PRESS RELEASE

Swimming in Hong Kong by Stephanie Han

Stephanie Han’s award-winning stories cross the borders and boundaries of Hong Kong, Korea, and the United States. This is an intimate look at those who dare to explore the geography of hope and love, struggle with dreams of longing and home, and wander in the myths of memory and desire.

Advance praise:
Swimming in Hong Kong is a fine debut. Han captures a host of young people caught in the complexities of global identity with easy authority; the result rings with authenticity and feeling.
~ Gish Jen, Tiger Writing: Art, Culture, and the Interdependent Self

Stephanie Han’s Swimming in Hong Kong features precise and subtle meditations on cross-cultural experiences, from Asian Americans in the Midwest and Asia to women negotiating male-dominated worlds. Han gracefully traverses a complicated terrain fraught with the politics of race, sex, class, gender, and culture. Readers will be grateful for having spent time with these quiet and insightful stories.
~ Viet Thanh Nguyen, The Sympathizer, W 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction

In this poignant, bitter-sweet, sometimes playful, collection, Swimming In Hong Kong, the characters are in search of home, identity, love, respect. They are mostly from China, Korea, and other countries, with some connections to the U.S. Their interactions and intermingling are often full of confusion and misunderstanding as they deal with issues of history, culture, religion, family, displacement, identity. The reader is enlightened as the characters try to cope with complex issues in their lives. The settings are full of striking details. The tone and voice, are varied and engaging.
~ Nahid Rachlin, Judge of the 2015 AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction

Stephanie Han’s short story collection Swimming in Hong Kong (Willow Springs Books) won the Paterson Fiction prize, and was the sole finalist for both the AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction and the Spokane Prize. Individual stories won recognition from Nimrod International Literary Journal, Santa Fe Writer’s Project, and the South China Post. Han is the very first English literature PhD from City University of Hong Kong, and received grants and fellowships from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, PEN West, and VONA. She divides her time between Mui Wo, Lantau, Hong Kong and Honolulu, Hawaii, home of her family since 1904.

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