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DIARY OF THE DRAGON'S DAUGHTER

BiLan Liao is a contemporary artist and educator with a passionate love of the freedom she found in America. She was born and raised in China, where she and her family were persecuted by Mao's New China because her father was a doctor. In spite of many hardships, she achieved artistic, professional, and financial success. But she left it all behind to bring herself and her daughter to America, so that she could express herself freely without government interference. Her new life wasn't easy, but in nine years she rose from dishwasher to college professor. During that time, she was able to tell the truth through her paintings about what happened in her years in China. Her paintings are dramatic, soulful, and truthful, and they express her deepest dreams and feelings.

The book includes three series of artwork. "Painting as a Window into Chinese History" is about the five generations of women in the author's family, who experienced abuse, neglect, and starvation. The author herself was forced to leave school and work as a welder when she was fourteen. Soon she was assigned to a project in a wasteland, where she lived in a morgue that was still surrounded by many graves and ghosts. Later she worked as a welder in a church that had been turned into a factory. But with the help of her capitalist colleagues, she never stopped seeking the education that was forbidden to her in Mao's anti-intellectual regime and never stopped hoping for a time when she could better herself without fear of punishment. "Coming into Tibet" is her attempt to capture the vastness of the landscapes and the beauty of the Tibetan people. The "Return" series is about the impact of war on women around the world. In this second edition BiLan added the section "My Life in America," describing her setbacks and successes in her new country. The book is now expanded to 254 pages, including 54 color pages accompanied by over 500 images.

"You must read about her journey to freedom." — Li Zhensheng

"A moving, beautifully told, magnificently illustrated story of one woman and her family's ordeal during decades of persecution by the Chinese Communist Party." — Frank Dikotter

"Through her beautiful artwork and incredible story, she has inspired many Americans to Never give up your dream. She has been a champion for women's rights through her paintings, lectures and her book... ." — Gayle Kaler, Mayor, City of Paducah, 2016