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# The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel

*By Shan Sa*



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## The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel By Shan Sa

As the Japanese military invades 1930s Manchuria, a young girl approaches her own sexual coming of age. Drawn into a complex triangle with two boys, she distracts herself from the onslaught of adulthood by playing the game of go with strangers in a public square--and yet the force of desire, like the occupation, proves inevitable. Unbeknownst to the girl who plays go, her most worthy and frequent opponent is a Japanese soldier in disguise. Captivated by her beauty as much as by her bold, unpredictable approach to the strategy game, the soldier finds his loyalties challenged. Is there room on the path to war for that most revolutionary of acts: falling in love?



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## The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel By Shan Sa Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“Breathtaking. . . . While exploring epic themes like the loss of innocence and the meaning of honor, it lingers on the tiny, exquisite details of life.” --*Vogue*

“Shan . . . writes spare prose adorned with images that linger in the mind. . . . In this elegant translation . . . the dreamlike, mesmerizing alternation of voices stands in uneasy contrast to the operatic violence of the plot.” --*The New York Times Book Review*

“Powerfully drawn. . . heart-breaking. . . . Sa’s descriptions and metaphors take hold powerfully and linger. Sa also brings to the reader with stark precision the cruel loss of innocence that war brings to both sides.”--*San Antonio Express-News*

“This Chinese twist on *Romeo and Juliet*. . . evolves into a rich metaphor for the struggle between an ancient society and a modern one, and the battle between the easy innocence of adolescence and the painfully gained knowledge of adulthood. If you enjoyed the similar theme of **Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**, you’ll like this.”--*People*

“Explosive. . . . Poignant and shattering. . . . While [the] climax is inevitable and the stories lead directly toward it, a reader is still shocked and horrified when it occurs.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Shan Sa creates a sense of foreboding that binds the parallel tales of her protagonists. Her measured prose amplifies the isolation amid turmoil that each character seems to inhabit.” --*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Dreamy . . . powerful. . . . This unlikely love story . . . is beautiful, shocking, and sad.”  
—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Compelling. . . . Emotionally charged chapters evoke the stop-and-start rhythms of adolescence. . . . Shan handles the intersection of the personal and the political quite deftly.” --*The Washington Post Book World*

“What makes Sa’s novel so satisfying is the deceptive simplicity of her narrative strategy.” —*San Jose Mercury News*

“An awesome read. . . . Shan Sa describes the story so well that you almost forget you’ve never visited the places in her book. . . . This book is truly for every reader.” —*The Decatur Daily*

“Entrancing. . . . [With] an ending that you won’t predict.” —*The Austin American-Statesman*

"It has the sweep of war and the intimacy of a love story. . . . Shan Sa is a phenomenon." --*The Observer* (London)

"Spellbinding. . . . Sa's language is graceful and trance-like: her fights are a whirling choreography of flying limbs and snow, her emotions richly yet precisely expressed." —*The Times* (London)

"One is struck by the economy of the tale, its speed, and the brutality of its calculations. There is never an excess word or a superfluous phrase: each paragraph counts. . . . Fine literary work."--*Le Figaro Magazine* (France)

"An astonishing book. . . . Ends up taking one's breath away. . . . Goes straight to our hearts." --*Le Point* (France)

"Gripping. . . . A wrenching love story. . . . [The protagonists'] shared sense of immediacy and the transience of life is what in the final analysis makes this novel so strong, so intelligent, so moving. . . . . You'll have to look far and wide to find a better new novel on an East Asian subject than this finely crafted story, satisfying as it is on so many different levels." —*The Taipei Times*

#### From the Inside Flap

As the Japanese military invades 1930s Manchuria, a young girl approaches her own sexual coming of age. Drawn into a complex triangle with two boys, she distracts herself from the onslaught of adulthood by playing the game of go with strangers in a public square--and yet the force of desire, like the occupation, proves inevitable. Unbeknownst to the girl who plays go, her most worthy and frequent opponent is a Japanese soldier in disguise. Captivated by her beauty as much as by her bold, unpredictable approach to the strategy game, the soldier finds his loyalties challenged. Is there room on the path to war for that most revolutionary of acts: falling in love?

#### About the Author

Shan Sa was born in 1972 in Beijing. In 1990 she left China for France, where she studied in Paris and worked for two years with the painter Balthus. Her two previous novels were awarded the Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman and the Prix Cazes. This is her first book to be published in the United States.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### William Jewell:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book *The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel* had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The reserve *The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel* is not only giving you more new information but also being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship together with the book *The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel*. You never truly feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

#### Fred Green:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get great deal of stress from both daily life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is *The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel*.

**Arthur Reaves:**

In this age globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to your account is The Girl Who Played Go: A Novel this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The words styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

**Jaime Friend:**

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