



INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2017



Archipel Press is a new Chinese independent publisher, based in Shanghai. It was founded by Peng Lun, former deputy editor of foreign literature at Shanghai 99 in 2017. Working with some Chinese state publishers, the imprint publishes 10-20 literary fiction and narrative non-fiction titles in translation a year. The first titles are due to launch in January 2018, including *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

Archipel Press also represents some important Chinese writers for the foreign rights. This small rights guide highlights three important Chinese writers.

Blossoms/Flowers of Shanghai

by Jin Yucheng (金宇澄)

Shanghai Literature & Arts Publishing House

March 2013

600,000+ copies sold in China

30+ literary awards including Mao Dun

Literature Prize, the most prestigious literary

award in China, given every four years.

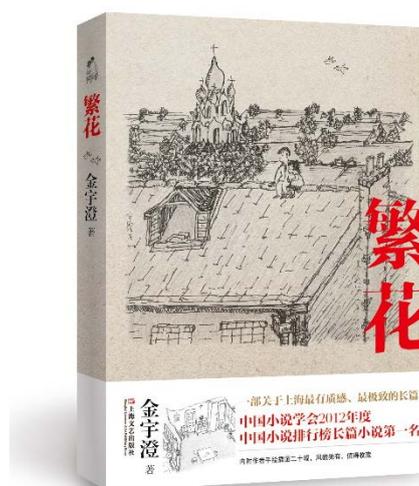
Film Rights sold to **Wong Kar-wai**, Hong Kong
film director (film release time: 2020/2021)

Translation rights sold:

Korea: Humanist Publishing

Vietnam: Vietnamese Writers Publishing House

Taiwan: INK Publishing (2013)



444 pages, 20 illustrations by author

English translation sample available

With a split time frame, *Blossoms* interweaves two groups of chapters set in two separate eras in recent Chinese history: the 1960s to the mid-1970s (spanning the Cultural Revolution), and the early 1990s (when the nation fully embraced a market economy and an individualistic ethos). It portrayed a group of people from different classes during the two eras. In the novel, you can see love affairs, adultery, lust and desires, childhood memory and nostalgia in the ordinary lives that can be universally understood. It's regarded as the best novel about modern urban life in China.

About the author

Jin Yucheng is a Chinese novelist and literary editor. He was born in Shanghai in 1952. During the Cultural Revolution, He spent eight years on a farm in Northeast China. In 1977, he returned to Shanghai and worked in West Shanghai Workers' Culture Palace.

Jin Yucheng started to publish works in 1985, His debut story, *The Lost River* won a national essay contest. In 1988, his novel, *The Wind Birds*, won a fiction Award sponsored by Shanghai Literature magazine. At the same year, he was transferred to Shanghai Writers Association and worked as an editor of Shanghai Literature since then.

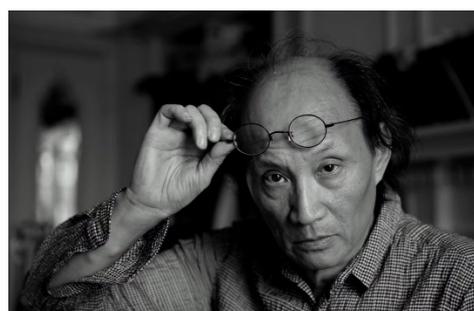


photo © Wang Yin

Literary noir

French Concession

by Xiao Bai (小白)

369 pages

Shanghai 99, 2011;

Citic Press, 2017(new edition)

Translation rights sold:

Italy: Sellerio Editore 2013

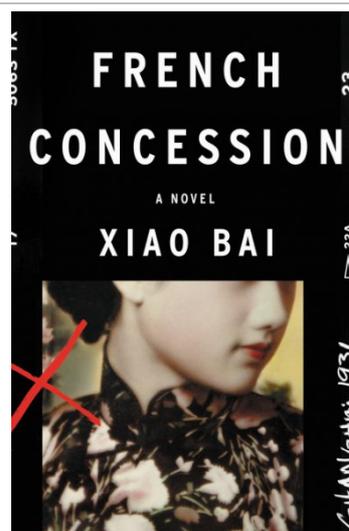
US: Harper 2015

UK: Oneworld Publications 2016

France: Editions Philippe Picquier 2016

Germany: Suhrkamp 2017

Holland: Signatuur



French Concession is a heart-stopping literary noir, a richly atmospheric tale of espionage and international intrigue, set in Shanghai in 1931—an electrifying, decadent world of love, violence, and betrayal filled with femme fatales, criminals, revolutionaries, and spies.

A boat from Hong Kong arrives in Shanghai harbor, carrying an important official in the Nationalist Party and his striking wife, Leng. Amid the raucous sound of firecrackers, gunshots ring out; an assassin has shot the official and then himself. Leng disappears in the ensuing chaos.

Hsueh, a Franco-Chinese photographer aboard the same boat, became captivated by Leng's beauty and unconcealed misery. Now, she is missing. But Hsueh is plagued by a mystery closer to home: he suspects his White Russian lover, Therese, is unfaithful. Why else would she disappear so often on their recent vacation? When he's arrested for mysterious reasons in the French Concession and forced to become a police collaborator, he realizes that in the seamy, devious world of Shanghai, no one is who they appear to be.

Coerced into spying for the authorities, Hsueh discovers that Therese is secretly an arms dealer, supplying Shanghai's gangs with weapons. His investigation of Therese eventually leads him back to Leng, a loyal revolutionary with ties to a menacing new gang, led by a charismatic Communist whose acts of violence and terrorism threaten the entire country.

His aptitude for espionage draws Hsueh into a dark underworld of mobsters, smugglers, anarchists, and assassins. Torn between Therese and Leng, he vows to protect them both. As the web of intrigue tightens around him, Hsueh plays a dangerous game, hoping to stay alive.

"[An] absorbing novel of character and mood...Readers of Alan Furst's noir novels of Europe on the edge of World War II will find much to enjoy in this superior novel." — Library Journal

"Rich with historical detail, Xiao Bai's French Concession is a sensual, intellectual thriller--which like human memory, is pulled from the chaos of truth and lies, desire and regret." — Simon Van Booy

"A complex and fast-paced plot that twists around the murder, in the spring of 1931, of a Nanking politico on his arrival in Shanghai...A political and police novel, historical fresco, and mirror of human passions." — Il Manifesto (Italy)

Cut Off

by Xiao Bai (小白)

140 pages

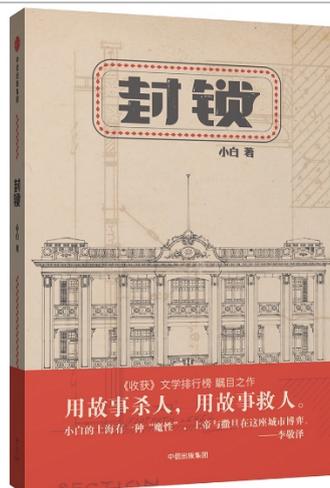
Citic Press, April 2017

Winner of Shanghai Literature Prize, 2017

Translation rights available

English translation sample available

Film, TV, theatre rights sold



The story happened in 1941 when Japan occupied Shanghai during WWII. An important Chinese collaborator with Japanese was killed by a bomb in his office. The narrator of the novel is an aide of the victim. To find the assassin and how the bomb exploded, the Japanese special agents cut off the whole building, forbidding all residents to leave, including the victim's team members.

Eventually, a writer, who lived on serializing romance and adventure stories on tabloids, confessed to the Japanese major that he happened to encounter a strange lady in the stairs on the date of explosion. His confession lead to more questions and confusion. Was he a liar just for food and freedom, for fooling the Japanese? Readers would concluded with the Japanese officer that the assassination was very similar with a revenge story that he serialized on a newspaper two months ago. This guy seemed the assassin. But is that true? In the end, the writer triggered a second bomb in a very unexpected way and killed the Japanese major and himself.

Cut Off a very intelligent and intense novel, with layer in layer, story in story, and the author keeps the suspense to the end. Through the writer, the main character, the author also explored the role of a writer in storytelling, and makes it more literary and fascinating than a mere locked room mystery.

About the author

Xiao Bai was born in 1968 in Shanghai. He is the author of *Horny Hamlet*, a prize-winning collection of essays, and the novel *Game Point*. In 2013 his novella, *Xu Xiangbi the Spy*, won Shanghai Literary Prize. *French Concession* is his first novel to be translated into English. His latest novel is *Cut Off*. He lives in Shanghai.



Literary novel

The Elephant

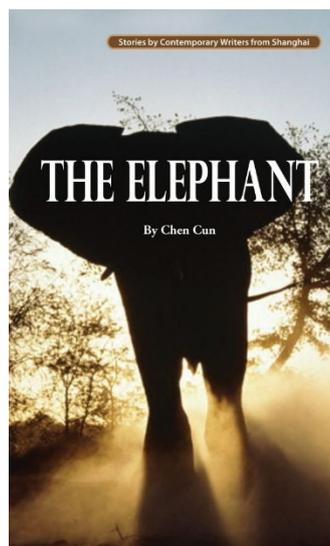
by Chen Cun (陈村)

Better Link Press Oct. 2010

178 pages

Many adjectives could be used to describe Shanghai-based author Chen Cun (b. 1954). Some that seem apt are obsessive, imaginative, offbeat, meticulous, satirical, erotic, enigmatic, absurd, innovative...and ambiguous.

—Michael Day



With This short novel by one of China's best modern writers is a compelling exploration of the human psyche. Tormented by memories of his former lover and the sudden appearance of the beautiful and enigmatic Lin Yi, the author embarks on a stunning narrative journey: a voyeuristic quest across the African wilderness through the eyes of an elephant. Tracking his character's development from birth to adulthood against his own emotional maturation, the writer becomes a victim to his own imagination as he struggles to deal with the intellectual and physical challenges of growing old.

Set simultaneously in Shanghai and Africa, the writer's relationship with his literary creations challenges our conventional understanding of composition, truth and characterization while exposing the psychosomatic consequences of unobstructed imagination.

About the author

Born in Shanghai in 1954, Chen Cun has at various times in his life found work as a farmer, manual laborer, and teacher. He graduated from the Department of Political Education of Shanghai Normal College in 1980. Since first publishing his writings in 1979, he has produced a large body of work, including a four-volume Collection of Writings by Chen Cun, two novels Once Upon a Time and A Pretty Flower And, three collections of novellas, Travel along the Dadu River, Footsteps on the Roof, The Blue Flag, and several compilations of shorter pieces, such as This Lonely Night, A Classical Man, Song of Life, Laozi the Novel, and Confucius. In 1985 Chen Cun won two literary distinctions, the National Ethnic Literature Award for his novel The Blue Flag and the Shanghai Literary and Artistic Works Award for his collection of novellas Travel along the Dadu River. He has also won the Shanghai Literature Award three times.



Acquisition list of Archipel Press, 2017

House of Names by Colm Toibin (RCW)

Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney (Wylie)

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin (Estate of James Baldwin)

If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin (Estate of James Baldwin)

The Secret Life: Three True Stories by Andrew O'Hegan (RCW)

Jusus' Son by Denis Johnson (Aragi Agency)

Young Skins by Colin Barrett (Conville & Walsh)

Ghachar Ghochar by Vivek Shanbhag (The Debi Agency)

The Lost Pianos of Siberia by Sophy Roberts (Conville & Walsh)

Contact information

Peng Lun

Publisher of Archipel Press

Email: penglun@archipelpress.com