

BEYOND THE NARROW GATE

THE JOURNEY OF
FOUR CHINESE WOMEN
FROM THE MIDDLE KINGDOM
TO MIDDLE AMERICA



LESLIE CHANG



A DUTTON BOOK

532. Leslie Chang
Beyond the Narrow Gate
Taped: 8/2/99
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Brothers
Derek
older - Tim

Confucian tradition
How important was it.

Sun Yat-sen

Whites - I ceased to care P65
what they thought

Hartford

Leslie Chang - youngest
of 4 children - started
school in 1976

parents fought P145
1980 - 160 Chinese in
Hartford

Leslie - apartment in
Manhattan

My Mother's generation -
still lost

Reunion in Hawaii
Holers - no show
Suzanne - different

Butler Library Research
at Columbia

3' ^{visit in} Holmes - Queens Now

Mon Aug 2 2p.m
a writer in search of a story
Me - a stranger among strangers

1' Suzanne - Silicon Valley - The Rebel

2' Margaret - L.A. teacher biologist (Palo Verde)

3' Mother - Hong Kong - The Tomboy
Father - law degree (Shanghai)

(She was 18) Mary Hays
Grandfather - at U.S.

Battle of Siping 1947

My grandfather and
Chiang Kai-shek

Shot a man - mother's father
a 15 yr. boy - soldier

My Mother - father dead at 11
lived in compound at Tiananmen Square
My Uncle committed suicide over grades

"Tragedy was normal"

Jan 31, 1949 - Communists entered Beijing
2 million people escaped - My family to Taiwan
10 million people
elite - educated
a Japanese Colony for Bygone

Taipei Da - everyone wanted to
go to this school.

My mother finished in top 5
My grandmother dies - gold stolen

Uncle arrested
convent man's leaver son behind
My mother doesn't trust anyone

Beijinger
the best
school
Did you?
visit?

Holmes - parents duvorce

1965 - Immigration Act changed Country
for Eurocentrism bet 65-90 700,000 Chi.
immigrated

7 million Asians - today When mother
1 million 1965 arrived 200,000 Chi.
in U.S.

My mother arrived under auspices of Catholic Church
planned for her to be a nurse
1956 - Maymont

Cardinal Y. P. Pin - Father Chan - visit to him
reaction to an invitation → \$100 - flip

BOOKNOTES
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p 210 Statement of what it is like for
Chinese in America - Bigots etc

At 16 I had an ancient, jaded, unattractive
soul. My selfishness - I had it too p 179

Suzanne - end a 29 year marriage - wrote
a note to Tom in Reading

Wei's white boyfriend - dancer PHD
candidate

My boyfriend - Wisconsin white with -
engaged - "seethed with anger" at
my mother for telling people

Wei - Wedding - It's going to be all white
people - I won't be comfortable
East coast vs. West coast White people
(p. 206)

Margaret - Polka Dot - cared and knew
little about White People P246
Southern Ca.

When I announced I was going to J-School P252

Peter - I am a Western kid
War - I am not a Western parent

Holmes - mother loaned her money
lost it in the commodities market

My mother - sold real estate then
played the market
statement of changing relationship w. me P157

Holmes - stood apart - I pitied her
Mark had no BA Her husband didn't
have a good job

Profile of Asian American Women p261

My Aunt in Massachusetts - Stone of her Uncle

My boyfriend Ben - trip to Hong Kong

I'm like my mother - a fear p264

Trip to China for me - culture shock

Mom's first trip back 1986 -

Both trips she was outraged by what she saw

Country made me allergic - food gave me diarrhea p272
other things bothered me

First time that we became friends - Tea at Mandarin Oriental

Back to Taiwan - dinner with Eva for me

3 Photos of Chiang Kai-shek - Eva's Father

Mother's Uncle
My Grandfather

Peter - ^{Margaret's}

Wei - ~~the father~~ Dolores - Mark 30yr. old son

Jing - Suzanne Suzanne - divorced Tan -

Mark - Dolores found Richard again

left Reading 1990

Stopped by Court House to look at divorce file

I felt most at home with Margaret