

Asian & Pacific Islander Creators

Nonfiction, Biographies, and Traditional Tales

Nonfiction

Abery, Julie and Chris Sasaki. *Sakamoto's Swim Club: How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory* (797.21 ABE). When the children of workers on a 1930s Maui sugar plantation were chased away from playing in the nearby irrigation ditches, local science teacher Soichi Sakamoto stepped in and began training them how to swim, using his science background to help formulate a rigorous training routine. They formed a swim club and began to win swimming events around the world. And then one day, the proud Sakamoto saw an impossible dream come true --- Olympic gold!

Amara, Philip and Oliver Clyde Chin. *Awesome Asian Americans: 20 Stars Who Made America Amazing* (920.009 AMA). A compelling collection featuring 20 profiles of Asian Americans. Challenged by racism, prejudice, and stereotypes, these pioneers forged ahead and became role models for generations to come, across a variety of backgrounds and vocations.

Atkins, Laura and Yutaka Houlette. *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* (940.53 ATK). When the United States went to war with Japan in 1941, the government forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes on the West Coast and move to distant prison camps. This included Fred, whose parents had immigrated from Japan many years before, but Fred refused to go. He knew that what the government was doing was unfair. And when he got put in jail for resisting, he knew he couldn't give up.

Brockenbrough, Martha and Grace Lin. *I am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story* (305.8 BRO). When American-born Wong Kim Ark returns home to San Francisco after a visit to China, he's stopped and told he cannot enter: he isn't American. What happens next would forever change the national conversation on who is and isn't American. After being imprisoned on a ship for months, Wong Kim Ark takes his case to the Supreme Court and argues any person born in America is an American citizen.

Chen, Ming and Wah Chen. *Escape: One Day We Had to Run* (305.906 CHE). Throughout history, ordinary people have been forced to leave their families and homes because of war, famine, slavery, intolerance, economic and political upheaval, or climate change. These true stories of escape show how courageous people all around the world have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles in their flight to freedom.

Chin, Jason. *Your Place in the Universe* (530.8 CHI). A non-fiction introduction to the massive scale of the known universe!

Du, Fei. *China Through Time: A 2,500 Year Journey Along the World's Greatest Canal* (951 DU). Embark on an unforgettable time-travelling journey through Chinese history. Span 2,500 years and more than 1,000 miles along China's Grand Canal with panoramic illustrations to bring key periods and turning points in the canal's history to life.

Francis, Angela Sangma and Lisk Feng. *Everest* (954.96 FRA). The highest spot on Earth, the ultimate challenge for mountain-climbing adventurers, the towering figure of Sagarmatha, the Goddess of the Sky. Travel back to the mountain's ancient origins, learn about its flora and fauna, and discover the rich culture and history surrounding it.

Grady, Cynthia and Amiko Hirao. *Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind* (940.531 GRA). When Executive Order 9066 is enacted after the attack at Pearl Harbor, children's librarian Clara Breed's young Japanese American patrons are to be sent to prison camp. Through the three years of their internment, the children correspond with Miss Breed, sharing their stories, providing feedback on books she gave them, and creating a record of their experiences.

Hood, Susan and Pathana Sornhiran. *Titan and the Wild Boars: The True Cave Rescue of the Thai Soccer Team* (796.525 H00). One afternoon, eleven-year-old Titan, his soccer team, and their coach explored local caves. They crawled through the narrow tunnels in the dark to reach the center of the cave. When they turned to go home, heavy rains had flooded the tunnel. They were trapped. With rising waters and monsoon season upon them, time and oxygen were running out. For older readers, try *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat (796.525 S00), which explores the story further, combining first hand interviews of rescue workers with in-depth science and details of the region's culture and religion. It shows how both the complex engineering operation above ground and the mental struggles of the thirteen people below proved critical in the life-or-death mission.

Javaherbin, Mina. *My Grandma and Me* (955 JAV). While Mina is growing up in Iran, the center of her world is her grandmother. Whether visiting friends next door, going to the mosque for midnight prayers during Ramadan, or taking an imaginary trip around the planets, Mina and her grandma are never far apart, making lifelong memories.



Jimenez, Gidget Rocoles. *All About the Philippines: Stories, Songs, Crafts and Games for Kids* (959.9 JIM). An incredible journey across the colorful island nation of the Philippines with Mary, Jaime, and Ari—three Filipino cousins who look entirely different and yet are the best of friends. You'll visit their homes, their schools, their families, their favorite places, and much more. They'll show you how kids in different parts of the Philippines come from many different ethnic groups and have very various cultures—each with separate traditions, languages, and beliefs—and yet, they are all 100% Filipino!

Kaneko, Misuzu. *Are You an Echo?: The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko* (895.61 KAN). Misuzu Kaneko was born in 1903 in Senzaki, Japan. She rose to fame as a celebrated author of children's poems. After her death, her poems fell into obscurity for decades, until the 1970s when Setsuo Yazaki discovered and published her full body of work in Japanese. This is the first English-language biography and collection of her poetry to be distributed in English.

Khaira, Raj Kaur. *Stories for South Asian Supergirls* (920.72 KHA). The inspirational stories of 50 famous and under-celebrated women from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, including illustrious entertainers (Meera Syal, Jameela Jamil, Mindy Kaling), pioneering business leaders (Indra Nooyi, Anjali Sud, Ruchi Sanghvi) and a host of other, equally remarkable, yet less well known, figures (including the British Muslim spy Noor Inayat Khan, and fearless activist Jayaben Desai). *Stories for South Asian Supergirls* seeks to redress the imbalance for young girls of color by empowering them to break new ground for themselves and to inspire others in the process.



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Nonfiction cont.

Krishnaswami, Uma. *Threads of Peace: How Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Changed the World* (323.092 KRI). Celebrating the lives of Mohandas Gandhi and Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., this book examines the threads that connect them and their shared views of peaceful revolution.

Kim, Carol. *King Sejong Invents an Alphabet* (495.711 KIM). In 15th-century Korea, King Sejong was distressed. The complicated Chinese characters used for reading and writing meant only rich, educated people could read. But King Sejong thought all Koreans should be able to read and write, so he worked in secret for years to create a new Korean alphabet.

Loh-Hagan, Virginia. *Racial Justice in America: Asian American Pacific Islander* (series). Learn about a variety of hurtful myths and stereotypes and discover how they discriminate against, endanger, and hold back Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in America. *What is Asian Black Solidarity?* (305.8 LOH). *What is the Forever Foreigner Stereotype?* (305.895 LOH) *What is the Model Minority Myth?* (305.895 LOH). *What is Yellow Peril?* (305.895 LOH)

Nagara, Innosanto. *M is for Movement: AKA Humans Can't Eat Golf Balls* (303.484 NAG). This fictionalized memoir demonstrates how ordinary young people can affect change through social movements. The unnamed protagonist recounts instances of activism they witnessed growing up in Jakarta, Indonesia, in the 1970s. Also by Innosanto Nagara: *My Night in the Planetarium* (959.8 NAG) and *The Wedding Portrait* (303.61 NAG).

Nobleman, Marc Tyler and Melissa Iwai. *Thirty Minutes over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story* (940.542 NOB). The moving true story of reconciliation after war; a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII—the only enemy ever to do so—and comes back 20 years later to apologize.

Riley, Scott, Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien. *The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field* (796.334 RIL). On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love.

Singh, Rina. *111 Trees: How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl* (305.42 SIN). After the deaths of his mother, and later his daughter, Sundar Paliwal is determined to live in a place where girls and boys are treated equally. He manages to convince the people of his rural Indian village to welcome every girl born with the planting of 111 trees. His efforts have turned a desert village into a green oasis that is safe and prosperous for girls.

Stelson, Caren Barzelay and Akira Kusaka. *A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story* (940.542 STE). Six-year-old Sachiko and her family suffered greatly after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and in the years that followed, the miraculous survival of a ceramic bowl became a key part of Sachiko's journey toward peace.

Tejubehan. *Drawing the City* (759.954 TEJ). Teju Behan is a singer and self taught urban folk artist from western India who describes her life of poverty until a job working as a singer with a fellow artist led her to discover her own artistic talent.

Yang, Kao Kalia. *Yang Warriors* (305.23 YAN). An inspiring tale of resourceful children confronting adversaries in a refugee camp. The Yang warriors prepare for battle! They practice drills, balance rocks on their heads, wield magical swords from fallen branches. The ten cousins are ready to defend the family at all costs. After a week without fresh vegetables, the warriors embark on a dangerous mission to look for food, leaving the camp's boundaries, knowing their punishment would be severe if they were caught.

Zhao, Guangchao. *What Was it Like, Mr. Emperor?: Life in China's Forbidden City* (951 KWO). Have you ever wondered what it was like to be the Emperor of China? How was the emperor chosen? What was school like? How did he celebrate his birthday? Journey through the average life of an emperor and learn about the people who lived in the palace.

Traditional and Folk Tales

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. *Grandma and The Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale* (Picture Books). On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.

Ganeri, Anita. *Star Stories: Constellation Tales from Around the World* (398.2 GAN). For thousands of years people have looked up to the night sky and told stories about the stars. These epic tales tell of vengeful gods and goddesses, of monsters and heroes. Others try to make sense of the natural world, or unravel the mysterious forces of the universe.

Javaherbin, Mina. *The Secret Message: Based on a Poem by Rumi* (398.2 JAV). In this retelling of a Persian folktale attributed to Jalaledin Rūmī, a parrot tricks a wealthy merchant into setting him free.

Kim, So-un. *Three Korean Fairy Tales: Beloved Stories and Legends* (398.2 KIM). Three traditional Korean folktales, which explore the curiosities of nature while imparting cherished beliefs and values.

Li, Jian. *The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend* (World Languages, Chinese 398.2 LI). A little boy sets off in search of the Water Dragon, to save his village from a mysterious drought. Also by Jian Li: *Stories of the Chinese Zodiac* (series).

Seki, Sunny. *The Last Kappa of Old Japan: A Magical Journey of Two Friends* (398.2 SEK). Young Norihei saves the life of a kappa, one of the mythological beings who keep the water clean, and the two become friends, but changes brought by the Industrial Revolution force the kappa to leave, only to return when Norihei needs him most.

Tran, Phuoc Thi Minh. *Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories* (398.2 TRA). The tales chosen for this book share the Vietnamese five great virtues: Nhan (Compassion), Le (Rituals), Nghia (Righteousness), Tri (Wisdom), and Tin (Trust) and are used to help children learn their traditional culture and values.

Yasuda, Yuri. *Japanese Myths, Legends, and Folktales: Bilingual Japanese and English Edition* (World Languages, Japanese 398.2 YAS). Here are twelve of the best Japanese folktales shared with generation after generation of Japanese children. These charming stories engage your imagination as you're carried on turtle-back rides, brought to the underwater palace of the dragon princess, and discover a temple with a "tea kettle" that is really a cunning badger in disguise.

Ye, Luying. *The Ode to the Goddess of the Luo River* (398.209 YE). Although a goddess and a mortal can fall in love, it is best to remember that the 'world of humans and gods could never exist together.' The story of the beautiful goddess of the Luo River is one of love and loss, based on a poem written by Cao Zhi, a Chinese writer who lived in the state of Wei during the Three Kingdoms period (approximately 220–280 CE.)

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Biographies

The Eagle Huntress: The True Story of the Girl Who Soared Beyond Expectations (BIO AISHOLPAN). Aisholpan Nurgaivyn tells her own story for the first time. She captured and trained her own golden eagle and won the Ölgii eagle festival, one of Mongolia's most prestigious competitions.

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando (BIO ANDO). This is the true story behind one of the world's most popular foods. For years, Ando dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty to feed the hungry people he'd seen following World War II.

Ashoka the Fierce: How an Angry Prince Became India's Emperor of Peace (BIO ASHOKA). Ashoka was an angry young man, eager for war. But after a particularly brutal battle, Ashoka was heartbroken and haunted by the death and devastation he had caused. After seeking out the help of a Buddhist monk, Ashoka spent the rest of his days tirelessly working to help his people and promoting the qualities of compassion, tolerance, and virtue.

While I Was Away (BIO BROWN). When twelve-year-old Waka Brown's parents suspect she can't understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make the drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother. Forced to say goodbye to her friends and what would have been her summer vacation, Waka is plucked from her straight-A-student life in rural Kansas and flown across the globe, where she faces the culture shock of a lifetime.

The Rise (and Falls) of Jackie Chan (BIO CHAN). Pow! Bam! Wow! Jackie Chan has been making movies and amazing audiences with his original and comedic stunts for decades. But before he was an international star, Jackie grew up in relative poverty in China, studied martial arts at the grueling China Drama Academy, and worked for years trying to find his way in film.

Girl Under a Red Moon (BIO CHEN). Persecuted by the Red Guard, Da and his older sister Sisi escape their home so she can find work elsewhere, trying to find a compromise between safety and justice, and a decent life for both of them.

Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge (BIO CHEN). Delectable rhymes tell the story of how Joyce Chen, a girl born in Communist China, immigrated to the US and popularized Chinese cooking.

Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix (BIO CHOI). For Chef Roy Choi, food means love. It also means culture, not only of Korea where he was born, but the many cultures that make up the streets of Los Angeles, where he was raised.

Tammy Duckworth (BIO DUCKWORTH). How did Tammy Duckworth become a Senator? Learn all about the significant events in her life in this biography for young readers.

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America (BIO DUMAS). Author Firoozeh Dumas describes her family's 1971 move from Iran to Southern California, the members of her diverse family, and their struggle with culture shock.

It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way (BIO FUJIKAWA). A talented artist in a time when women and Japanese Americans had fewer opportunities, Gyo became a hero in the fight for racial diversity in picture books!

Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story (BIO GANDHI). At Grandfather Gandhi's service village, each day is filled, from sunrise to sunset, with work that is done for the good of all. The villagers vow to live simply and non-violently. Arun Gandhi tries very hard to follow these vows, but he struggles with one of the most important rules: not to waste.

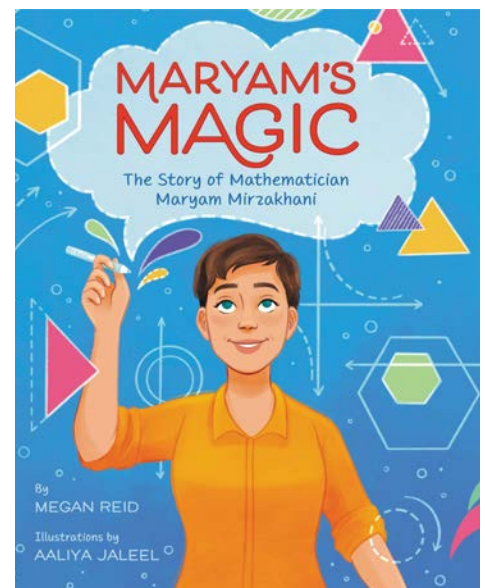
A Song for China: How my Father Wrote Yellow River Cantata (BIO GUANG). The fascinating story of how a young Chinese author, Guang Weiran, a passionate militant from the age of twelve, fought, using art, theater, poetry and song to create a socially just China.

The Truths We Hold: An American Journey (BIO HARRIS). Adapted for young readers, Vice President Kamala Harris's empowering memoir about the values and inspirations that guided her life.

Too Young to Escape: A Vietnamese Girl Waits to be Reunited With Her Family (BIO HO). During the aftermath of the Vietnam War, Van wakes up to find that her mother and her siblings are gone, having escaped the new communist regime for freedom in the West. Four-year-old Van is too young—and her grandmother is too old—for such a dangerous journey by boat, so the two have been left behind.

Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong (BIO ITLIONG). The story of Filipino American labor organizer Larry Itliong's lifelong fight for a farmworkers union, and the birth of one of the most significant American social movements of all time.

Fred Korematsu (BIO KOREMATSU). Learn about the life of civil rights hero Fred Korematsu, a Japanese American who stood up for other Japanese Americans during World War II.



Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity (BIO KUSAMA). Growing up in the mountains of Japan, Yayoi Kusama dreamed of becoming an artist. One day, she had a vision in which the world and everything in it - the plants, the people, the sky - was covered in polka dots. She began to cover her paintings, drawings, sculptures, and even her body with dots!

The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee (BIO LEE). Hazel was born fearless and the moment she took her first airplane ride, she knew where she belonged. Even when people scoffed at her dreams of becoming a pilot, Hazel joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II. It was a dangerous job, but Hazel flew with joy and boldness.

The Story of Olympic Diver Sammy Lee (BIO LEE). Dr. Sammy Lee dove into Olympic history and became the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal, in 1948. But growing up, he was a Korean American boy facing discrimination at home. How could he learn to dive if he, like other people of color, was only allowed to use the pool one day a week?

Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea (BIO LEE). The memoir of Sungju Lee, who grew up in North Korea and, at the age of twelve, was forced to live on the streets and fend for himself after his parents disappeared. After years of being homeless and living with a gang, Sungju was reunited with his grandparents and, eventually, his father.

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines: Designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (BIO LIN). As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. The daughter of a clay artist and a poet, she grew up with art and learned to think with her hands as well as her mind.

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Biographies cont.

***Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma* (BIO MA).** Yo-Yo Ma is one of the world's most renowned cellists and his music is a reflection of his own life between borders, cultures, disciplines, and generations. He performed at the US-Mexico border at the Rio Grande on April 13, 2019, as part of his multi-continent "Bach Project" tour to prove a point--through music, we can build bridges rather than walls between different cultures.

***Niki Nakayama: A Chef's Tale in 13 Bites* (BIO NAKAYAMA).** The story of the powerhouse female Japanese-American chef and her rise to fame! Using the structure of a traditional kaiseki meal, the authors playfully detail Niki's hunger for success in thirteen "bites" -- from wonton wrappers she used to make pizza as a kid to yuzu-tomatillo sauce in her own upscale Los Angeles Michelin-starred restaurant, n/naka.

***I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose* (BIO PEI).** Although world-renowned architect I.M. Pei claims that he does not have a stylistic signature, his work is identified by geometric form, minimalist beauty, and an integral relationship with nature. Here are the conflict-ridden stories behind six of Pei's most celebrated buildings, all turning points in his career.

***Beyond Possible: One Man, 14 Peaks, and the Mountaineering Achievement of a Lifetime* (BIO PURJA).** Join Nepalese climber Nimsdai Purja as he recounts his journey to scale all 8,000 meter "Death Zone" mountains in seven months. It was an incredible physical feat, but his attitude, leadership skills, and willingness to learn from mistakes also took him to the top.

***Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon* (BIO SINGH).** The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon. Learn about the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community.

***Between Two Worlds: The Art and Life of Amrita Sher-Gil* (BIO SHER).** Amrita Sher-Gil was always making art--as a little girl in Budapest, as a young woman in Northern India, and as an art student in Paris, she filled up notebooks with sketches and drawings--but what kind of artist would she grow up to be? Amrita was rebellious, brave, curious, and bold in her short life and in her paintings, and she became an important figure in the 20th century modern art movement.

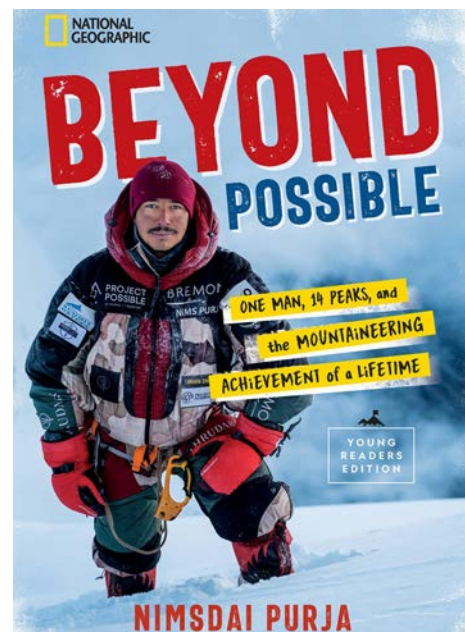
***A Girl Called Genghis Khan: How Maria Toorpakai Wazir Pretended to be a Boy, Defied the Taliban, and Became a World Famous Squash Player* (BIO TOORPAKAI).** When the President of Pakistan gave Maria an award for outstanding achievement, the Taliban threatened her squash club, family, and life. Forced to quit the team, she continued to practice in her bedroom every day for three years!

***Tu Youyou's Discovery: Finding a Cure for Malaria* (BIO TU).** Tu Youyou had been interested in science and medicine since she was a child, so when malaria started infecting people all over the world in 1969, she went to work finding a treatment. Trained as a medical researcher in college and healed by traditional medicine techniques when she was young, Tu Youyou started experimenting with natural Chinese remedies and, after years of research and experimentation, discovered a treatment.

***Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist* (BIO WONG).** As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo traveled across a vast ocean from China with only a suitcase. Once in America, he seized every opportunity to make art! Eventually, he was given the opportunity of a lifetime--and using sparse brushstrokes and soft watercolors, Wong created the iconic backgrounds of *Bambi*.

***Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom* (BIO WU).** When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, girls did not attend school. But her parents encouraged her love of science. Wu battled sexism at home and racism in the USA to become "Queen of Physics" for her work on how atoms split.

***From the Tops of the Trees and The Most Beautiful Thing* (BIO YANG).** Two tender true stories from author Kao Kalia Yang's childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, as well as the life of her beloved grandmother. The books move from the jungles of Laos to the family's early years in the United States.



***I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (BIO YOUSAFZAI).** When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. She has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. For younger readers, try *Malala's Magic Pencil*.

***Pirate Queen: A Story of Zheng Yi Sao* (BIO ZHENG).** The most powerful pirate in history was a woman who was born into poverty in Guangzhou, China, in the early 1800s. When pirates attacked her town and the captain took a liking to her, she saw a way out. Zheng Yi Sao agreed to marry him only if she got an equal share of his business. When her husband died six years later, she took command of the fleet!

***Flying Paintings: The Zhou Brothers: A Story of Revolution and Art* (BIO ZHOU).** Amid the turbulence of China's Cultural Revolution in the 1970s, the Zhou Brothers began painting together on the same canvas. Today, ShanZuo and DaHuang Zhou are icons in the art world, renowned for working side by side on all their paintings and sculptures.