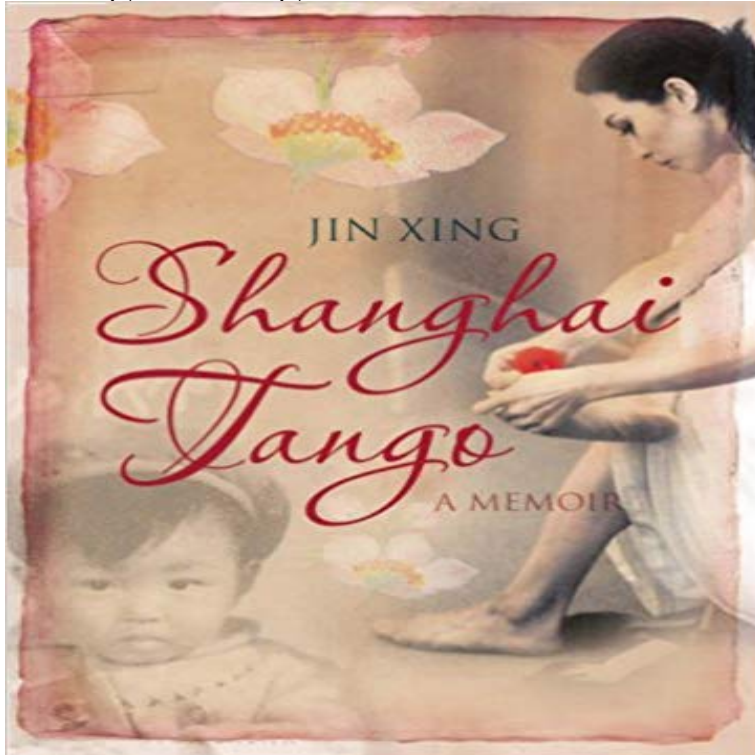


Shanghai Tango: A Memoir



This unusual memoir describes how Chinas foremost male ballet dancer (and colonel in the Peoples Army) underwent Chinas first sex-change operation and became the Shanghai Ballets prima ballerina. This book is suitable for fans of *Running with Scissors*; *Self-Made Man*, and fans of *Transamerica*. Fans of ballet and modern dance. Anyone interested in gender issues, and in Chinese culture and customs. Jin Xing is a former prima ballerina, one of the brightest stars of the Shanghai Ballet. But her journey to international fame has been fraught with difficulty because Jin Xing was in fact born a man. From an early age she was intensely uncomfortable with her gender. Unable to understand or put words to her feelings, she immersed herself in ballet dancing, her first love. Aged 9, she joined the Peoples Liberation Army, where she received both dance and military training and attained the rank of colonel. The curtains opened on a new act in her life when, at the age of 19, she received a scholarship to study dance in New York. It was there that she discovered for the first time that it was possible to change sex. In an instant, what had been the province of dreams became a real opportunity. She took the courageous decision to return to China to face the authorities, quit the army, and confront the world with her decision to become a woman. As dramatic, graceful and deeply felt as a pas de deux, *Shanghai Tango* is a deeply personal and inspiring account of growing up in a body that feels alien and of braving pioneering surgery in communist China.

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