Night Breeze* sparked a tremendous outpouring, and the hours of tape on her answering machines were soon filled every night. Whether angry or muted, posing questions or simply relating experiences, these anonymous women bore witness to decades of civil strife, and of halting attempts at self-understanding in a painfully restrictive society. In this collection, by turns heartrending and inspiring, Xinran brings us the stories that affected her most, and offers a graphically detailed, altogether unprecedented work of oral history.

From Publishers WeeklyIn 1988, Xinran (ne Xue Hue) was selected to work in state media and ended up at the Nanjing radio station, where she began broadcasting "Words on the Night Breeze" a year later. The show featured letters and calls from ordinary women discussing their problems, and was hugely successful and revelatory, as women had few avenues, public or private, for talking about their lives, which were frequently grim and often harrowing. Xinran quit the show in 1995 to try to help her listeners directly, but by 1997 she had burned out. She persuaded the radio station authorities to let her travel to England, where she began teaching Chinese, met and married English book agent Toby Eady and wrote this memoir of her experiences on the program, including a compendium of some of the most painful of the "Night Breeze" stories. She presents narratives from women who live "in emotionless political marriages" and those, the majority, who struggle "amid poverty and hardship." They have commonly experienced sexual abuse: rape, frequently gang rape. Apparently designed to bring the women's horrific stories to light, the book doesn't do enough to situate them clearly in the context of the show as a state-produced product, or within Xinran's own difficulties in processing and presenting the material on the air (or in this book). The results will leave readers sympathetic to the grave enormity of the women's circumstances, but—due perhaps to minor translation problems and Xinran's lingering political worries—somewhat confused about how Xinran tried to deal with their plights. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From The New YorkerIn 1989, Xinran, a Beijing journalist, began broadcasting a nightly program on state radio that was devoted entirely to personal affairs—a radical concept in Communist China. In response, she received thousands of letters from women, many with questions about sexuality; one woman wondered "why her heart beat faster when she accidentally bumped into a man on the bus." Eventually, Xinran persuaded her superiors to let her share some of these letters on the air, and in this groundbreaking book, written after she moved to London, in 1997, she has also included stories that didn't make it past government censors. A teen-ager commits suicide after learning that a neighbor has seen her boyfriend kiss her forehead; a university student speaks casually of becoming a "personal secretary," or mistress, to a rich man; a Kuomintang general's daughter goes mad after witnessing the torture of the family that sheltered her. This intimate record reads like an act of defiance, and the unvarnished prose allows each story to stand as testimony. Copyright 2005 The New Yorker From BooklistWhen an assailant cornered Xinran just outside a London train station and demanded that she hand over her purse, the author fought ferociously to keep her belongings. Cash and credit cards were not at the source of her tenacity; it was the manuscript lying within titled *The Good Women of China*. Its loss would have been emotionally devastating to Xinran because writing the tragic true stories of China's forgotten women had been a spiritually debilitating experience that she could not endure again. The book took root while Xinran was hosting a daily radio show in China. She knew that through the centuries the female population had been kept uninformed about issues of sexuality and that China's political mayhem had on so many levels neutralized emotional affection. As Xinran shifted the focus of her program to women's issues, she began to receive letters from her female listeners that told of unspeakable horrors and unbelievably painful lives. *The Good Women of China* is a moving compilation of these stories that will bring even the hardest of hearts to tears. Elsa Gaztambide Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved