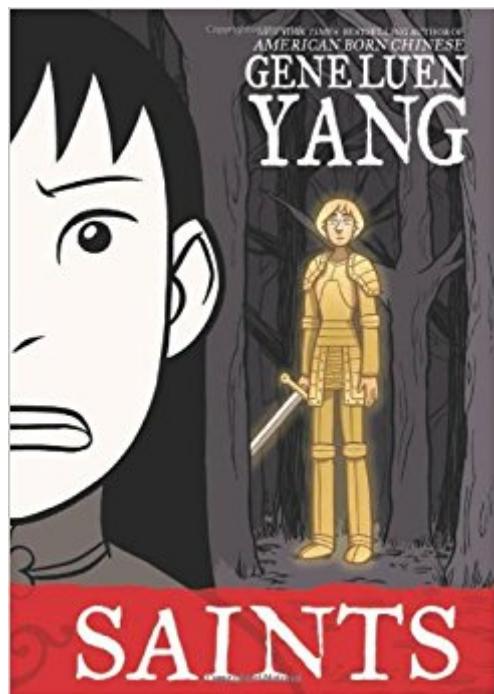


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# Saints (Boxers & Saints)



## **Synopsis**

Gene Luen Yang is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant. A New York Times bestseller, *Boxers & Saints* (Book 2) tells the story of Vibiana, an unwanted fourth daughter in China, 1898. An unwanted fourth daughter, Four-Girl isn't even given a proper name by her family. She finds friendship—and a name, Vibiana—in the most unlikely of places: Christianity. But China is a dangerous place for Christians. The Boxer Rebellion is murdering Westerners and Chinese Christians alike. Torn between her nation and her Christian friends, Vibiana will have to decide where her true loyalties lie . . . and whether she is willing to die for her faith. *Boxers & Saints* is a groundbreaking graphic novel in two volumes. This innovative format presents two parallel tales about young people caught up on opposite sides of a violent rift. *Saints* tells Vibiana's story, and the companion volume, *Boxers*, tells the story of Little Bao, a young man who joins the Boxer Rebellion. American Born Chinese author Gene Luen Yang brings his trademark magical realism to the complexities of the Boxer Rebellion, and lays bare the universal foundations of extremism, rebellion, and faith.

## **Book Information**

Series: *Boxers & Saints* (Book 2)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: First Second; First Edition edition (September 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596436891

ISBN-13: 978-1596436893

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #83,445 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #85 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #96 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 9 Up-Acclaimed graphic novelist Yang brings his talents to historical fiction in these paired novels set during China's Boxer Rebellion (1899-1900). In *Boxers*, life in Little Bao's peaceful rural village

is disrupted when "foreign devils"-a priest and his phalanx of soldiers-arrive. The foreigners behave with astonishing arrogance, smashing the village god, appropriating property, and administering vicious beatings for no reason. Little Bao and his older brothers train in kung fu and swordplay in order to defend against them, and when Little Bao learns how to tap into the power of the Chinese gods, he becomes the leader of a peasant army, eventually marching to Beijing. Saints follows a lonely girl from a neighboring village. Unwanted by her family, Four-Girl isn't even given a proper name until she converts to Catholicism and is baptized-by the very same priest who bullies Little Bao's village. Four-Girl, now known as Vibiana, leaves home and finds fulfillment in service to the Church, while Little Bao roams the countryside committing acts of increasing violence as his army grows. Mysticism plays a part in both stories, and Yang's spare, clean drawing style makes it clear that Vibiana's visits from Joan of Arc and Bao's invocation of the powerful Chinese gods are very real to these characters. The juxtaposition of these opposing points of view, both of them sympathetic, makes for powerful, thought-provoking storytelling about a historical period that is not well known in the West.-Paula Willey, Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, MD<sup>1</sup> (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

\*Starred Review\* In *American Born Chinese* (2006), Yang spoke to the culture clash of Chinese American teen life. In *Saints*<sup>2</sup> "the concluding volume in a two-book set beginning with *Boxers* (2013)" about the Boxer Rebellion at the end of the nineteenth century in China, he looses twin voices in harmony and dissonance from opposite sides of the bloody conflict. *Saints* follows Four-Girl, an outcast in her own family, who embraces the Christian faith spreading through her country and places herself in the dangerous path of the Boxers. Between the two books, Yang ties tangled knots of empathy where the heroes of one become the monsters of the other. Four-Girl and her foil in *Boxers*, Little Bao, are drawn by the same fundamental impulses<sup>3</sup> "for community, family, faith, tradition, purpose" and their stories reflect the inner torture that comes when those things are threatened. Yang is in superb form here, arranging numerous touch points of ideological complexity and deeply plumbing his characters<sup>4</sup> points of view. And in an homage to the driving power of stories themselves, Four-Girl is captivated by a vision sprung from lore: a young Frenchwoman clad in golden armor, Joan of Arc. Much blood is spilled as Four-Girl marches toward her grim fate, which is even more unsettling given that Yang hasn't fundamentally altered his squeaky clean, cartoonishly approachable visual style. A poignant, powerhouse work of historical fiction from one of our finest graphic storytellers. Grades 7-11. --Ian Chipman

High School students (especially reluctant readers) enjoyed this graphic novel. They quickly recognized the historical implications and connections.

My son is 11 and he read both books. He loved them both. Thank you for keeping his interest with these cultural books.

When I read the first part of the Boxer and Saints, I didn't even think it's worth buying this book. However, after I read the second part, I really think this is a good book, and I like the way that the author split one story into two. However, because I do not have a Kindle device, it is so hard to read on a laptop.

Popular with my students!

Great, engaging way to teach my students about imperialism in China and the Boxer Rebellion, all while giving them a relatable character to attach themselves to.

Wonderful graphics and very engaging story line. Great transition between Boxers. Both Boxers and Saints have two different perspectives of a historical event. The books challenged both my intellect and my spirituality. I would highly recommend this graphic novel.

This is one of the most excellent books I've ever read. It's deep, historical, light, funny and tragic all in one. I felt I knew the characters after reading it.

I love this book! It put the entire boxer rebellion into perspective for me. Thank you Gene Luen Yang! I love this book.

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