

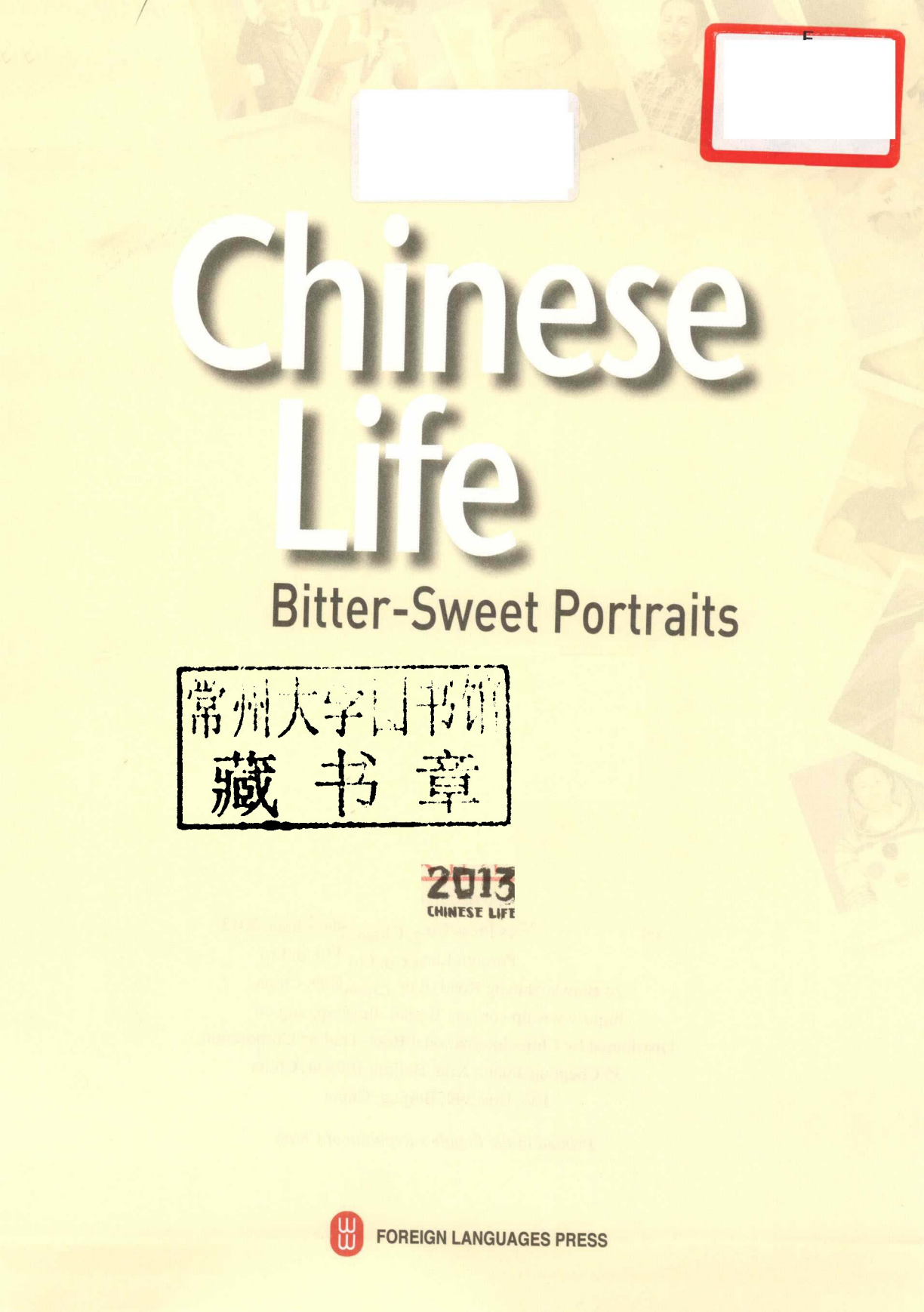
2013  
CHINESE LIFE

# Chinese Life

Bitter-Sweet Portraits



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS



# Chinese Life

Bitter-Sweet Portraits

常州大学图书馆  
藏书章

2013  
CHINESE LIFE



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS



## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

我们中国人. 2013: 英文 / 宋晔等著. —北京: 外文出版社, 2013

ISBN 978-7-119-08534-0

I. ①我… II. ①宋… III. ①人物—生平事迹—中国—现代—英文

IV. ①K820.7

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2013)第207328号

撰 稿: 钟 雯 张 雯 宋 晔 许健楠 庄清湄 王海婷 陈国洲 王开波

马 勇 丁新华 赵梦卓 党小飞 卢茹彩 张力青 等

图片提供: 李建林 陈晓卿 鲍 勃 张 楠 宋 峤 王 博 江 瑜 陈国洲

新华社 中新社 汉华易美 西藏军区宣传处 等

翻 译: 袁连荣 卢秀敏 刘振聪 袁 博 Leslie Harvel

英文审定: 梁良兴

责任编辑: 文 芳

特约编辑: 张力青 宋 晔 杨晶如 钟 雯 吴子芄

图片编辑: 王 炎

装帧设计:  设计 · 邱特聪

印刷监制: 张国祥

## 我们中国人 2013

出 版 人: 徐 步

出版发行: 外文出版社有限责任公司

地 址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号

邮政编码: 100037

网 址: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

电子邮箱: [flp@cipg.org.cn](mailto:flp@cipg.org.cn)

电 话: 008610-68320579 (总编室)

008610-68327750 (版权部)

008610-68995852 (发行部)

008610-68996158 (编辑部)

印 刷: 北京雷杰印刷有限公司

经 销: 新华书店/外文书店

开 本: 787×1092mm 1/16

版 次: 2013年8月第1版第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-119-08534-0

定 价: 128.00元

## Preface

As every person has their own dreams, so does every nation. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), recently pointed out that achieving the rejuvenation of the great Chinese nation is our greatest dream in modern times. He said that the “Chinese Dream” is in fact the people’s dream, and that “to achieve the rejuvenation dream of the great Chinese nation is to achieve national prosperity and rejuvenation and the people’s happiness.”

In such an era as we as a nation work toward fulfilling the “Chinese Dream”, we found 24 Chinese people in 2012 and 2013, and this book records their glory and dreams, laughter and tears. Although they do not represent all of the Chinese people, what they experienced, thought and accomplished in more than a year placed them in the spotlight.

There is a writer, who won the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature and was the first Chinese citizen to do so. He is Mo Yan. He said after winning the prize, “China has many excellent writers, whose works should be recognized and accepted by the world.” We hope that, after Mo Yan, there will be more and more outstanding works of contemporary Chinese literature that will be recognized by the world.

There is a taikonaut, who was the first female astronaut in China. She is Liu Yang. On June 16, 2012, Spacecraft “Shenzhou-9” was successfully launched. In the following 13 days in space, Liu Yang and two other

spacefarers successfully completed the manned rendezvous and docking tasks for Spacecraft "Shenzhou-9" and Spacecraft "Tiangong-1", which means that China has completely mastered rendezvous and docking technology, and that it has the basic capabilities to construct space stations.

There is a director, who won the 85th Oscar Award for Best Director and is the first Asian director to receive the award twice. He is Ang Lee, who developed from an "average student" who failed the college entrance exam twice to a film master at New York University, from a frustrated "house husband" to a world-renowned film director who has gained many top international film awards. His transformations cannot be achieved without the persistent pursuit of his ideal of film. He shows the clash and exchange possibilities of East and West in his movies with the clever fusion of traditional Chinese culture and mainstream of Western culture.

There is a businessman, who is the first entrepreneur from Chinese mainland to appear on the cover of the U.S. financial magazine *Forbes*. He is Ma Yun (Jack Ma), who founded Alibaba, which quickly became the world's largest B2B e-commerce platform. A layman who only knew what the Internet was but not its connotations, Ma created the brilliant online shopping empire today, promoting and witnessing the prosperity of China's online shopping market.

There is an athlete, who is known as "Girl Flying Fish". She is Ye Shiwen. She broke world records one after another and won two Olympic gold medals within three days at the 2012 Olympics in London when she was only 16 years old. With a series of honors, she attracted attention worldwide, including praise and envy. While bathed in her fame, we do not see the arrogance that usually comes with achievements or fear generated by rumors. She pioneered a new era of her own though she was only 16 years old.

There is a teacher, who was praised by the netizens as "The Most Beautiful Female Teacher". She is Zhang Lili. She was seriously injured and her legs were amputated because she tried to save her students from a car accident when she was 29, an age when people are supposed to enjoy life and achieve ideals. From her case, we see the responsibility and the sacrifice of the post-1980 generation of young teachers.

There is a nurse, who is known as the "Alpine Snow Lotus". She is Peng Yan. After graduating from a military medical science university,



she decided to work in Nagqu, Tibet, which is known as a "life restricted area". She has faced death 17 times in 12 years on her way to outreach clinics. More than 4,000 days on the frontier left her 23 scars and various diseases. Someone said that she had had too much to lose, but she does not think so. In her view, love is the most beautiful emotion.

There is a migrant worker, who was a delegate to the 18th CPC National Congress held in November 2012. He is Cheng Junrong. He was born a farmer, came from a technical background and worked as a migrant worker in the city. Nevertheless, he has honors that are hard to be matched by other people. A former migrant worker, he has realized the dream of migrant workers for he has now completed the process of transforming from a farmer to a citizen in the city.

...

When these people are presented to us, their glory and splendor, joy and sorrow pieced together illustrate the common experience of the Chinese people. In these stories, we can witness the development of China and the pursuits of the Chinese people.

As a long-cherished wish for several generations of the Chinese people, the "Chinese Dream" is the common aspiration of every Chinese person. Recalling the past, based on the present, the "Chinese Dream" is guiding contemporary China toward a bright future ahead.



#### **Well-known Writer**

**Mo Yan: Road to the Nobel Prize**

#### **Oscar Award for Best Director**

**Ang Lee: Conquering the World with a Lens**

#### **New Swimming Star**

**Ye Shiwen: A Grand Slam in Swimming**

#### **Public Service Star**

**Chen Kun: Power of Walking**

#### **Television Editing & Directing**

**Chen Xiaoqing: "A Bite of China"**

# Contents

## Recreation and Sports

Well-known Writer	
Mo Yan: Road to the Nobel Prize	3
Oscar Award for Best Director	
Ang Lee: Conquering the World with a Lens	13
New Swimming Star	
Ye Shiwen: A Grand Slam in Swimming	23
Public Service Star	
Chen Kun: Power of Walking	33
Television Editing & Directing	
Chen Xiaoqing: "A Bite of China"	43

## Science & Technology

Academicians of the "Two Chinese Academies"	
Zheng Zhemin: Dynamizing China	55
Astronaut	
Liu Yang: Flying to Space	63
Science Talent	
Wang Jun: Achieving First-Class Genetic Research	73
Reforming Principal	
Zhu Qingshi: Innovating South University of Science & Technology	81
Aircraft Carrier Captain	
Zhang Zheng: Captain of China's First Aircraft Carrier	89
Broken Body, Unbroken Spirit	
Wang Sujing: The Chinese Version of Stephen Hawking	97



## Business Elite

### E-Commerce Magnate

**Ma Yun: Creating RMB 19.1 Billion in Sales in One Day** 107

### Media Big Shot

**Liu Jiang: Fashion Media Businesses** 117

### "Godfather" of Venture Capital Circle

**Hugo Shong: Witnessing Venture Capital Miracles in China** 127

## Great Love

### Reef-defending Soldier

**Li Wenbo: Guarding Nansha Islands Reef for 20 Years** 137

### Virtuous Migrant Worker

**Huang Jiusheng: The Common Son of 700 Elderly People** 145

### Heroic Teacher

**Zhang Lili: "The Most Beautiful Female Teacher"** 153

### Selfless Nurse

**Peng Yan: The "Alpine Snow Lotus"** 161

### Environmentalist

**Zhang Jiao: Sacrificing Her Youth to Desolate Hills** 171

## Ordinary People's Lives

### Delegate to the 18th CPC National Congress

**Cheng Junrong: A "Migrant Worker" Who Took to the Political Stage** 181

### Village Official of the "Post-80s Generation"

**Shi Lei: From a Village Official to a Delegate** 191

### Community Manager

**Chen Fenglian: "Community Old Lady" Was a Laid-Off Worker** 201

### Herder in Disaster-hit Areas

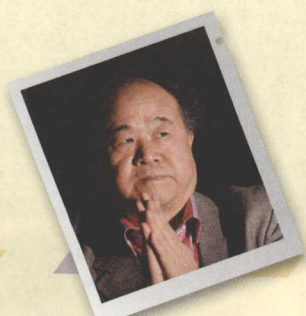
**Caiwa: A Tibetan Hero Who Rose from the Ruins** 209

### Filial Chinese Man

**Chen Binjiang: Taking Mother with Him to Teach** 217

# Recreation and Sports

In this year, Mo Yan won the Nobel Prize for Literature; Ang Lee won the Oscar Award for Best Director; Ye Shiwen, only 16 years old, broke world records one after another and won two Olympic gold medals within three days; Chen Xiaoqing presented the real life of ordinary Chinese people through the TV program "A Bite of China"; Chen Kun, together with his young friends, reconnected with themselves by walking, warming others and passing positive energy. In this year, the literary and art circles told their Chinese stories to the world in their own unique ways.









## Introduction

The Swedish Nobel Prize Committee announced that Mo Yan was the winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature at 19 o'clock, October 11th, 2012, Beijing Time. He was the 105th author to be awarded the honor since the Nobel Prize for Literature was created in 1901, and also the first Chinese citizen ever to win the Nobel Prize. The Nobel citation praised Mo Yan "who with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary." As a well-known writer in contemporary China, Mo Yan rose to fame with a series of books set in rural China beginning in the mid-1980s. The works are full of the complicated emotions of nostalgia and resentment, and he is classified as a writer of the "root-seeking" school.



## Well-known Writer

Mo Yan

# Road to the Nobel Prize

---

"I am a storyteller. Telling stories earned for me the Nobel Prize for Literature. Many interesting things have happened to me in the wake of winning the prize, and they have convinced me that truth and justice are alive and well. So I will continue telling my stories in the days to come."

— Mo Yan

---

The conferring of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature on the Chinese writer Mo Yan attracted the attention of foreign readers to Chinese literature and Chinese writers, and aroused their interest in Chinese literature. After the news of his winning of the prize was released, his books in stores all over the world were almost sold out.

Mo Yan was very calm about winning the prize. "A common person becomes famous only because there is no hero in the world," said Mo Yan. "I become famous only because there are no great writers in contemporary literature. This is something that must be made clear. Some people are more talented and more experienced than I am, but they are not held in high esteem in literature. This is because they do not have opportunity, so I am very lucky. I always need to learn from others. I should not forget who I am." He has never ceased cautioning himself to remain sober-minded since he began to gradually gain prominence as a young writer thirty years ago. "Do not be supercilious because of fame. I should respect other writers and the works of the others in my heart instead of just pretending to respect them. Only when a person is able to find advantages of the others can he/she make possible progress. If a writer thinks his works are better than the works of anyone else's, he/she will stop making further progress."

## Dialogue

Journalist: What, in your works, do you think moved the judges?

Mo Yan: I think it was mainly because of the literary quality of my works. This is a prize in literature. The reason for awarding the prize is literature. My works are part of the Chinese literature and also part of the global literature. My works show the life of the Chinese people and typical culture and scene of China. My novels are also a depiction of people in a wider sense. I always take the perspective of a person. I am always writing about people. I think this makes my works go beyond regional, racial and ethnic limits.

## A Child Who Loved Books and Stories

Mo Yan was born in a very desolate village in Gaomi County, Shandong Province in 1955. There were many people in the family. He left school before he even finished the fifth grade. When the children of his age sang and played ballgames at the school, he lonesomely passed the school gate every day, driving one or two animals to graze on the vast meadow outside of the village, but he always had a strong desire to study.

Mo Yan was very much a book fan. In order to read books, he helped the others labor in various ways in exchange for books to read or exchanged the few children's books he had with others. One of Mo Yan's classmates had an illustrated *Investiture of the Gods*. He was very interested in this imaginary and hallucinatory book. When he asked his classmate if he could borrow the book, she said, "If you want to read our book, you need to help us rotate the millstone. You can read

one page after you have walked around the bed stone to rotate the millstone ten times, and one more page another ten times.” Mo Yan paid a lot to finish reading the novel.

After Mo Yan dropped out, he had to do farm work during the day. He only had big chunks of time to read at night. The flame of the kerosene lamp at his home was as small as the seed of a yellow soybean. His mother cooked and sewed in the light. He read books in the light. The light was so dark that he often lowered his head to the flame without realizing it and burned his hair. The burned hair looked like felt. Quickly, Mo Yan finished reading all of the books owned by the families in the dozens of villages in Gaomi.

When he had no books to read, he went to listen to books. At that time, there were still storytellers in the marketplace. They set up stalls in the marketplace and began to tell kung fu stories and other tales. Sometimes, they also told some stories that happened in modern times. When it was still at night, storytellers would also walk into villages. They found empty rooms and set up desks there to tell classical stories. Mo Yan was their constant audience. He listened to their stories with keen interest.

When Mo Yan’s mother was sewing at night, Mo Yan would tell her the stories he had heard during the day. This bothered his mother

Mo Yan’s former residence.  
(11)





very much at the beginning, but he just kept on retelling his stories. Gradually, his mother became fascinated and his elder sister also began to listen. Mo Yan evolved from one who listened to stories into one who passed on stories by word of mouth. While he was retelling the stories, he would embellish his narration by adding elements and details he thought should be included, so he not only passed on stories but also created stories.

Mo Yan's eldest brother was a literature student. When he worked together with Mo Yan, he often told Mo Yan a writer's life was very happy. A writer was able to have Jiaozi (a type of Chinese dumplings) three times a day. Mo Yan thus dreamed of becoming a writer so he could eat Jiaozi three times a day.

When Mo Yan now looks back on his childhood, he feels a twinge of regret. He also feels he was lucky. Dropping out at an early age made it possible for him to develop a close bond with nature and communicate with the trees, sheep and cattle. He watched the adults' world with the eyes of a child. He observed the world from the unique perspective of a child. He saw many things an adult could not see, and these greatly helped his writing.

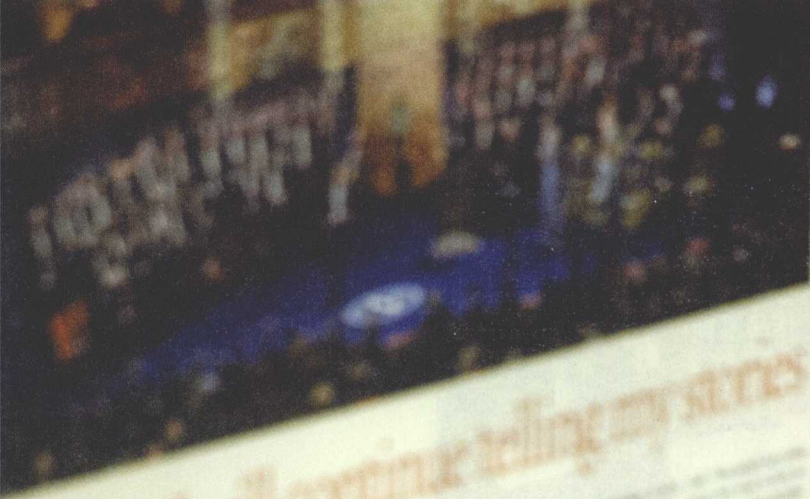
On 19 April 2013, the launch ceremony for Mo Yan's new work *Grand Ceremony* was held in Haikou, Hainan.  
(→)

### "Gaomi's Northeast Township"

Mo Yan, through his efforts, was admitted to the Literature Department at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Arts in 1984, where he attended lectures given by teachers from Peking University, Beijing Normal University and Renmin University of China, and also got to know the writing experiences of many writers. Mo Yan realized that he must find a literary domain of his own.

At that time, he read the works of Faulkner, an American writer. He found that Faulkner was trying to describe a fictional literary place--Yoknapatawpha County-- in his writings. Mo Yan said, "A writer first needs to find a place he/she belongs to and a literary domain of his/her own and can then write freely in the domain."

A desolate place named "Gaomi's Northeast Township" made its first appearance in 1984 in *Autumn Floods*, a novella by Mo Yan. Such characters as "Grandpa" and "Grandma" also appeared. They were the



to Yan: I will continue telling my stories







In November 2012, a bookstand special for Mo Yan's works. (→)

Mo Yan's Manuscript of *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* appeared on the "Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Prize" held in Shanghai. (→)

elders in "Gaomi's Northeast Township". All the stories subsequently written by Mo Yan were all set in "Gaomi's Northeast Township". Events that happened in Mo Yan's childhood, Mo Yan's experiences in the village, Mo Yan's neighbors, parents and brothers, the pond in the village, the big tree by the entrance to the village, and the animals and plants in the field all became raw material for Mo Yan.

Mo Yan's novels are characterized by a strong rural flavor. No matter how the works vary, a spiritual home-- "Gaomi's Northeast Township" -- can be found in almost all his works. There is indeed a Northeast Township and a Gaomi County in Shandong Province, but Gaomi's Northeast Township in the novels is very different from the real one. Some readers actually bought train tickets to look for the patch of red sorghum after they read the novel *Red Sorghum*, but they were very disappointed when they got there. "Gaomi's Northeast Township" in the novels has already become a literary concept of Mo Yan. It is a fictional place created based on certain facts.

"Gaomi's Northeast Township" carries all of Mo Yan's memories of his childhood. Mo Yan said, "There are such folk arts as clay sculpture, paper cutting, *pu hui* (flapped ash) New Year picture, and Maoqiang (a local folk opera). I grew up with the folk arts and the folk culture. These cultural elements began to affect me when I was a child. When I write literary works, these elements unavoidably come into my novels, and affect and even determine my works' artistic style." Mo Yan hopes to use his hometown, Gaomi's Northeast Township, as a microcosm of China, making people think about human existence and development through his depiction of his hometown.