

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF SHANGHAI BABY

The passionate, life-loving young writer Coco seeks for the closing chapter of her novel, which begins in the turbulent city of Shanghai at the outset of the 21st century. Coco leads an intense life in the lively subculture of the boomtown Shanghai. It revolves around endless nights spent in the Shanghai club and art scene, sex, literature and the writing of her first novel.

Her life takes an unexpectedly complicated turn when she suddenly feels attracted to two very opposite men, Tian Tian and Mark. Coco's live-in boyfriend, Tian Tian, is a fragile and beautiful artist. The love between Coco and Tian Tian is sensual and spiritual. Obsessed by death, Tian Tian awakens in Coco an awareness of life and the importance of love. However, his impotence, physical but often emotional as well, leads her to a fierce and passionate affair with a married man. Strong and assertive Mark, a German businessman temporarily living in Shanghai, is the opposite of sensitive Tian Tian in every way. Coco's fragile balance of juggling two lovers while writing her novel is upset as both men eventually become unavailable to her and she is faced with a tragedy.

BIOGRAPHY OF ZHOU WEI HUI

Wei Hui is a Chinese-born writer residing in New York. Like many other writers before her, she finds that cultural differences give her a clearer perspective to write about her home country and culture.

She was born in Ning Bo City, near Shanghai in 1973. Her father was a prominent army figure, and this meant that the family moved from army base to army base when she was young. She studied Chinese Language and Literature at Fudan University in Shanghai, after a year of military training.

Her first short story was published at the age of 21. Shanghai Baby, her first novel, was banned in China after publication due to its explicit sexual scenes, and the publishing house was closed down. However, the Chinese authorities have now become more tolerant. Chinese movie star, Bai Ling, is set to star in the movie of Shanghai Baby.

Wei Hui is a combination of a naughty party girl and Chinese harmony. In her mid thirties (she is now 36), she has written six novels, two of which have been translated and published in the UK and Ireland.

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