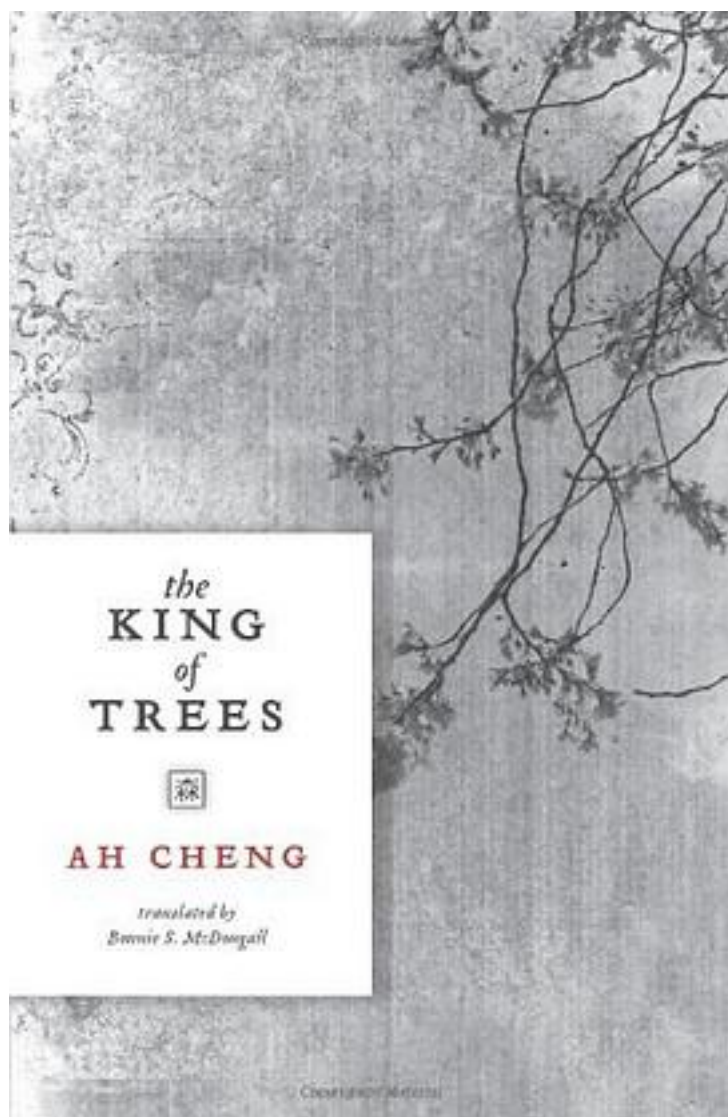


The King of Trees



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著者:Ah Cheng

出版者:New Directions

出版时间:2010-6-29

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780811218665

When the three novellas in *The King of Trees* were published separately in China in the 1980s, "Ah Cheng fever" spread across the country. Never before had a fiction writer dealt with the Cultural Revolution in such Daoist-Confucian terms, discarding Mao-speak, and mixing both traditional and vernacular elements with an aesthetic that emphasized not the hardships and miseries of those years, but the joys of close, meaningful friendships. In *The King of Chess*, a student's obsession with finding worthy chess opponents symbolizes his pursuit of the dao; in *The King of Children*-made into an award-winning film by Chen Kaige, the director of *Farewell My Concubine*-an educated youth is sent to teach at an impoverished village school where one boy's devotion to learning is so great he is ready to spend 500 days copying his teacher's dictionary; and in the title novella a peasant's innate connection to a giant primeval tree takes a tragic turn when a group of educated youth arrive to clear the mountain forest. As moving and enduring as the best of Jack London or Knut Hamsun, *The King of Trees* is as relevant today as it will be tomorrow.

作者介绍:

Ah Cheng, born in Beijing in 1949, is the pen name of Zhong Acheng. An accomplished fiction writer, painter, and screenwriter, Ah Cheng spent the Cultural Revolution in a small village in Inner Mongolia, where he painted the sheep and grasslands, and then on a State Farm in Yunnan province. During the 1980s he came to prominence as a member of the “primitive” or “seeking roots” literary movement. In 1992 he received the Italian Nonino International Prize for his writings, and in 1995 his *Venetian Diary* was honored in Taiwan. He has lived in several countries including the U.S., often not writing and working various jobs such as fixing bicycles and house painting. In recent years he has lived on the outskirts of Beijing and though he refuses to publish, he continues to write.

目录:

[The King of Trees 下载链接1](#)

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[The King of Trees_下载链接1](#)

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