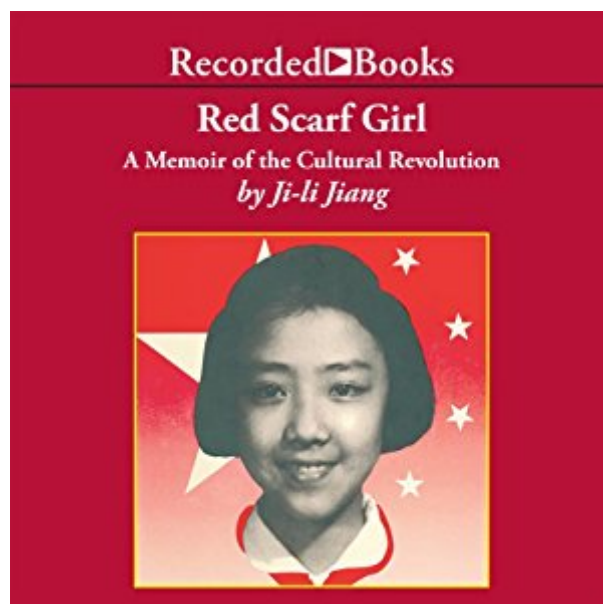


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# Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir Of The Cultural Revolution



## Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has brains, friends, and a bright future. Then Mao Zedong launches China's infamous Cultural Revolution. Soon school is suspended and students are getting caught up in the fervor of Mao's extreme politics. When Ji-li's family is accused of capitalist crimes, all of her beautiful dreams burst like soap bubbles. Because Ji-li's grandfather was a landlord, her family is harassed and humiliated. Their home is searched, and they live in constant fear. Nonetheless, Ji-li remains loyal to her beloved Chairman Mao and endeavors to "reform her ideology". But with her father's detention, Ji-li is faced with the most difficult choice of her life. Told with simple grace, this is the true story of a family's courage in one of the most terrifying eras of modern history. Christina Moore's moving narration makes the Jiang family's saga unforgettable.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

In today's world, people are taught that heroic people must influence the masses. Only those who have monumental physical strength, celebrity status, or piles of money have the resources to affect the world around them. *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-Li Jiang disproves these notions. This non-fiction book tells the story of a 12 year-old girl growing up in the midst of the Cultural Revolution who becomes a hero to her family. The glossary at the end of the book defines the Cultural Revolution as "The social and political upheaval that overtook China from 1966 to 1976. During this time many innocent people were ruthlessly persecuted. The Cultural Revolution was launched by Chairman Mao, supposedly to rid the country of anti-Communist influences. Long afterward it was revealed that Chairman Mao unleashed this chaos in order to protect his own political position." (pg. 276) Red

Scarf Girl is a moving, well-written story. The book opens with a prologue, in which Ji-Li tells the reader the single most important lesson in school: "Heaven and earth are great, but greater still is the kindness of the Communist Party; father and mother are dear, but dearer still is Chairman Mao." (pg. 1) The people of China are brainwashed with this mantra, but Ji-Li does not feel it plays a large role in her life until sixth grade. Always a high achiever, she is looking forward to attending Shi-yi, an elite middle school. Then, Chairman Mao nullifies all teacher recommendations and divides children into schools by neighborhood; meaning Ji-Li will not go to Shi-yi. This is only the beginning of Ji-Li's problems. She becomes an outcast in school, her house is searched and Communist officers take everything of value, all because of her family's middle class status.

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