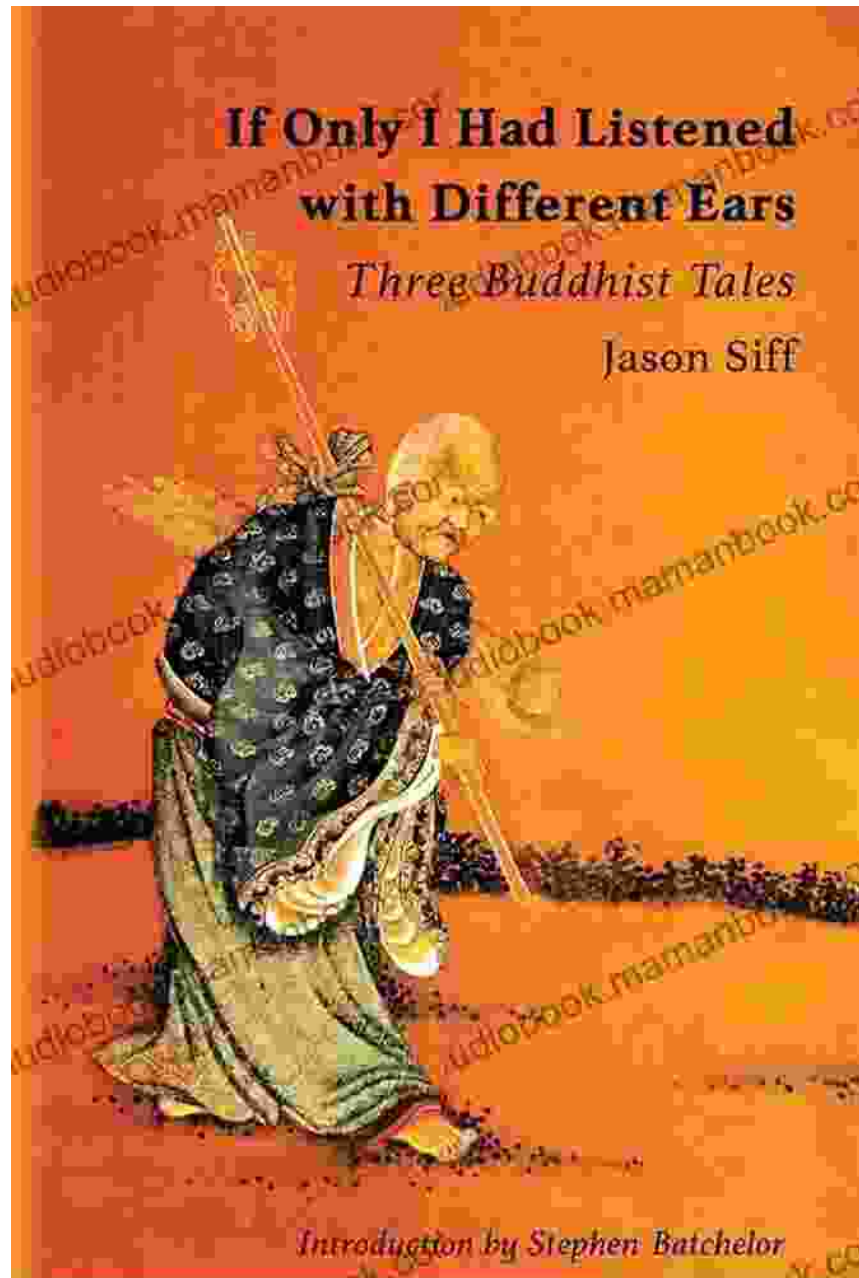


If Only Had Listened With Different Ears: A Memoir by Celeste Ng



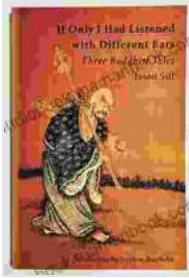
If Only I Had Listened with Different Ears by Jason Siff

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1228 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 368 pages



In her memoir, *If Only I Had Listened With Different Ears*, Celeste Ng reflects on her childhood and explores the ways in which her parents' expectations and cultural values shaped her identity. The memoir is a powerful and moving exploration of the complexities of family, identity, and the immigrant experience.

Ng was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Chinese immigrant parents. Her father was a physicist and her mother was a nurse. Ng grew up in a traditional Chinese household, where her parents expected her to excel in school and become a doctor or lawyer. However, Ng had other dreams. She wanted to be a writer.

Ng's parents did not understand her desire to become a writer. They saw writing as a frivolous pursuit, not a real career. They pressured her to pursue a more practical path, such as medicine or law. Ng felt torn between her parents' expectations and her own dreams. She eventually decided to follow her own path and become a writer.

In *If Only I Had Listened With Different Ears*, Ng explores the challenges she faced as a first-generation Chinese American. She writes about the racism

she experienced, the cultural misunderstandings she had with her parents, and the search for her own identity.

The memoir is a powerful and moving exploration of the complexities of family, identity, and the immigrant experience. Ng's writing is honest and insightful, and she provides a unique perspective on the challenges faced by first-generation Chinese Americans.

Themes

If Only Had Listened With Different Ears explores a number of important themes, including:

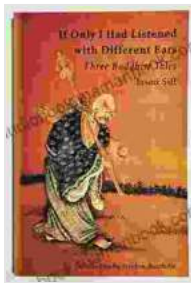
- **Family:** Ng writes about the complex relationships between parents and children, siblings, and spouses. She explores the ways in which our families can shape our identities and our lives.
- **Identity:** Ng explores the challenges of finding one's own identity, especially as a first-generation Chinese American. She writes about the ways in which we are shaped by our culture, our family, and our own experiences.
- **The immigrant experience:** Ng writes about the challenges faced by immigrants, including racism, cultural misunderstandings, and the search for a sense of belonging. She provides a unique perspective on the immigrant experience.

Critical reception

If Only Had Listened With Different Ears has received critical acclaim. The *New York Times* called it "a powerful and moving memoir," and the

Washington Post praised Ng's "honest and insightful writing." The memoir was also a finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction.

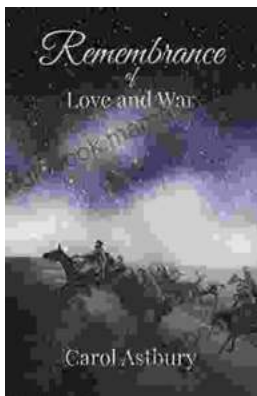
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