THE STORY OF THE STONE

CAO XUEQIN
IN FIVE VOLUMES

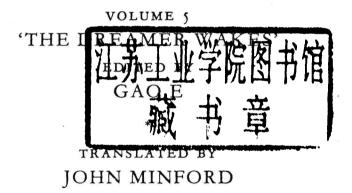
VOLUME 5
'THE DREAMER WAKES'
EDITED BY
GAO E

TRANSLATED BY
JOHN MINFORD

PENGUIN BOOKS

THE STORY OF THE STONE

A CHINESE NOVEL BY
CAO XUEQIN
IN FIVE VOLUMES



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THE STORY OF THE STONE Vol. 5

ADVISORY EDITOR: BETTY RADICE

CAO XUEQIN (?1715-63) was born into a family that for three generations held the office of Commissioner of Imperial Textiles in Nanking, a family so wealthy that they were able to entertain the Emperor Kangxi four times. But calamity overtook them and their property was confiscated. Cao Xueqin was living in poverty near Peking when he wrote his famous novel The Story of the Stone (also known as The Dream of the Red Chamber), of which this is the fifth volume. The first four volumes, The Golden Days, The Crab-Flower Club, The Warning Voice and The Debt of Tears, are also published in the Penguin Classics.

GAO E (?1740-1815) was a Chinese Bannerman of the Bordered Yellow Banner, who for the last twenty years of his life worked in the Grand Secretariat and the Censorate in Peking. In 1792 he and his friend Cheng Weiyuan published for the first time a complete version of *The Story of the Stone* in 120 chapters. Previously handwritten copies of the novel had circulated, which ended with the eightieth chapter. Cheng and Gao claimed that they edited the last forty chapters of their complete version from a fragmentary manuscript by the original author.

JOHN MINFORD was born in 1946. He studied Chinese at Oxford and at the Australian National University, taught in the People's Republic of China (1980–82), and then in Hong Kong, where he was until 1986 director of the Research Centre for Translation in the Chinese University, and editor of the journal Renditions. He is now Professor of Chinese at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

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