



Name in English: Ha Jin
Name in Chinese: 金雪飞 [金雪飛]
Name in Pinyin: Jīn Xuěfēi
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1956
Birth Place: Liaoning, China
Philanthropy:

Profession (s): Author, poet, professor

Education: B.A., English Studies, 1981, Heilongjian University; M.A., Anglo-American Literature, 1984, Shandong University; Ph.D., 1992, Brandeis University.

Award(s): 1996, PEN/Hemingway Award for *Ocean of Words*; 1997, Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for *Under the Red Flag*; 1999, National Book Award for *Waiting*, 1999, PEN/Faulkner Award for *Waiting*; 2004, PEN/Faulkner Award for *War Trash*.

Contribution(s): He wrote poetry in English for the first time in 1992, he has since published three volumes of poetry, three short story collections and four novels, garnering numerous awards along the way. Ha Jin teaches creative writing at Boston University, he formerly taught at Emory University. In 2007, he collaborated with composer Tan Dun on the libretto for the opera, *The First Emperor*.

At the age of fourteen, Jin Xuefei joined the People's Liberation Army. He left in his sixth year to go to college, majoring in English. Watching the Tiananmen Square incident while studying at Brandeis University, Jin realized he could not return to China. He remained in the United States after his Ph.D. Until he was hired as a professor at Emory University, Jin took jobs as a night watchman in a plastics factory and busboy. To extend his student visa after Tiananmen, he applied to a creative writing workshop, it was the first time he made the decision to write in English. His first book of poems was published in 1990.

Jin (under the pen name Ha Jin) writes mostly about China, in the fictional Muji City. His writing style has been compared to that of Nikolai Gogol, Anton Chekov and Franz Kafka. He has won PEN awards for *Waiting* (1999) and *War Trash* (2004). The PEN Award is among the most prestigious awards in literature, past winner have included Tobias Wolff, Don DeLillo and Michael Cunningham. Ha Jin has become only the third novelist to have won the PEN/Faulkner award twice, along with Philip Roth and E.L. Doctorow. *War Trash*, the tale of a Chinese prisoner of war during the Korean War, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His latest novel, *A Free Life* is the first set in the United States, chronicling a first generation family of Chinese immigrants.

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