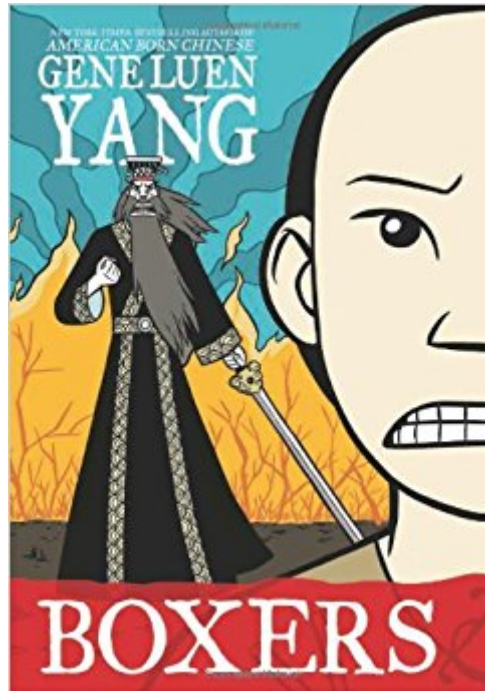




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## Boxers (Boxers & Saints)



## 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. China, 1898. Bands of foreign missionaries and soldiers roam the countryside, bullying and robbing Chinese peasants. Little Bao has had enough. Harnessing the powers of ancient Chinese gods, he recruits an army of Boxers - commoners trained in kung fu who fight to free China from "foreign devils." Against all odds, this grass-roots rebellion is violently successful. But nothing is simple. Little Bao is fighting for the glory of China, but at what cost? So many are dying, including thousands of "secondary devils" - Chinese citizens who have converted to Christianity. *Boxers & Saints* is an innovative new graphic novel in two volumes - the parallel stories of two young people caught up on opposite sides of a violent rift. American Born Chinese author Gene Luen Yang brings his clear-eyed storytelling and trademark magical realism to the complexities of the Boxer Rebellion and lays bare the foundations of extremism, rebellion, and faith. Discover the other side of the Boxer Rebellion in *Saints* - the companion volume to *Boxers*.

## Book Information

Series: *Boxers & Saints* (Book 1)

Paperback: 336 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 0.3 inches

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Best Sellers Rank: #69,619 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia](#) #73 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #77 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious](#)

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## 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

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**\*Starred Review\*** In *American Born Chinese* (2006), Yang spoke to the culture clash of Chinese American teen life. In *Boxers*—the first volume in a two-book set, concluding with *Saints* (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. *Boxers* follows a young man nicknamed Little Bao, who reacts to religious and cultural oppression by leading the uprising from the provinces to Peking, slaughtering “foreign devils” and soldiers along the way. Between the two books, Yang ties tangled knots of empathy where the heroes of one become the monsters of the other. Little Bao and his foil from *Saints*, Four-Girl, are drawn by the same fundamental impulses—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’ points of view. And in an homage to the driving power of stories themselves, Bao is captivated by visions sprung from lore: the spirits he believes possess him and his fighters. Much blood is spilled as Little Bao marches toward his 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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