



Waiting: A Novel

By Ha Jin

Download now

Read Online →

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin

"In **Waiting**, Ha Jin portrays the life of Lin Kong, a dedicated doctor torn by his love for two women: one who belongs to the New China of the Cultural Revolution, the other to the ancient traditions of his family's village. Ha Jin profoundly understands the conflict between the individual and society, between the timeless universality of the human heart and constantly shifting politics of the moment. With wisdom, restraint, and empathy for all his characters, he vividly reveals the complexities and subtleties of a world and a people we desperately need to know."--Judges' Citation, National Book Award

"Ha Jin's novel could hardly be less theatrical, yet we're immediately engaged by its narrative structure, by its wry humor and by the subtle, startling shifts it produces in our understanding of characters and their situation."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Subtle and complex--his best work to date. A moving meditation on the effects of time upon love."--*The Washington Post*

"A high achievement indeed."--Ian Buruma, *The New York Review of Books*

"A portrait of Chinese provincial life that terrifies with its emptiness even more than with its all-pervasive vulgarity. The poet in [Jin] intersperses these human scenes with achingly beautiful vignettes of natural beauty."--*Los Angeles Times*

"A simple love story that transcends cultural barriers--. From the idyllic countryside to the small towns in northeast China, Jin's depictions are filled with an earthy poetic grace--. Jin's account of daily life in China is convincing and rich in detail."--*The Chicago Tribune*

"Compassionate, earthy, robust, and wise, **Waiting** blends provocative allegory with all-too-human comedy. The result touches and reveals, bringing to life a singular world in its spectacular intricacy."--Gish Jen, author of **Who's Irish?**

"A remarkable love story. Ha Jin's understanding of the human heart and the human condition transcends borders and time. **Waiting** is an outstanding literary achievement."--Lisa See, author of **On Gold Mountain**

 [Download Waiting: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Waiting: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Waiting: A Novel

By Ha Jin

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin

"In **Waiting**, Ha Jin portrays the life of Lin Kong, a dedicated doctor torn by his love for two women: one who belongs to the New China of the Cultural Revolution, the other to the ancient traditions of his family's village. Ha Jin profoundly understands the conflict between the individual and society, between the timeless universality of the human heart and constantly shifting politics of the moment. With wisdom, restraint, and empathy for all his characters, he vividly reveals the complexities and subtleties of a world and a people we desperately need to know."--Judges' Citation, National Book Award

"Ha Jin's novel could hardly be less theatrical, yet we're immediately engaged by its narrative structure, by its wry humor and by the subtle, startling shifts it produces in our understanding of characters and their situation."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Subtle and complex--his best work to date. A moving meditation on the effects of time upon love."--*The Washington Post*

"A high achievement indeed."--Ian Buruma, *The New York Review of Books*

"A portrait of Chinese provincial life that terrifies with its emptiness even more than with its all-pervasive vulgarity. The poet in [Jin] intersperses these human scenes with achingly beautiful vignettes of natural beauty."--*Los Angeles Times*

"A simple love story that transcends cultural barriers--. From the idyllic countryside to the small towns in northeast China, Jin's depictions are filled with an earthy poetic grace--. Jin's account of daily life in China is convincing and rich in detail."--*The Chicago Tribune*

"Compassionate, earthy, robust, and wise, **Waiting** blends provocative allegory with all-too-human comedy. The result touches and reveals, bringing to life a singular world in its spectacular intricacy."--Gish Jen, author of **Who's Irish?**

"A remarkable love story. Ha Jin's understanding of the human heart and the human condition transcends borders and time. **Waiting** is an outstanding literary achievement."--Lisa See, author of **On Gold Mountain**

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #23587 in Books
- Published on: 2000-09-19
- Released on: 2000-09-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .69" w x 5.17" l, .53 pounds
- Binding: Paperback

• 308 pages

 [Download Waiting: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Waiting: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"Every summer Lin Kong returned to Goose Village to divorce his wife, Shuyu." Like a fairy tale, Ha Jin's masterful novel of love and politics begins with a formula--and like a fairy tale, *Waiting* uses its slight, deceptively simple framework to encompass a wide range of truths about the human heart. Lin Kong is a Chinese army doctor trapped in an arranged marriage that embarrasses and repels him. (Shuyu has country ways, a withered face, and most humiliating of all, bound feet.) Nevertheless, he's content with his tidy military life, at least until he falls in love with Manna, a nurse at his hospital. Regulations forbid an army officer to divorce without his wife's consent--until 18 years have passed, that is, after which he is free to marry again. So, year after year Lin asks his wife for his freedom, and year after year he returns from the provincial courthouse: still married, still unable to consummate his relationship with Manna. Nothing feeds love like obstacles placed in its way--right? But Jin's novel answers the question of what might have happened to Romeo and Juliet had their romance been stretched out for several decades. In the initial confusion of his chaste love affair, Lin longs for the peace and quiet of his "old rut." Then killing time becomes its own kind of rut, and in the end, he is forced to conclude that he "waited eighteen years just for the sake of waiting."

There's a political allegory here, of course, but it grows naturally from these characters' hearts. Neither Lin nor Manna is especially ideological, and the tumultuous events occurring around them go mostly unnoticed. They meet during a forced military march, and have their first tender moment during an opera about a naval battle. (While the audience shouts, "Down with Japanese Imperialism!" the couple holds hands and gazes dreamily into each other's eyes.) When Lin is in Goose Village one summer, a mutual acquaintance rapes Manna; years later, the rapist appears on a TV report titled "To Get Rich Is Glorious," after having made thousands in construction. Jin resists hammering ideological ironies like these home, but totalitarianism's effects on Lin are clear:

Let me tell you what really happened, the voice said. All those years you waited torpidly, like a sleepwalker, pulled and pushed about by others' opinions, by external pressure, by your illusions, by the official rules you internalized. You were misled by your own frustration and passivity, believing that what you were not allowed to have was what your heart was destined to embrace.

Ha Jin himself served in the People's Liberation Army, and in fact left his native country for the U.S. only in 1985. That a non-native speaker can produce English of such translucence and power is truly remarkable--but really, his prose is the least of the miracles here. Improbably, Jin makes an unconsummated 18-year love affair loom as urgent as political terror or war, while history-changing events gain the immediacy of a domestic dilemma. Gracefully phrased, impeccably paced, *Waiting* is the kind of realist novel you thought was no longer being written. --*Mary Park*

From Publishers Weekly

Jin's quiet but absorbing second novel (after *In the Pond*) captures the poignant dilemma of an ordinary man who misses the best opportunities in his life simply by trying to do his duty—as defined first by his traditional Chinese parents and later by the Communist Party. Reflecting the changes in Chinese communism from the '60s to the '80s, the novel focuses on Lin Kong, a military doctor who agrees, as his mother is dying, to an arranged marriage. His bride, Shuyu, turns out to be a country woman who looks far older than her 26 years and who has, to Lin's great embarrassment, lotus (bound) feet. While Shuyu remains at Lin's

family home in Goose Village, nursing first his mother and then his ailing father, and bearing Lin a daughter, Lin lives far away in an army hospital compound, visiting only once a year. Caught in a loveless marriage, Lin is attracted to a nurse, Manna Wu, an attachment forbidden by communist strictures. According to local Party rules, Lin cannot divorce his wife without her permission until they have been separated for 18 years. Although Jin infuses movement and some suspense into Lin's and Manna's sometimes resigned, sometimes impatient waiting—they will not consummate their relationship until Lin is free—it is only in the novel's third section, when Lin finally secures a divorce, that the story gathers real force. Though inaction is a risky subject and the thoughts of a cautious man make for a rather deliberate prose style (the first two sections describe the moments the characters choose not to act), the final chapters are moving and deeply ironic, proving again that this poet and award-winning short story writer can deliver powerful long fiction about a world alien to most Western readers. (Oct.) FYI: Jin served six years in the People's Liberation Army, and came to the U.S. in 1985.

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The winner of numerous awards for his short fiction and poetry, Emory English professor Ha Jin offers his first full-length novel. It tells the story of Lin Kong, an officer and doctor living in China during the mid-1960s. The novel spans 20 years and takes readers on Kong's life journey. In the beginning, Kong follows the wishes of his parents, entering into a loveless arranged marriage and producing a daughter. Living separately from his family for the duration of his marriage, Kong falls in love with Manna Wu, a nursing student in the hospital where he works. For 18 years they remain friends but not lovers until Kong is able to secure a divorce from his wife. The author, a native of China, cleverly draws from his personal life in a Communist society to create a realistic story. Like fellow Chinese authors Pu Ning and Hong Ying, he illustrates the difficulties that one faces when living in an oppressed society. This touching story about love, honor, duty, and family speaks feelingly to readers on matters of the heart. A nice addition to most larger library fiction and Asian literature collections. AShirley N. Quan, Orange Cty. P.L., Santa Ana, CA
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Valentine:

Often the book *Waiting: A Novel* will bring that you the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very suitable to you. The book *Waiting: A Novel* is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Dawne Feliciano:

You could spend your free time to study this book this e-book. This *Waiting: A Novel* is simple to create you can read it in the park your car, in the beach, train in addition to soon. If you did not have much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Anthony Parker:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is Waiting: A Novel. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

Ann Craft:

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is published or printed or descriptive from each source that will filled update of news. In this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just searching for the Waiting: A Novel when you required it?

**Download and Read Online Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin
#DG10BQ3C9OU**

Read Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin for online ebook

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin books to read online.

Online Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin ebook PDF download

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin Doc

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin Mobipocket

Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin EPub

DG10BQ3C9OU: Waiting: A Novel By Ha Jin