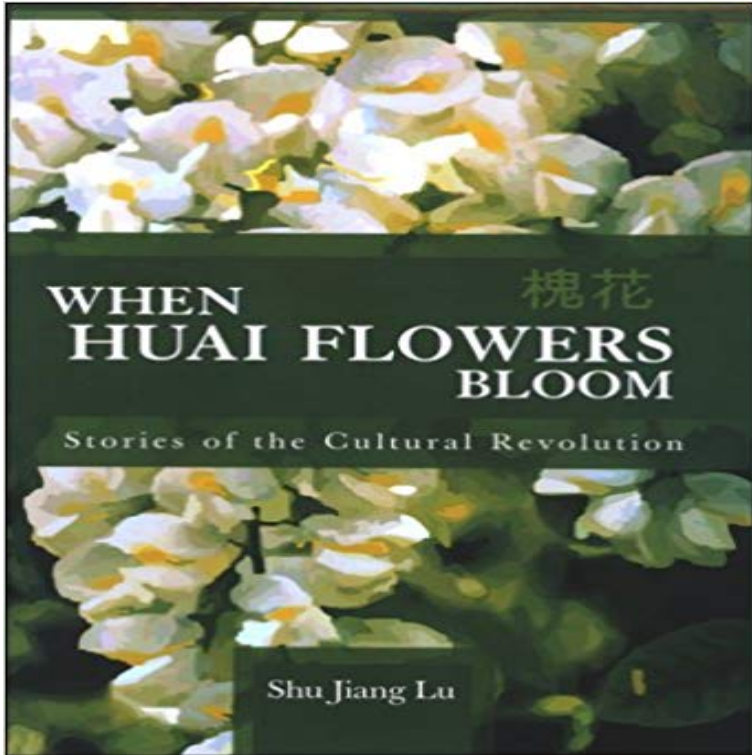


# When Huai Flowers Bloom: Stories of the Cultural Revolution



Set against China's turbulent years between the early 1960s and the late 1970s, *When Huai Flowers Bloom* is the literary memoir of a young girl who manages to sustain love, imagination, and strength during this most chaotic time. With twelve separate yet interconnected stories, Shu Jiang Lu alternates between storyteller and listener as she relays haunting memories and explores the devastating effect of Mao's anticultural Cultural Revolution. Lu weaves together the voices of multiple real and fantastic characters: her parents and their treasured yet forbidden bookcase; the mysterious vendors beckoning from Pear Flower Alley; the immortal martial hero; the reactionary opera singer and the black demon novelist; the whispering ghost and dancing fairy; and the author herself, discovering her storyteller's voice in the military camps of her youth. *When Huai Flowers Bloom* is a poignant, persistent journey toward voice and freedom.

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