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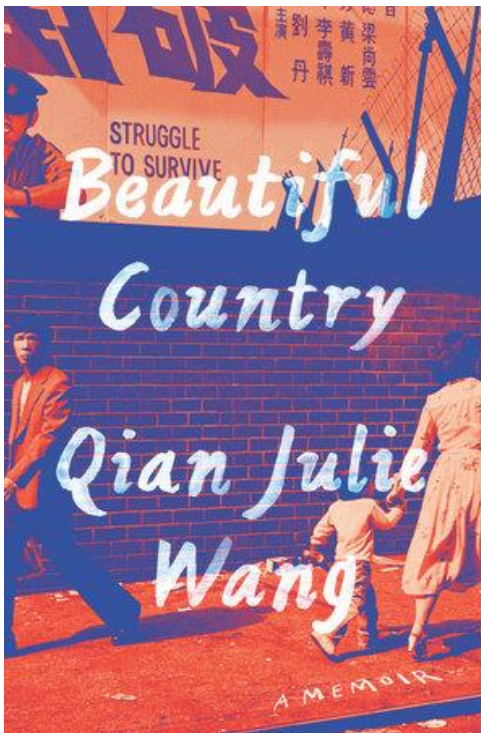
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“With immense skill, [Wang] parses how her family’s illegal status blighted nearly every aspect of their life, from pushing her parents’ marriage to the brink to compromising their health. While Wang’s story of pursuing the American dream is undoubtedly timeless, it’s her family’s triumph in the face of ‘xenophobia and intolerance’ that makes it feel especially relevant today. Consider this remarkable memoir a new classic.”  
— Publisher’s Weekly

## BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

### A Memoir

### Qian Julie Wang



In **BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY** (Doubleday, 9/7/21, \$28.95), debut author Qian Julie Wang recounts her childhood in Brooklyn as a Chinese undocumented immigrant. Covering a period of five years, this childhood memoir details Qian’s journey from China to Brooklyn, along with her struggles from home to school to sweatshops as she evaded deportation and constructed her identity in the face of trauma.

Within this narrative, Wang endures hunger and racism, child labor and her mother’s hospitalization, the judgment of her classmates, and her pathological lies. She details the coping mechanisms that she and her parents develop in the face of oppression. Even as Qian’s parents hurt each other within a seemingly unescapable marriage, their mutual abuse eludes easy solutions for the problems of systemic racism, poverty, and the hostile measures taken against immigrants. What further complicates this situation are the moments of love that Qian gives and receives, especially when the family makes their final journey to Canada.

Wang makes these themes poignant through her selection of life-changing episodes and introspection. She immerses readers through her young self’s observations, then recontextualizes these thoughts through hindsight. In one moment, Qian joyfully jangles a box of pennies like a tambourine: her payment for a twelve-hour shift at a sweatshop.

While her family left China in the shadow of the Cultural Revolution, Wang critiques the American dream and dispels the “model minority” myth. Her critique is more urgent than ever in the wake of the 2016 American election, which drove Wang to go public with her undocumented past and write this memoir.

*BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY* is a worthy new addition to the canon of childhood memoirs. It inhabits the intersection of stories about the Asian-American and undocumented-immigrant experience. Readers will feel moved by the lyrical strength of Wang’s prose, along with her story’s demonstration of her resilience.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Qian Julie Wang is a graduate of Yale Law School and Swarthmore College. Formerly a commercial litigator, she is now managing partner of Gottlieb & Wang LLP, a firm dedicated to advocating for education and civil rights. Her writing has appeared in major publications such as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and their two rescue dogs, Salty and Peppers. *Beautiful Country* is her debut book.

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**BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY: A Memoir**  
By Qian Julie Wang  
Doubleday \* 9/7/21 \* \$28.95  
ISBN: 978-0-385-54721-5