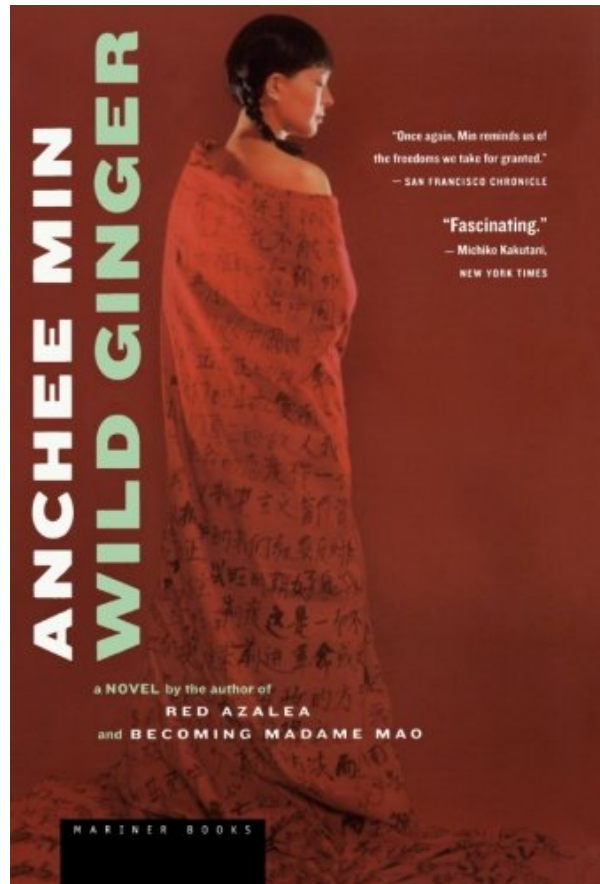
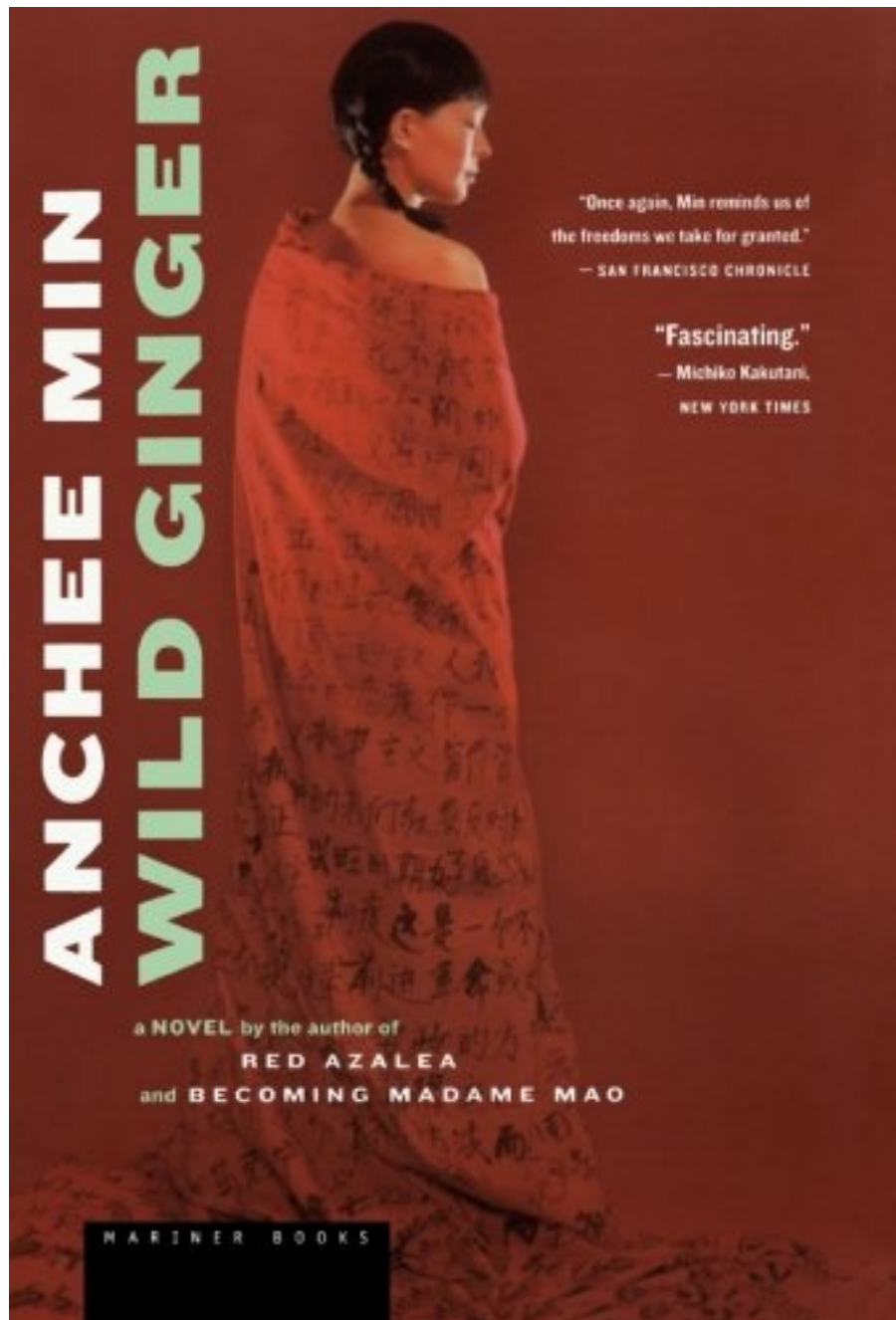


# WILD GINGER: A NOVEL BY ANCHEE MIN



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**Wild Ginger: A Novel By Anchee Min.** In undergoing this life, many individuals always aim to do and also get the ideal. New expertise, experience, session, as well as everything that can improve the life will be done. Nevertheless, many individuals sometimes really feel perplexed to obtain those things. Really feeling the limited of experience as well as sources to be better is among the lacks to possess. Nonetheless, there is an extremely basic point that can be done. This is what your educator always manoeuvres you to do this one. Yeah, reading is the response. Reviewing an e-book as this *Wild Ginger: A Novel By Anchee Min* and other recommendations can enrich your life quality. How can it be?

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The beautiful, iron-willed Wild Ginger is only in elementary school when we first meet her, but already she has been singled out by the Red Guards for her "foreign-colored eyes." Her classmate Maple is also a target of persecution. It is through the quieter, more skeptical Maple, a less than ardent Maoist whose father is languishing in prison for a minor crime, that we see this story to its tragic end.

The Red Guards have branded Wild Ginger's deceased father a traitor and eventually drive her mother to a gruesome suicide, but she fervently embraces Maoism to save her spirit. She rises quickly through the ranks and is held up as a national model for Maoism. Wild Ginger now has everything, even a young man who vies for her heart. But Mao's prohibition on romantic love places her in an untenable position. Into this sexually charged situation steps Maple, creating an uneasy triangle that Min has portrayed with keen psychological insight and her characteristic gift for lyrical eroticism.

In Anchee Min's previous three books she returned again and again to the devastating experience of the Cultural Revolution, which defined her youth. Here, in this slim but powerful novel, she gives us a moving story that goes closer to the core of that experience than anything she has written before, and brilliantly delineates the psychological and sexual perversion of those times. Ultimately, WILD GINGER has the clean lines of a parable, the poignancy of a coming-of-age novel, the sexiness of a French blue movie, and the sadness of a truly tragic love story.

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### Features

- Anchee Min
- Historical fiction
- Chinese
- asian

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Compared to other novels by the same author, this one disappointed

By Sandra M Yeaman

Anchee Min's *Wild Ginger* relates a love story in the midst of turmoil told from the point of view of a

teenage girl, Maple, who suffers at the hands of a bully, Hot Pepper, because Maple's father was in a forced labor camp at the beginning of Mao's Cultural Revolution. She meets the title character, Wild Ginger, when the latter joins her school class. Because Wild Ginger has "foreign" eyes and her father is half-French, she becomes another target for Hot Pepper, but Wild Ginger fights back and the bond between the two outcasts is forged.

Maple's father is missing from her life because of his political crimes; Wild Ginger's father is dead. Maple has siblings. Wild Ginger is an only child. Their mothers are left with responsibility to hold their two families together. Together they fight the injustice, but when Wild Ginger's mother hangs herself, she loses hope.

In spite of the hopelessness of her situation, fortunes change when she is declared a heroine for discovering a group of unscrupulous men as they tried to divide up profits from thefts from a factory. As a result, she meets Mao after the newspaper headlines proclaimed that she acted based on following the teachings of the Chairman.

The story involves love of all types: best-friends-forever love between teenage girls, love of country, love of family, and first love. It also touches on the negative reactions to love: embarrassment, jealousy, envy, anger, betrayal, revenge. The book's nearly storybook ending is satisfying on one level, but felt just a bit too tidy for a book aimed at an adult audience.

And that touches on what the biggest problem was for me. Because of the age of the central characters, initially I considered the book aimed at a young adult audience. The themes of bullying, friendship, and loyalty all seemed appropriate for YA readers. But as the love story that pitted Wild Ginger and Maple against one another for the love of Evergreen, the details were too graphic for a YA audience. Yet the story line, though complicated and touching on real political and psychological issues, offered too simple a path to satisfy most adults.

I have read other books by Anchee Min, more successful books based on historical characters, fleshed out using fiction techniques. Wild Ginger, when compared with Empress Orchid, disappointed me.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Donna Cazaubon

Good

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting Tale of Love and Devotion

By Kelly Houser

Anchee Min's "Wild Ginger" recounts the tale of Maple, a young Chinese girl living in China during the rule of Mao Tse Tung. Under the control of the Red Guard, Maple's school life is difficult. She has no friends to speak of and her home life isn't much better. Her father is in a work camp, sent there by Maoists who thought he wasn't devoted enough. Maple's family is extremely poor because of the low wage the work camp pays her father.

When Maple meets Wild Ginger, most of her problems seem to fall away. The two girls become fast friends and Maple learns that Wild Ginger's life is as difficult as her own. Wild Ginger's father was a Frenchman who was convicted of being a spy. Her mother, a good but weak woman, commits suicide not long after Maple and Wild Ginger meet. Wild Ginger is forced to care for herself and devotes all of her time to studying the teachings of Mao and making a living in the fish market. When a fortunate series of events turns



Wild Ginger into a national heroine, Maple couldn't be happier for her friend. But soon, Wild Ginger's fierce devotion to Mao and the Red Guard threaten to drive apart the two young girls.

This novel was quite good. I am a fan of Anchee Min's. I find her writing style to be sort of intoxicating. The reader becomes drunk on the beautiful fluidity of her writing. "Wild Ginger" was an interesting glimpse into what it must have been like to be a teenage during the reign of Mao Tse Tung, but also reveals that all teenagers share the same heartbreaks, Chinese or otherwise.

I would definitely recomend this novel.

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