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No Wall Too High: One Man's Daring Escape from Mao's Darkest Prison (Paperback)

By Xu Hongci, Erling Hoh

Sarah Crichton Books, United States, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mao Zedong's labour reform camps were notoriously brutal: modeled after the Soviet gulag, their inmates were subject to backbreaking labour, malnutrition, and vindictive wardens. They were thought to be impossible to escape but one man did. Xu Hongci, a young medical student, was a loyal member of the Communist Party until he fell victim to Mao's Anti-Rightist Campaign in 1957. After posting a criticism of the party, he spent the next fourteen years in the labor camps. Despite horrific conditions and terrible odds, Hongci was determined to escape, failing three times before he succeeded in 1972. Hongci broke out of a prison near the Burmese border, traveled across China to see his mother in Shanghai one last time, and then finally crossed the Mongolian border. There he eventually married and settled into a new life, until he was able to return home after Mao's death. Originally published in Hong Kong, Hongci's remarkable memoir recounts his life from childhood through his prison break. After discovering the book in a Hong Kong library, the journalist Erling Hoh tracked down the original manuscript..



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