



Captive Spirits: Prisoners of the Cultural Revolution

By Yang Xiguang, Susan McFadden

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Captive Spirits is the gripping prison memoir of Yang Xiguang, a high school student who was arrested during the Cultural Revolution for writing a political essay. He spent the next ten years in a succession of Chinese gulags and vividly relates the poignant stories of his cellmates--activists, intellectuals, "rightists," thieves, and madmen--as well as his own intellectual and spiritual journey.

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Review

"Lively, funny, sad, thought-provoking. It is not principally about politics, but people--those who crowded with Yang into dark cells in the 1970s. From murderers to capitalists to Christians, he gives us a glimpse of the 'little people' of China, their ways and their fates."--*South China Morning Post*

"Yang Xiguang depicts these "Captive Spirits" with all the stolid humor of a Solzhenitsyn and all the social searching of a Djilas. Yang's tales of fellow prisoners, who survive hunger, harassment, failed escapes, and state-organized murder, are enough to capture any reader's heart. These are free spirits."--Lynn T. White III, Princeton University

About the Author

Yang Xiguang is Reader in the Department of Economics at Monash University, Australia. Susan McFadden is a writer and translator based in Princeton.

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