



## A Mother's Ordeal: One Woman's Fight Against China's One-Child Policy

*Steven W. Mosher*

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Social scientist and China expert Mosher relates the story of Chi An, a former population-control worker in China, whose own second pregnancy became the catalyst for her fight to stay in the U.S. "A searing and candid look at a place where the state brutally intrudes into the most intimate parts of a woman's life."-- Kirkus Reviews.

### **A Mother's Ordeal: One Woman's Fight Against China's One-Child Policy Details**

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### **Okidoki says**

Bara en dotter:  
Till formen som en skoluppsats.

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### **Jessica says**

Returning from China I was obsessed with learning more about the culture I had just experienced for nine months. This was an extraordinary book for its candid discussion on the one child policy. As a new mother I'm not sure I would even be able to finish it because of the description of forced abortions and forced fertility however it's a necessary read. My favorite part of the book was when the author, in response to the outpouring of support for her to receive asylum in the US due to her second pregnancy, learned the beauty of the Golden Rule. She said that in China the culture was to not harm others so the idea of actually DOING unto others as you would have them do unto you was an immense revelation.

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### **Kristin White says**

Completely unbelievable. Unfathomable that the government is/was so involved in the intimate affairs of women. This book was tough to read but completely fascinating.

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### **Brian says**

I read this book for my education credits for our upcoming adoption. It was fascinating to read one persons life experiences in the family planning department in china during the 1980's. It also gave me a much better understanding of China's history. It has led me to reading a lot more china history. I am glad I read this book. I think it will help me share Chinese history and culture with my new little boy.

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### **Becca says**

An absolutely heartrending and gripping read!

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### **Bobbi says**

Unbelievable but true. This book isn't for the faint of heart.  
It seems that life is not a precious commodity in China where it's citizens have been made to follow

Communist rule for decades now. Abortion is an everyday occurrence at any stage of pregnancy. Women's rights have been completely been done away with and the government owns both the mother and the unborn child. It is difficult not to be judgmental of the woman in this book, although she was brainwashed since childhood in China. She did what she had to do to survive. I am glad to have read this book that reaffirmed how blessed I am to have the freedom to chose what is best for me.

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### **Tiffany says**

So I got a copy of this book when, as a member of my university's pro-life organization, I went to the lecture that the author was given. It was interesting, but I wasn't too keen on the book. Still, he was offering it at a discount rate, and it seemed rude not to buy it, so I grudgingly bought my copy and stood in line to have him sign it for me. I promptly tossed the book on my bookshelf and forgot about it. However, later I found myself needing something new to read, and, being too lazy to hit the library, picked it up. It started out a bit slowly, but I wound up reading the entire thing that night. The story is thought provoking and has your emotions running amok. The fact that it's true only makes it all the more amazing. Definitely recommend this book to all who find interest in anything ranging from world politics to motherhood.

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### **Darlene Hayden says**

This was a meaty book! Not only was her personal story interesting but learning how an entirely different country runs really opened my eyes. China's government, what demands it puts on their people was more than I ever imagined. This is a very graphic book that I am very glad I took the time to read. It will change you.

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### **Melanie Franklin says**

I had no idea China went to such great lengths to inforce the 1-child policy. It's mind-blowing that abortion is murder in america, and in china the government FORCES women to have abortions. Even late term, right up until the baby is born. The government views life starting at the first breath. If they abort before the child can take it's first breath, they see nothing wrong with it. They also see nothing wrong with leaving a 8 month old baby in the trash can to die. To avoid the child crying, the abortionist gives babies a shot in their head as soon as they start to crown, so they will be born dead. I feel so sorry for all of those millions of mothers in china who had their children murdered by their very own government. This was a great book... it opened up a whole new appreciation for American for me.

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### **Sarah says**

This was a really good book, but the title is somewhat misleading – it wasn't just about the one child policy, it was about the writers life in China from the time when she was very young. It was fascinating to read about what it was like growing up under Mao in a communist China. The lack of freedom, the paranoia, the "cultural revolution", the great famine, the "great leap forward" – we get a first-hand Account of all of these things and learn a lot about Chinese culture. you learn about China's history in school, but this brings it home

in the words of a first-person narrative from someone who survived it. Also, even though the book was published by a pro-life publisher, you don't have to be pro-life to enjoy the book. When it does turn to the one child policy, obviously, it's presented as very bad thing – with women being dragged unwillingly and imprisoned, forced to have abortions they didn't want, and infanticide, – things most people would be against, regardless of whether they think abortion should be legal or not United States – but you can sympathize with the author's dilemma and struggles. Sometimes the weather wasn't very likable – some of the things she does are horrible when she is Enforcing the policy on other women and she seems like a hypocrite at times. I didn't always like her, but her story is still really interesting.

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### **Maja - BibliophiliaDK ? says**

For large parts of this book I wrestled with nausea and general discomfort at the vivid descriptions of abortions being made as late as during the birth itself. It was horrific to read and must have been even more horrifying to live through. This is without a doubt a book that makes you stop, think and re-evaluate.

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### **Abby says**

I picked this book up after a recommendation from awhile back, and I didn't put it down until I'd read it cover to cover. It was gripping. For me, at least.

It's the story of a woman who grew up in China under Chairman Mao, lived through a famine, his Cultural Revolution, communism, poverty, craziness, marriage, a baby, a child she was forced to abort under their one child policy, a stint as a population control worker where she performed and assisted with many abortions (as far along as a babies being carried to term, born and killed right there on the hospital bed), and rounded up illegally pregnant women and forced them into abortions. It was horrible. I can't even describe it. You just have to read about it yourself.

Next she found herself accidentally pregnant again, but in America where her husband was studying at a university. Because she was in America, she tried to petition to keep her second child, still devastated by her own forced abortion years ago in China. China said no way, and if you don't obey us, here is a gigantic list of horrible consequences when you come back. They petitioned for political asylum to stay in the United States. Initially rejected, they eventually were allowed to stay and keep their second child.

Here is the interesting thing: I knew the basic outline of the story from the summary at the beginning of the book. I was expecting to cheer for her to keep her baby at the end, safe in America. And I didn't WANT her to abort that baby, but... and I know she agrees with me in many ways, it seemed so unfair for her to have forced so many women into late term abortions, chased them down in their hiding places, dragged them into the hospitals...even though she was just following orders that she couldn't really refuse...and then to jump at a chance to have her own baby because she had an opportunity. I mean, she found a friend in hiding at her sister's house, reported her and brought her into a secure holding place, saw her going into labor and was begged by this friend to lie and say the baby was delivered in the night when she was gone, but didn't...she took her to the hospital where she was forced to have a partial birth abortion. (Which really is a dumb name. It's not abortion. It's murder. It's killing a baby that in three seconds will be out and breathing on its own. And sometimes they don't die like they're supposed to, and it takes hours before they're finally dead. So fun to listen to your half murdered baby crying in the garbage can for three hours, right?)

But I don't think the woman in this book is evil. I think her country's government was evil. How can I blame her for doing what she was forced to do, and what she was tormented by? How can it be unfair for that same woman not to do everything she can to save her own baby when she had a chance? She's a good woman and a loving mother. She originally went to school to be a nurse and help people, oh my heck.

It's one of those awful dilemmas. Communist China sucks. Chairman Mao sucked. Why does everyone talk about Hitler all the time and how evil he was, but people tend to skim over Mao and Stalin and other guys who were just as bad or worse? I love America. I'm never leaving.

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### **Bernadette Raymer says**

This book is beautiful and very powerful. It is an important book to read to understand the value of human life. I have read many books such as "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Brown and "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand. I would, in my own opinion, put this book at the same level as those. I did not put the book down however there were points in the book where it became very depressing and I was going to stop altogether. I am glad I fought through the story. It became one of my favorite books.

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### **W.A. says**

I'm not someone who typically picks up non-fiction books like this, but having read it for a high school grade, I was surprised to find how much I enjoyed it.

The story is told based on the account given by Chi An, the woman around whom it focuses. It follows much of her young adult life in Communist China, including her place in the revolution and how she met her husband. The book is written from a very in-depth, personal view from Chi An's perspective. She shows us the culture that she was raised in, and how significant it was when she and her husband were selected to have a child. Chi An wanted a baby so badly that rather than use a local anesthetic during the delivery, she opted for acupuncture out of concern for her child's health. The acupuncture was ineffective and Chi An endured a C-section without saying a word to the doctors who thought she was numbed.

Chi An and her husband eventually move to the USA for a temporary amount of time, which is when she discovers that she is expecting once more. When China learns of her unborn child, she is bombarded with harassment and demands that she return to China and abort her second child at once. Chi An is obviously very conflicted about this, having learned that her baby is a little girl, which she has always wanted. Her family supports in secret her and encourages her to stay in America and to keep her child, which she does, thanks to word of her story circulating among the states. Chi An and her family are granted citizenship, and she is able to keep her little girl.

That's the watered down version, and I'd encourage anyone interested in this book to give it a try. It is very eye-opening about China and the freedoms that US citizens enjoy, as well as the priceless nature of life.

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### **Crystal says**

For Heaven's sake! I cannot believe that such barbaric practices are enforced. Reading this story about the

recent history of China is so depressing. How could 1 billion people be puppets to a cruel and ridiculous government? How could they turn loyalty to family and authority into the worship of a party leader in the form of prayers and fighting with neighbors. They actually stopped being kind to each other because it was seen as a threat to the government. I, like many Americans, have not thought much about the one child policy. I've never considered it on a personal female level before. My goodness, how can they do these things. One woman made a point, "I can afford to feed this one child. He is my responsibility." As difficult as my two children are I'm still open to bringing more souls into this world to enjoy the sunshine, the flowers, the friendships, and the immense pleasure of being alive. To deny an entire nation the joy of birth and renewal is ludicrous and self-destructive. Especially as Easter comes and I rejoice in the newness of life here and in the eternities to come, I am humbled to be a free American with the freedom to live, laugh and love! God bless our nation and help us find ways to relieve our burdened neighbors. Although I always have disagreed with war in Iraq, if it brings freedom to mothers there they didn't have before, then we should continue on. We are a nation of service. I just hope that the day some lunatic comes into the White House and becomes tyrannical that some foreign country would come and free us from his/her clutches.

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