



# Rainbow

By Mao Dun

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## Rainbow By Mao Dun

With this translation of the 1929 novel *Rainbow*(*Hong*), one of China's most influential works of fiction is at last available in English.

*Rainbow* chronicles the political and social disruptions in China during the early years of the twentieth century. Inspired by the iconoclasm of the "May Fourth Movement," the heroine, Mei, embarks on a journey that takes her from the limitations of the traditional family to a discovery of the new, "modern" values of individualism, sexual equality, and political responsibility. The novel moves with Mei from the conservative world of China's interior provinces down the Yangtze River to Shanghai, where she discovers the turbulent political environment of China's most modern city.

Mao Dun writes with the conviction of one who has lived through the events he is describing. *Rainbow* provides a moving introduction to the contradictions inherent in the simultaneous quest for personal freedom and national strengthening. Vividly evocative of the period in which it was written, it is equally relevant to the China of today.

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