

Bei La: A Shanghai Skylark Sings the Song of Walden

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Canadian writer Bei La, born in Shanghai, recently completed a non-fiction work titled *The Tears of the Skylark*. This is her first work since she left Shanghai and returned to Canada two years ago. Through a skylark, a farewell song was sung about the prosperity and loneliness, brightness and darkness, disaster and redemption of Shanghai over the past hundred years.

Mike Medavoy and Bei La

This work was completed during her travels, including the Lake Mochizuki in Hokkaido, Beverly Hills, Concord in Massachusetts, Vancouver Harbour, Niagara Town, and an isolated island on Lake Ontario. This is her tribute paid as the meditation on Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*.



[The Cursed Piano](#)

The book records the thrilling journey of her maternal grandfather as a survivor of the shocking Jiangyashipwreck in December 1948, which had a death toll even far exceeding that of the Titanic. She describes her father, who was a military doctor, taking the risk of hiding more than ten ancestral gold bars and jewelry in the soil of his own iron tree during the Cultural Revolution, avoiding the fate of being confiscated but enduring the hardships brought by wealth. She also depicts the extraordinary significance of the Christian faith of her parents' family to their lives. And she looks back at the distorted era when she was criticized for peeking at world classics in her youth. She witnesses the human nature revealed by the COVID-19 epidemic around the world.

What made Bei La decide to give up her luxurious life in Shanghai was not her experiences during the quarantine hotel and lockdown period, but rather, as a human being, everything she

experienced during those special times has passed away with the wind. She left because she was called and pulled by a free soul. When a writer sees desolation amidst the hustle and bustle, yearning for tranquility amidst the clamor, and seeking her own "Walden" in the endless wilderness, she is awakened by literature.

"The farther away from one's hometown in terms of geographical location, the closer the hometown in literature," said Bei La.

She wrote in this book: Humans are immersed in a large sphere, gradually shrouded in anxiety, fear, absurdity, nothingness, and despair. In the ever-changing world, the unpredictability of fate has become a human destiny. This is an era that has become indifferent to tragedy. Any pain is futile. When a person is far away from the hustle and bustle, you will hear your own voice, and your soul will return to the wilderness of freedom.

The girl doesn't speak

But it tells of sadness;

The silence of the river

Only records the years;

Time daydreaming

But it answered everything

This is the skylark singing: "Please give me the freedom to fall deeply in love with someone, give me the courage to embrace you tightly. Please give me a path to explore truth, and give me the power to find light in darkness, even if it requires sacrificing my life."

"No matter what she has experienced or is currently experiencing, Bei La can always extract beneficial nutrients from hardships and transform them into valuable literary wealth. The light of



brightness and hope has not disappeared in her eyes for a second. She stands at the spiritual pole and her thoughts far exceed those of contemporary writers. This is the best annotation that Shanghai Bei La can become the world's Bei La," said her literary agent An Boshun.

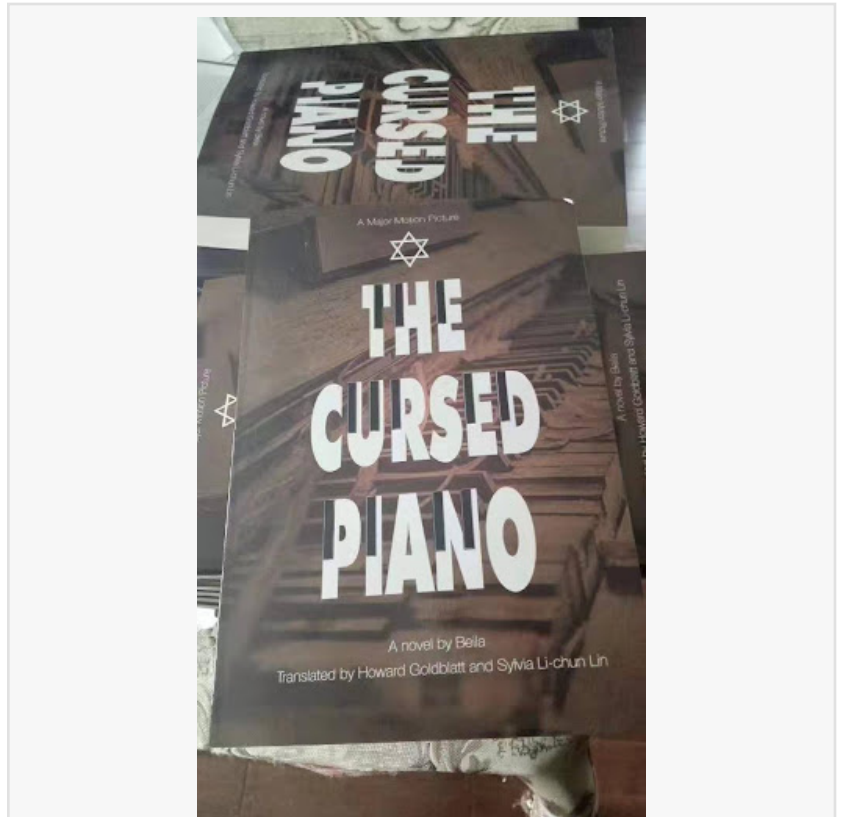
French Opera: The Lover of Shanghai

The French opera Shanghai Lovers adapted from Bei La' novel was accomplished on May 24th at the Fontainebleau Theater. This opera has 13 scenes and is expected to be performed in 2 hours and 10 minutes. The lineup is very strong, reproducing the bustling modernity and true love of Shanghai a century ago. The rivers of this Far Eastern city are full of her spirit of embracing all rivers.

This French opera that reproduces Bei La's hometown will premiere in Paris and tour the world.

Bei La

Bei La is a Canadian citizen born in Shanghai. As a contemporary writer of romanticism and humanitarianism, she also serves as a Visiting Researcher for the Institute of Arts and Humanities in Shanghaijiao Tong University. She has published over a dozen novels, including "The Cursed Piano", "Song of Survivors", "Sentimental Casablanca", etc. Over the years, Bei La has focused her literary creation and researches on "Jews in Shanghai". During the past two decades, she has visited Jews across the world who lived or were born in Shanghai, gathering a large number of first-hand historical materials. The "Jews in Shanghai" series is designed to include ten books. Howard Goldblatt, a renowned Jewish American sinologist, is the English translator of her works. "The Cursed Piano", the last work of



British playwright Ronald Harwood who is the Oscar Winner of Best Screenplay for "The Pianist", is based on Bei La's novel of the same name, also known as the companion piece of "The Pianist". Bei La's work "Song of the Survivors" is regarded as the Shanghai version of "Gone with the Wind". "Song of Survivors" is based on the experience of Mike Medavoy's parents in Shanghai during World War II. Mike grew up and became a top Hollywood producer who is an eight-time Oscar Winner of Best Picture with films such as "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest". With love and faith as the main thread, Bei La's works portray the humanitarian spirit of her hometown Shanghai by demonstrating the shared emotions and destiny of human beings, and fleshing out the wisdom and humor of the Jews, who showed tremendous optimism and resilience in the face of misery and uprooted existence. With an eye for love and beauty, Bei La tells the stories of Jews related to Shanghai, spreading the seed of love and faith to the world. In addition to her literary creation, as a music and art lover, Bei La also performed the piano solo "Butterfly lovers" in a concert of the Israeli pianist Yaron Kolberg, and she once gave a concert at the Shanghai Concert Hall as well.

Zeta

The Tears of the Skylark

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