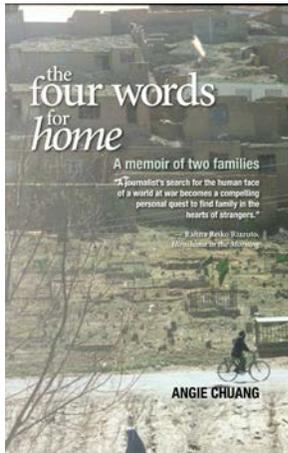


The Four Words for Home

A memoir of two families by Angie Chuang



Coming March 2014 on Willow Books, the literary imprint of Aquarius Press
Winner of the 2013 Willow Books Literature Award Grand Prize in Prose

From Afghanistan and Taiwan, the stories of two immigrant families intersect in post-9/11 America

Angie Chuang takes on an assignment to “find the human face of the country we’re about to bomb” weeks after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Her five-year journey into the lives of the Shirzai family transports her far beyond journalism. She travels to their homeland Afghanistan, and becomes intimately involved with the family’s story of loss and triumph over war.

As she is drawn ever deeper into the Shirzais’s lives, Chuang confronts unknown territory closer to her own home. Her own immigrant family from Taiwan is falling apart. Mental illness, divorce, and deeply rooted cultural taboos have shattered her own family’s American Dream.

Ultimately, she finds the two families are more similar than she had imagined. It is in journeying far away from her own home and family that she is drawn back to discover her own roots – and to confront the hard truths and broken places that lie at the heart of so many stories of migration and intergenerational struggle.

Advance Praise for *The Four Words for Home*:

“Among all the tonnage of work about self and the world at large you will find coming out these days from large presses and small, this serious and lovely experiment from Angie Chuang deserves your attention. If you are serious about reading news about kinship, the rigors of family, the by-blows of war, the way to making peace piece-meal (the only way for most of us), this is a book you need.”

— **Alan Cheuse, author of *Fall Out of Heaven: An Autobiographical Journey* and book commentator for National Public Radio**

“In *The Four Words for Home*, a journalist’s search for the human face of a world at war becomes a compelling personal quest to find family in the hearts of strangers. As Angie Chuang journeys from Portland to Kabul to Taoyuan and back again, first as witness, then as family, she paints a deft and moving portrait of the walls we erect and shows us how they crumble in the face human complexity and enduring love.”

—**Rahna Reiko Rizzuto, author of *Hiroshima in the Morning* and *Why She Left Us*, winner of the American Book Award**

Angie Chuang is a writer and educator based in Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Asian American Literary Review*, and multiple editions of *The Best Women’s Travel Writing*. She has received fellowships and residencies from Yaddo, Hedgebrook, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Jentel, and others. She is on the Journalism faculty of the American University School of Communication.

About Aquarius Press / Willow Books

Willow Books is the literary imprint of the Detroit-based Aquarius Press. The mission of Willow Books is to develop, publish and promote writers typically underrepresented in the literary field. Cave Canem Fellow and Willow Books author Alan King has called Willow Books “the Motown of book publishing.”

Willow Books partnered with the Cave Canem, the nation’s leading nonprofit for black poets, to publish an anthology in 2011. Owner and publisher Heather Buchanan is the past COO of the Wayne County Council for the Arts, History & Humanities and past executive director of the Detroit Writer’s Guild.

The first Willow Books Literature Awards was launched in 2013 to recognize literary excellence in prose and poetry by writers from culturally diverse backgrounds. The grand prize winners in prose and poetry were awarded prize money and a book contract with Willow Books April 2013 at the Willow Books LitFest in Chicago.

More information is available at willowlit.net

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