

Praise for Ms Tang's novel,
“I want to catch more a~holes!”



“As it happens, Bridget, I just now finished reading it and was about to email you my reaction. It’s good! Fast, funny, trenchant, with a good mix of emotion and sorrow, too. That’s no small feat. There’s a sweet, cocky rage that undergirds the narrative in an uncannily smart way. Congrats! And thanks for sending me the copy, which I’ll treasure always.”

– R.W.



“You put all of yourself into it and it is compelling, thoughtful and very, very, very sad. It is a story that will break your heart over and over. But, it does not end there. Shanshan and her friends face shame and pain and fear with such determination, with such generosity, and with such open, loving hearts that there can be no other possibility but to triumph! Along the way, they meet intriguing characters who support them in their endeavor to expose and ultimately right a terrible wrong! This is an important book for all but especially for anyone who is suffering from or has suffered abuse from those who profess to love them.”

– D.T.



“a very compelling book – disturbing, fascinating, thoughtful, and finally uplifting story. I found myself thinking frequently during the day about the characters -- such strong, warm, yet vulnerable women. Inspiring!

– A.W.



“This book is so full of heart and hope. Nobody should ever have to experience a childhood like Shanshan’s—one whose horror and cruelty do not abate even into adulthood—and anybody who has had to experience such torment would be perfectly justified if s/he grew up to hate the world and trust no one. But Shanshan beats the odds marvelously and miraculously, finding joy in the goodness of the people around her, and being uncannily able to spot goodness in even the least impressive person she encounters. Shanshan’s tale embodies and exemplifies the great idea that the meek shall inherit the earth: the friends she makes along the way provide her with all the strength she needs finally to turn her back on the abusers in her life. Shanshan deserves all the best that life has to offer, as does Ms. Tang for writing this bold, brave story.”

– H.A.



“The writer of this book is a winner. A champion. It is written with such passion. I know the book will save many lives! This is not a children’s novel. There are strong emotions here. Life and death decisions. The conversations Shanshan has with her dead grandmother are particularly poignant. It is hard to read them without getting a lump in your throat. Congratulations. This is a very beautiful book. ... Market it! Get a new email address. You will receive emails from strangers that your book has saved their lives!! What an gorgeous narrative. Such a sweeping tour of the heart. ... It's a Chinese story, but it's a universal story. It's a masterpiece!”

– B.P.



“Full of energy! Impressive, really! Wishing your book is going to be a bestseller! Hope your book is receiving well-deserved recognition.”

– E.B.



“I finished your book today. Wow! what a story! The characters are like those from a Dickens novel; very clear difference between good and evil. I was happy that things worked out for ShanShan, Hua and her girls.

The subplot of welfare fraud was especially interesting to me. I assume that is not totally fictional. I was unaware such middle class fraud was taking place. Congratulations on your book. It is quite an accomplishment. Thanks so much for sending it to us.”

– J.J.




“I received the package and finished reading the book. Wow. very intense story line. Thank you for sending . . . I have already shared the basis of the book with a few people. Will share this story with many more people.”

– J.T.




“Both gut-wrenching and heart-warming at the same time. Shanshan's story is one that has distinct cultural drivers yet it can be highly appreciated no matter one's background. Far more than just an intriguing narrative, may it serve to shed a powerful light on abuse and the struggles to deal with it, helping others to stand up and break free through their own unique circles of support.”

– J.R.




“Your new novel is so inspiring and also disturbing. Is this form of welfare cheating common? This was such a great portrayal of how someone who is abused is trapped by their circumstances. Thank you for thinking of me.”

– M.R.




“Your new novel is gripping . . . I am astounded at your remarkable command of English, in all its subtlety and slang. Terrific job!!”

– G.H.



“How did you do it?! You got every facet of the human condition, from the agony to the ecstasy! Amazing! You let it all out! I haven’t read for a long time; but I couldn’t put it down. It’s cross generations, cross cultural; old school thinking is so bound up over these issues, and you’re breaking the taboos. I wouldn’t have understood Iris Chang, if I hadn’t read your book first. It opened up a new world for me. I’m going through it again so that I can be with it.”

– V.M.



“I had to get up at 2:30am to finish reading the book! I like the ending! I love "Charlie" even though I've never met him. I love the kids! I've lent it to a friend; I want to make sure I get it back because I don't want to lose it. . . . I have read a lot, I usually don't want to re-read; but your book, yes, I want to re-read it!”

– B.M.



“If you want to read an action packed narrative that puts an upside down world right side up, then this volume is a must read. The author's determination to tell her story is unmatched . . . This work is the embodiment of injustice experienced by many Chinese people. Whether a victim of filial piety or a commoner in China forced to give up one's home, these traditions are causing pain. Could only a victim present with such frightening emotion these harsh truths ...?”

– F.B.



“Your new novel is spellbinding, thought provoking, and sometimes disturbing. Shanshan and her friends are delightful characters, so full of life, love, generosity and determination. As they struggle to free themselves from the constraints of cultural mores, they prove that envy and avarice divide and destroy, while love and generosity unite and bring out the best in everyone. The reader feels reassured that 'sun never dies'.”

– P.Y.



“I finished reading your latest book this morning. You have created a very impressive portrait in Shanshan Song - she is immensely fragile and in many ways seems naive, but gradually grows an inner strength which carries her through the end. The other characters contribute in convincing ways to her growth; the children provide a supporting commentary as well as a welcome change of pace from the darkness of the core story.

The story has the stylized flavor of a fable or a Nuo drama, with the ghostly character of the Grandmother,

the fantasies of the children, and the "evils" with their masks which they can whip on and off at need. (In fact, if I were making a dramatic adaptation, I would make masks an integral part of the staging.)

The message of personal and social re-birth and regeneration is a powerful one.

Best of luck in finding a wider audience for your work.”

– A.J.



“In *I want to catch more a~holes!* we are presented with the extremely conflicted and psychotic relations in Shanshan’s very dysfunctional family, exacerbated by the culture shock under which its members find themselves. Still functioning under the old cultural norms in which children owe their progenitors abject subservience, Shanshan’s slow but deepening realization of the rights and liberties afforded her in her new environment creates an unsustainable clash with her parents and sister. The suspense of whether she will be able to free herself from the cultural norms that chain her or remain a victim and succumb to her parents’ control carries us throughout the book.

In a manifestation-oriented narrative style that approximates that of a stage play, we get to know the characters and their circumstances through their reactions, actions and words. With almost no description, explanation, interpretation and summarization, it is practically only by means of dialogues, sometimes stark and brutal, other times

soothing and loving, that we find out what is in the characters' minds and what they are feeling. There is also little recourse to character introspection, except for the author's effective use of recollection on the part of Shanshan. Through the flashbacks in her mind we learn about her childhood, the environment of hostility and cruelty in which she grew up, and the redemptive role that her grandmother played in it.

The black and white portrait of rigidly and narrowly presented characters resemble those of a fairy tale, where the good fairies are epitomized by the giving, selfless grandmother, as well as by Shanshan, Hua, their friends, and the homeless. The mean fairies are embodied by Shanshan's parents and sister and Hua's parents-in-law. Through these characters we see the forces of compassion, generosity and honesty fighting to death against those of cruelty, greed and egotism. The suffering which Shanshan needs to go through illustrates how difficult it is to change the beliefs and attitudes of the culture where we grew up. In addition, the heart-breaking process of realizing that her biological family can only hurt her leads to the discovery that it is possible to create your own family among those who support, love and validate you. And that is her salvation.”

– N.E.



“The author's breezy style and vivid characters kept me reading just one more chapter until late at night. There are charming characters and real agents of evil, all bundled into a family drama that goes way beyond the ordinary. The issue of mental

harassment is well-documented in the story but the story's locale, Hopeland, has also been well-named.”
– M.N.



“My sister was reading your novel as I was reading another novel. I am reading through the early part of your novel and I am feeling the pain of Shanshan. I like your novel. It provides the reader a unfiltered look into the thoughts of a patient, submissive and meek person who unfortunately is an abuse victim. I see that your novel speaks for the silent faction of our society - the abuse victims. I hope to stay with her throughout the novel and see how she overcomes her lifelong suffering from abuse.”

– S.R.



“I've been enjoying your book ...! Shanshan's parents are real pieces of work - I hope this isn't autobiographical, or even a biography of friends. Right now, Shanshan and Hua are beating up on the elders and starting to recruit others in their quest to stop the myriad of abuses with the capable help of their "Tough cookie!"

At any rate, fun book, intriguing characters, compelling story! I'm looking forward to finishing it.

Thank you for sharing.”

– J.S.



“you can read it from multi-levels -- 1) a suspense movie; 2) cultural ... escape into another culture; 3) what is abuse really about? Fear! 4) it's about hope! ... Ms. Tang does not hold back in this tense, exciting, and engaging novel. Just when you think you have the book figured out, you turn the page and there is

another shock. Set in present day America, a young Chinese woman arrives in California to escape an abusive family. Her worst nightmare is realized when her cruel parents follow her to the country, hoping to abuse her further, and use her in an attempt to commit welfare fraud. The narrative of her family life gets darker and darker, and she is clearly terrified. The contrast between the innocent little girls of her friend and her greedy, incestuous family deepens the low valleys and high mountains of her heart in this incredible landscape of a young lady fighting for her very soul.

Ms. Tang, a Chinese scholar and teacher from Shanghai has written several novels in both languages, but never one with such, incredible universal understanding of the human heart, its sufferings, its courage and its triumphs. ...”

– B.P.



“Your novel is fierce with the heartache of abuse at its core. Shanshan’s innocence and purity shine forth in her high moral standards and desire for justice. Her brightness is juxtaposed with the darkest depths of her terrifying trials and tribulations at the hands of her cruel and greedy family. You capture the essence of how a powerless individual discovers she can take back her power with courage, a fighting spirit, and a family of friends and overcome the injustice, harm and criminal intentions of her shamelessly abusive relatives. A thought provoking tale of how innocents and society can be victimized by conniving sociopaths and prevail in the end. A powerful read!”

– J.H.