

## LIBRARY JOURNAL

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**Ning Pu. Flower Terror: Suffocating  
Stories of China.**

Homa & Sekey. Dec. 1998. c.256p. LC

98-87238. ISBN 0-9665421-0-X. pap.

\$13.95.

From the author of the well-received *Red in Tooth and Claw: Twenty-Six Years in Communist Chinese Prisons* (LJ 4/1/94), this collection of a dozen stories covers the 1950s through the 1970s. Each is loosely based on Ning's own experiences in Communist China, with social and political commentary on the oppressive conditions there. Most of the stories are written in the first person, allowing the reader to experience the stories as they are told. In the opening story, "The Fossil," the narrator describes how his wife of 15 years refused to speak to him for two years, communicating only through written notes. The stories in this work are well written—for which some credit is due the translators—but the depressingly heavy political climate that frames most of them makes this

a work for the informed reader.—*Shirley N. Quan, Orange Cty. P.L., Stanton, CA*