

# Delve Deeper into *Hooligan Sparrow*

A film by Nanfu Wang

**This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Robert Surratt of the San Diego Public Library provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Hooligan Sparrow*.**

The danger is palpable as intrepid young filmmaker Nanfu Wang follows maverick activist Ye Haiyan (aka Hooligan Sparrow) and her band of colleagues to southern China as they seek justice in the case of six elementary school girls allegedly sexually abused by their principal. A co-presentation with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM). Official Selection of the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

---

## ADULT NONFICTION

**Foot, Rosemary. *Rights Beyond Borders: The Global Community and the Struggle over Human Rights in China*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000.** With increased global attention towards human rights issues in the past 50 years, this book examines the relations between international advocacy networks and China. Surveying human rights norms and their influence on China in the period since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

**Freedman, Estelle B. *The Essential Feminist Reader*. New York, NY: Modern Library, 2007.** *The Essential Feminist Reader* is the first anthology to present the full scope of feminist history. Prizewinning historian Estelle B. Freedman brings decades of teaching experience and scholarship to her selections, which span more than five centuries. Moving beyond standard texts by English and American thinkers, this collection features primary source material from around the globe, including short works of fiction and drama, political manifestos, and the work of less well-known writers.

**Hong Fincher, Leta. *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of***

***Gender Inequality in China*. London: Zed Books, 2014.** In the early years of the People's Republic of China, the Communist Party sought to transform gender relations, but those gains have been steadily eroded in recent decades during China's transition to a post-socialist era. In fact, women in China have experienced a dramatic rollback of rights and gains relative to men. In *Leftover Women*, Leta Hong Fincher exposes shocking levels of structural discrimination against women and highlights the broader damage this has caused to China's economy, politics, and development.

**Mann, Susan. *Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese History*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2011.** Surveys the changes in attitudes towards gender and sexuality in contemporary China are reflected in state policy and social history. Mann challenges the Westernized assumptions of sex and gender in modern China.

**Vandermeer, Ann; Vandermeer, Jeff. *Sisters of the Revolution: A Feminist Speculative Fiction Anthology*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2015.** *Sisters of the Revolution* gathers a highly curated selection of feminist speculative fiction (science fiction, fantasy, horror and more) chosen by one of the most respected editorial teams in speculative literature today, the award-winning Ann and Jeff Vandermeer. Including stories from the 1970s to the present day, the collection seeks to expand the conversation about feminism while engaging the reader in a wealth of imaginative ideas.

**Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books, 1989.** Writing in an age when the call for the rights of man had brought revolution to America and France, Mary Wollstonecraft produced her own declaration of female independence in 1792.

Passionate and forthright, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* attacked the prevailing view of docile, decorative femininity, and instead laid out the principles of emancipation: an equal education for girls and boys, an end to prejudice, and for women to become defined by their profession, not their partner.

---

## ADULT FICTION

**Bi, Feiyu. *Three Sisters*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.** In a small village in China, the Wang family has produced seven sisters in its quest to have a boy; three of the sisters emerge as the lead characters in this remarkable novel. From the small-town treachery of the village to the slogans of the Cultural Revolution to the harried pace of city life, Bi Feiyu follows the women as they strive to change the course of their destinies and battle against an "infinite ocean of people" in a China that does not truly belong to them. Yumi will use her dignity, Yuxiu her powers of seduction, and Yuyang her ambition—all in an effort to take control of their world, their bodies, and their lives.

**Cheng, Terrence. *Sons of Heaven: A Novel*. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2002.** *Sons of Heaven* is an epic novel set against the backdrop of one of modern history's most haunting events: the Tiananmen Square Massacre. In June of 1989, the world watched in horror as China's military was mobilized to suppress a student movement that stood for peaceful democracy. Hundreds were killed; others say into the thousands. No one knows for sure. But the image that remains most powerful is that of a lone young man, looking confused yet terribly brave, as he held his ground before a rolling line of tanks. Who was he, and why did he do what he did? No one has ever been able to determine his identity or fate.



# Delve Deeper into *Hooligan Sparrow*

A film by Nanfu Wang

**Freudenberger, Nell. *The Dissident*. New York, NY: ECCO, 2006.** Accepting an artist residency from a wealthy Beverly Hills family, a famous performance artist and political activist becomes increasingly entangled in the lives of his hosts and reveals the artistic subculture that shaped his Beijing past.

**Otto, Whitney. *Eight Girls Taking Pictures*. New York, NY: Scribner, 2012.** Inspired by the work of Imogen Cunningham, Madame Yevonde, Tina Modotti, Grete Stern, Lee Miller, Ruth Orkin, and others, author Whitney Otto weaves together eight stories, crisscrossing the world and a century to portray the tensions that defined the lives of female artists.

**Sljie, Dal. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress: A Novel*. New York, NY: Knopf, 2001.** At the height of Mao's Cultural Revolution, two boys are exiled to the countryside for "re-education." When they discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation, the boys receive a completely different education from the one they had been expecting.

---

## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Burgan, Michael. *Tank Man: How a Photograph Defined China's Protest Movement*. North Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2014.** Discusses the iconic photo of a lone protester, Tank Man, stopping a row of tanks near Tiananmen Square during protests in 1989.

**Butts, Edward. *Behind the Badge: Crimefighters Through History*. Toronto, ON: Annick Press, 2014.** This sweeping look at the history of law enforcement takes readers from ancient China and the pre-Columbian Americas to the 21st century. Butts introduces readers to methods of policing used by civilizations throughout history in different parts of the

world, revealing all sorts of fascinating facts, such as how police have been used as instruments of oppression in authoritarian regimes. Butts also profiles famous law enforcement organizations like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, New Scotland Yard, the FBI and Interpol.

**Herumin, Wendy. *Censorship on the Internet: From Filters to Freedom of Speech*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2004.** The rise of internet activity has left many wondering how to protect young people from viewing inappropriate material while simultaneously upholding the American ideal of free speech. In *Censorship on the Internet*, Herumin examines the policies and laws involved in this complex issue.

**Stearman, Kaye. *Women's Rights: Changing Attitudes 1900-2000*. Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000.** Six topical titles examine developments in major social concerns of the past 100 years from a global perspective. The series traces key issues from early controversies to the present day. Significant events are enhanced with quotes from witnesses and prominent personalities of the decade. The text discusses individuals associated with these social concerns, as well as events that marked or caused important shifts in public opinion.

---

## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Bell, William. *Forbidden City: A Novel of Modern China*. New York, NY: Dell Laurel-Leaf, 1996.** Seventeen-year-old Alex Jackson comes home from school to find that his father, a CBC news cameraman, wants to take him to China's capital, Beijing. Once there, Alex finds himself on his own in Tiananmen Square as desperate students fight the Chinese army for their freedom. Separated from his father and carrying illegal videotapes, Alex must

trust the students to help him escape.

**Ingold, Jeanette. *Paper Daughter*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.** When her father, a respected journalist in Seattle, is killed in a hit-and-run accident, Maggie Chen, a high school intern at her father's newspaper, searches for clues to the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death, an investigation that forces her to confront her ethnicity and a family she never knew. Includes historical notes on Chinese immigration to the United States, "paper sons," and the Exclusion Era laws.

**Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*. New York, NY: Putnam, 1991.** For 40 years, in China and in San Francisco, Winnie Louie and Helen Kwong have kept certain confidences. Suddenly, those shattering secrets are about to be revealed. So begins a series of comic misunderstandings and heartbreaking realizations about luck, loss, and trust; about the things a mother cannot tell her daughter, the secrets daughters keep, and the miraculous resiliency of love.

