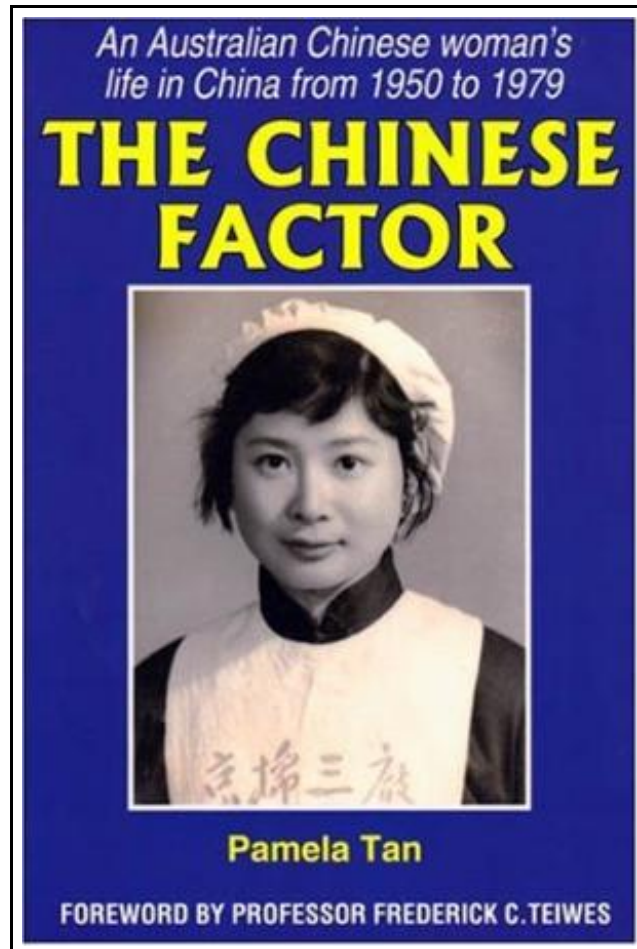


The Chinese Factor: An Australian Chinese Woman's Life in China from 1950 to 1979



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Reviews

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(Laurence Littel)

THE CHINESE FACTOR: AN AUSTRALIAN CHINESE WOMAN'S LIFE IN CHINA FROM 1950 TO 1979



Rosenberg Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Chinese Factor: An Australian Chinese Woman's Life in China from 1950 to 1979, Pamela Tan, Pamela Tan (Tan Pingmei) left Australia in 1950 as a young Overseas Chinese woman patriotically attracted to the possibilities of the new China created by the success of the communist revolution. She stayed for nearly 30 years, experiencing a roller coaster ride through a period of initial promise followed by a series of disasters to the country, disasters that inevitably affected her personally. Finally, by now disillusioned with her life in China notwithstanding several years of the countrys recovery from Maoist excesses, she returned to Australia to start a new life in 1979, and was joined by her Chinese family the next year. As a student, occasional consultant on China for government and private bodies, and writer, she gradually completed her intellectual and spiritual movement away from the socialist ideals that had long sustained her in China to the quite different philosophy of Buddhism. In this honest and informative memoir, Pamela explores her experience, beliefs, confusion and fear in China, while also providing insight into her young life in Melbourne that contributed to her quest, and her post-China journey once back in Australia. The China experience is the core of her story. While this book is a personal memoir focusing on Pamela Tans life in China, it inevitably charts the trajectory of the Peoples Republic itself. We see an optimistic Pamela in the first half of the 1950s, a period of peace and construction that generated similar feelings in wide swathes of society. Things started to go wrong with the anti-rightist campaign in 1957, the campaign when several of Pamelas friends were labelled 'rightists', and, for the first time she felt fear. This was soon followed...

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