



## Boxers (Boxers & Saints)

By Gene Luen Yang, Lark Pien

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**Boxers (Boxers & Saints)** By Gene Luen Yang, Lark Pien

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*.

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## Boxers (Boxers & Saints) By Gene Luen Yang, Lark Pien Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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 (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

\*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

Review

“A masterful work of historical fiction that happens to be in the form of a graphic novel, and a very accessible view into a complicated moment in Chinese history.” ?Dave Eggers

“In *Boxers and Saints*, Gene Luen Yang once again masterfully draws us into the most difficult issues of self-identity and communal understanding, with characters who struggle to act out of their deepest cultural and spiritual selves. But when they find that their commitments lead them in terrible, frightening directions—one toward massacres, another toward martyrdom—they must ask questions for which there are no easy answers. The brilliance of this novel—and I mean, aside from the brilliance in the telling of a major historical

episode about which most North Americans know very little and which provides some critical lessons in political relationships--the brilliance lies in the merger of fast action and humor and very real characters and startling graphics with a shattering sense of the brokenness of the world and our terrible need for compassion. Read this, and come away shaking." ?National Book Award Finalist and Newbery Honor winner Gary Schmidt, author of *Okay for Now* and *The Wednesday Wars*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Nellie Kim:**

This *Boxers (Boxers & Saints)* is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having *Boxers (Boxers & Saints)* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt which?

#### **Hubert Drummond:**

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