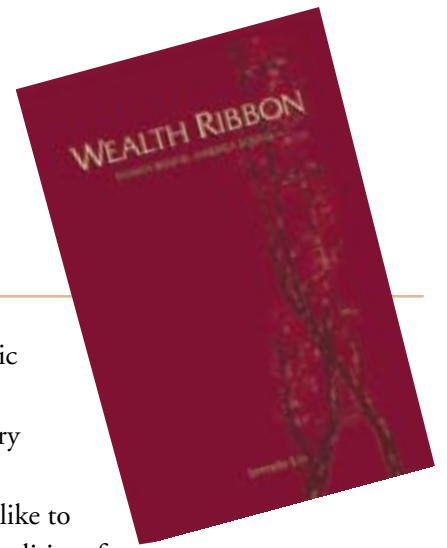




*Wealth Ribbon:
Taiwan Bound, America Bound*
Essays

By **brenda Lin**



Wealth Ribbon: Taiwan Bound, America Bound is a thematic narrative that intertwines the coming-of-age story of Taiwan with three generations of the author's family history and relationship with American culture. Together, these interconnected essays form a distinctive view of what it is like to have a transnational identity and show how the everyday politics of an international cultural identity is in fact quite universal.

“Language” focuses on Lin’s grandmother, who grew up in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation speaking Japanese fluently and developing a strong cultural tie to Japan. The story shows how language played an important part in defining what it meant to be Taiwanese in the post-occupation era, when Taiwan was returned to China. “Place” traces the story of Lin’s father, whom she uses as a symbol for the new Taiwanese identity of his generation—opportunistic and entrepreneurial people who immigrated to the United States in the 1970s only to return home after just a few years, despite Taiwan’s uncertain political future. “Nationality” describes Lin’s first trip to mainland China, where she becomes conscious of her displacement traveling as a Taiwanese-American on the mainland, which raises poignant questions about national identity and cultural loyalty. In the last three chapters—“Home,” “Translations,” and “Umbilical Cord”—the three generations of Lin’s family, which represent both similar and different languages and cultures, come together in a sometimes cacophonous, other times melodious, symphony of emotions. This collection of narrative essays weaves together a ribbon of unique experiences that readers of all backgrounds will be able to relate to.

“The Taiwanese were one of the first major groups of Asians to come to America in large numbers after the 1965 Civil Rights Act changed immigration laws, yet little has been written about their culture and experiences.

“This moving memoir of a Taiwanese-American family is both lyrical and intelligent, filled with humor, insight, and poignancy. *Wealth Ribbon* is a rare treasure indeed.” —May-lee Chai, author of *The Girl from Purple Mountain* and *My Lucky Face*

“Naming oneself would seem to be the easiest task in the world, but *brenda Lin* teaches us that naming our national identity is just the beginning, while ‘becoming’ something, such as an American, is quite another story. What a fascinating journey.” —Shawn Wong, author of *Homebase* and *American Knees*

brenda Lin received her M.F.A. from Columbia University. Her essays have appeared in *Fourth Genre*, *Mr. Beller’s Neighborhood*, and *Full Circle Journal*. She has cowritten a book with her mother and grandmother (*Bonding via Baby Carriers*, Les Enphants, 2001). Currently, she lives in New York City, where she is working on her second book.



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