

## Humanities Center Forum

**Yiyun Li, Award-Winning Author and Associate Professor of English,  
U.C. Davis**

### **“China and the West” – Part 1**

**Introduction – Dr. Sarah Pike, Professor, Religious Studies Department, CSU,  
Chico**

Yiyun Li grew up in Beijing, China. She was in high school during the Tiananmen Square Massacre, when her parents locked her in her bedroom to keep her safe. She came to the U.S. in 1996 for graduate work in immunology and landed at the University of Iowa, home of the elite Iowa Graduates Workshop, where she began studying creative writing. She started writing in English, her second language, in her late 20s and has since published 3 books to critical acclaim. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Miss Li explained that she has never written fiction in Chinese. "So English is the only language for me as a writer, my first language in writing. I speak Chinese with my husband and I count and do math in Chinese, but most of my thinking is done in English."

Her debut collection, "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers," won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, the Guardian First Book Award, and the PEN/Hemingway Award among others. Her novel, "The Vagrants," was shortlisted for an IMPAC Dublin Award. Her recent collection, "Gold Boy, Emerald Girl," was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and was a finalist for the Story Prize. She was selected by Granta as one of the 21 Best Young American Novelists under 35 and was named by The New Yorker as one of the top 20 U.S. writers under 40. The MacArthur Foundation named her a 2010 Fellow, granting her one of its Genius Awards of \$500,000 with no strings attached.

Yiyun Li currently lives in Oakland, California, with her husband and their two sons and teaches at the University of California, Davis.

I'd like to end with some quotes from reviews of Li's 2010 Collection, "Gold Boy, Emerald Girl." Kirkus Reviews: "A stellar assortment of stories about struggles to escape and connect in contemporary China. Further proof that Li deserves to be considered among the best living fiction writers." Publishers Weekly: "The nine brilliant stories in Li's collection offer a frighteningly lucid vision of human fate." NPR: "Yiyun Li is a marvel. The stories in her masterful new collection, 'Gold Boy, Emerald Girl,' often focus with great empathy on older generations who survived the chaos and personal disruptions of the Cultural Revolution. These insights of the Chinese culture make her stories fascinating reading, but the greatest pleasure comes from the admirable elegance of her work. Her writing is lyrical, circular and finely etched with an emotional impact that both satisfies and surprises." The New York Times: "In Yiyun Li's stories, destiny--zealously assisted by the punitive state, the ill will of one's neighbors, the secret agendas of those we imagine we know best and the flaws in our own nature--continually subverts our plans for happiness. While these stories are steeped in

disappointment and regret, they never seem grim and depressing. On the contrary, Yiyun Li's tenderness towards her characters, her respect for the richness of their lives and the subtlety and gentle humor with which she portrays them make the experience of reading 'Gold Boy, Emerald Girl' consistently heartening." And finally, from author Junot Diaz: "Li is extraordinary, a storyteller of the first order. Each tale in this collection is as wild and beautiful and thorny as a heart. Li inhabits the lives of her characters with such force and compassion that one cannot help but marvel at her remarkable talents."

Please join me in welcoming Yiyun Li. [Applause]

### **Yiyun Li:**

Thank you, Sarah, for that wonderful introduction. Can you hear me all right? Alright, yes. I think I'm going to start asking you a question, how many of you have lied today? [Laughter] Raise your hands. [Laughter] [Inaudible Remark] No, it does count. [Laughter] I went to a high school yesterday, I was like in a high school library and I went and said, "How many of you have lied today?" Half the hands went up and I asked them, I asked if anyone would share a lie. They could not. Anybody wants to share a lie? The reason I'm asking is I think it's very interesting for me to become a fiction writer is because you know when you start writing you start to see all the lies around you. You become a lie detector. And so, I'm going to start talking a little bit then I'll talk about the book a little bit. You know one thing I really love to do other than lie detecting, we can come back to the lie detecting, one thing I really love to do is eavesdropping. How many of you are eavesdroppers? There. See? Many more, do you know where eavesdropping, the word, comes from?

[ Inaudible audience comment ]

Yes. So eavesdrop, eavesdrop, you know the house has the roof, the roof extends to-- you can stand under the eaves and you would not get wet. So that space under the eave is called eavesdrip so when you stand there under the, you know under the eave and when you stand in the eavesdrip, when you listen, that action is called eavesdropping. And in Victorian England, people used to build a hole into the door, the reason is when you come to the party and when you leave, you--the moment you leave the party you start to talk about your, you know, host and the hostess. You said that is a really boring party and your host and the hostess are eavesdropping on you. They can listen through that hole. And in many languages, eavesdropping, I don't know if anyone--in Chinese, eavesdropping is "steal listening." In many of the no--in Norwegian, it's "steal listening." So when you eavesdrop, you steal something from people. And I like that idea of stealing when you listen and so I love eavesdropping so much I did a research on eavesdropping. And do you know dumb waiters were invented to avoid eavesdropping of your servants? Isn't that wonderful because I think people used to not to worry about their privacy as we do now and so their servants would eavesdrop on them. And finally, people started to worry about it so their privacy too, they invented dumb waiter. And one thing I really want to be is I want to be a dumb waiter in anybody's house. Just to hear what's going on.

So last semester I was at Davis and...I mean eavesdropping is becoming easier and easier for us eavesdroppers because people talk on their cellphones all the time, right? It's very interesting how people, once they have their phone, they start to think they're invisible. And the stories you can hear...I was walking down the street the other day at Davis and there was this young woman standing, I mean walking in front of me and she was in a very short skirt and she had minimal clothes on, and she was talking on the phone and she said, "Well, I told him wait a minute. I'm not ready to go there with you yet. I'm still considering to become a nun." [Laughter] And the moment she said that, I just like--I jumped all of myself, I actually stalked her, I actually followed her. [Laughter] The thing is I love her voice so much. You don't en--I mean, you do encounter those voices all the time but it's just wonderful when you heard someone say that and I love that voice so I followed her around quite a bit.

And then the other day I was in the waiting room, you know it's interesting when people would pick up the phone and start talking in the waiting room and this woman, I think she--just by listening to her conversation, I got the whole story, I mean the whole story why she was talking. So she left a message to this cousin and this cousin called back. This is an older woman about, you know in the 50s. The cousin was in his 70s and retired. I got all these things from one-way conversation. So she said, oh, you know--she said how--cousin, I was just thinking how you were doing and they started talking. And halfway through the cousin on the other side said, some of their--one of their cousins died and this woman was not invited to the funeral and she did not know. And this woman said--you could clearly see she was trying to you know deal with that, first, there was a death and second, she was not told and everybody else was there. And I was just staring at her, I felt very bad because I couldn't help staring at her and she--well, she blabbered a little, she said, well, you know what, she said, that's where we're all going, you know. [Laughter] And then she said, well, you know I have a very bright, you know, view of the world. You know, if I die tomorrow, I would say I had a very happy life. And I was staring at her, I said you were just lying, that's the biggest lie, you know you just heard someone's--the death of your cousin and you were just attacked by that, you know, that news and then you said, I have the happiest, you know, life of my life.

So I just thought people are very interesting when they lie, people would be less interesting if they don't lie. And I think a writer's job is to find when people are lying and also to eavesdrop not only on people's conversations but also to eavesdrop on people's hearts. You know what is really going on in their hearts, that's where, you know, writers are doing their work. So I'm going to share a few stories in my collection and just sort of to point out where this eavesdropping came from and stalking, I also do stalk people.

So, a few years ago, I saw this news on Chinese internet, on the Chinese website, and there's this young woman whose father divorced her mother when she was young, when she was a teenager, and she thought there was a mistress who destroyed the marriage. So she waited until the moment she turned 18, she sued her father. And the reason she sued her father was--he was a communist party member and as a party member, he should not have a mistress. So that's--that was her lawsuit and she did not

have a case so the court dismissed the case. So, well, the next thing she did, she went on the internet, she started a blog. I think the internet is a wonderful thing, you know. It's a nasty thing. So her blog's title was, "My father is less a creature than a dog or a pig because he sleeps with another woman." And she published her father's name, worker's ID, address, phone number, everything, his picture and his, also their family pictures. So she became--after it, instantly she became a celebrity in China. Just how much, you know, I think I'm sure these things happen all the time, you know internet, how internet would do to people's lives. I was quite fascinated by her and so I started to blog. I started to sort of stalk her on the internet. I read all the interviews and I read--on her blog, there would be a place for people to leave comments. And I actually started to stalk the people who leave comments too. [Laughter] I just wanted to see who they are. And a lot of people, it's very interesting a lot of women would say, you know my husband cheated me too, you know my husband did this to me too. So, you were--you did absolutely the right thing. A lot of comments coming from women would call her a heroine, you know a guardian of the new--you know, the Chinese moral. And I just--I found that fascinating. So I mean, I actually thought about leaving a message too, the only reason I did not leave a message was I did not want my fiction to become real.

So I imagined someone, I imagined not me but a man who would leave a message to say, "Dear young woman, I disagree with you. You should look in to this before you say my father is less a creature than a dog or a pig." So I imagined he left a message. Guess what happened next? She deleted the message and he would leave again another message and she would delete again because she did not want that truth to be known or to be read by other people. So I started to think about this man who would leave a message on the blog and the more you think about it, the more this man came to you as a live person and in the end, I wrote a story. But the story was not about the young woman, it was really about this man who stalked the woman on the internet. And part of the reason I was really fond of him was he really wanted to know where truth was. He really wanted to know what happens. So in the story he went on to seek the father out, he wanted to talk to the father, he wanted to know if he had an affair. And the father said something interesting. Actually, I did take that little piece from the newspaper. The father said, when I divorced her mother she said she would do three things. First she would sue me, second she would make the whole world know that I wasn't a great human being, and third, she would poison me if she failed the first two agendas. I just thought it was fascinating, you know that hatred, that you know, that strong emotion, I wouldn't say hatred but that strong emotion.

And that seems to me, I think, very interesting especially coming from China and, you know, having lived in America for so many years. I noticed that I think this is--I think America is a very interesting country where every individual counts. I mean, it's actually "ideally," it doesn't really work that way. But if you look at America, there's not--America doesn't share, I mean as a country, as a collective body, there's no fatalism in America. Well, that fatalism I think is quite present in China. So that's where I think I'm always interested in, you know, these characters and how to deal with these things and another example, I need to look at the book because sometimes I forgot. Right.

So another example for instance, there's--there was--a few years ago there was--this again was a famous case in China. There was a young woman who just got married and her husband got into an argument with his boss and he killed her. He killed her in a--I think he strangled her in a fist fight or something. And the husband was sentenced to death and so the woman came to the court and asked to have a baby with her husband before his execution. And that opened a huge can of worms for the legal system because it never happened before. So I followed the news again for many, many weeks. And I got really upset with the newspapers. You know, and I'm sure everybody have their agendas. So if you look at the national news and national magazines and they would invite all these legal, you know, experts, they would have long conversations about, you know, this woman who was revolutionary because she asked something that nobody had asked before. So, then they would go on to talk about, you know, whether someone on death row have reproduction--reproductive rights. And then it became all talk, talk. This woman became a single something and then if you look at the women's magazines there was different conversation. "Oh, this woman was counter-revolutionary because she turned herself into a tool to carry on the blood of the husband's family." So the feminists really hated that. And I was very upset because I thought, you know, among all this discussion there is a human story. There's that woman who wanted to have a baby with her husband before he died and nobody really cared who she was. People just talk about, you know, what she represented. So I kept following the news and then one day I read in the local newspaper. And in the local newspaper I was very interested in the interview of older woman in this town. They said, "What do you think of, this young woman's request of having a baby with her husband?" And she said, "Oh, no, no, no. I disapprove this request. If everyone comes to the jail and asks to have a baby with her husband on a death row, what would the jail become but a mating station?" [Laughter]

You know you can never make up these things. How is that? It's a fascinating, fascinating comment from an older woman of an older generation. So I thought, you know, that's a human voice among all this inhuman voices, so I started to think about this older woman. Why would she say that, you know, "a mating station"? And the more I thought about her the story became not about the young woman who wanted to have a baby but was about this older woman who lived in this town across the street from the jail, and she had a general store across the street from the jail. So every woman who came to the jail to visit her husband, her lovers, her brother, her son, every woman would pass, would go into this general store. So this woman became a collector of women's stories and she not only collected women's stories, she collected women in the end. And because somehow I think she made that leap in her mind, she not only wanted to know these women's stories but she also wanted to run these women's lives for them. And so that's another so I was--so that's where I started and I started to write and this woman really came alive for me and I wrote a story that became another story here.

And then there are others. There's one story that, you know, sometimes people ask if I use my own experience. I rarely use my own experience unless this experience, you know, I could not make sense of them. So when I was young my father worked for the

nuclear industry, the research facility for the nuclear industry in Beijing and we all lived on this compound, very, very small compound. Everybody's father was either a mathematician or a physicist. And when I was 6 or 7 there was this murder case on our compound. So a young woman, I think she was 18 at the time, she was high school, last year of high school, and she was having a--she was studying for the entrance exam for the college with another friend, with a boy, and they spend the morning together and by midday, when her mother came home, she was strangled to death. She was--her body was hidden in a closet and the case--in two days they found out, I mean very quickly they arrested the boy and they executed the boy because it was a--clearly, it was a murder. What's interesting is both fathers worked together, both fathers were colleagues and after their--and the girl died and the boy was executed but there was a nuclear industry there which was--have a higher power over people's lives than, you know, the children so after that their fathers had to work together as office mates. And that to me, I remember that--I mean I did not understand that when I was young. The only thing I understood was that every time either the boy's family or the girl's family, if they walked past our apartment, my mother would go to the window. My mother was a very nosy person, you know, you could imagine. My mother would go to the window and look at them and then came back said, 'that's the mother' or 'that's the sister of the girl who died' or "that's the mother of the murderer, the boy". And I--that to me, I mean when you were a child you did not understand these things, you did not understand the tragedy of that situation. To me, it was the most fascinating situation where death is not the end of the story. It's actually the beginning of the story. So that's--I did take that from my experience but I wrote--when I wrote the story it became something else, but with that idea of, you know, death is not the end of the story. Death is always the beginning of the story and after death all the story started. And, sorry I keep looking [inaudible].

The last story was really depressing so I'm going to tell you a fun story. And this is my most--I love this story. So when I grew up people in China rarely divorced. The divorce rate was really low because you can never get a divorce. If you wanted to have a divorce, first of all, you have to apply to your work unit. Your wife had to apply to her work unit. And those, you know, the bosses, both bosses would come in and say you know, "You should not divorce. You should stay together." And if that doesn't work, the workers union would come in and the women's organization would come in, and divorce is a very long battle. And the last step was to go to a courthouse and the courthouse, before they allow you to divorce, they always had this one step, say, you know mediation or something. Which really meant they wanted you to stay together so divorce is very hard when we were young. But over the past 20 years when China became really, you know, very much more open to the world and very much westernized people started to have--divorce was getting easier and also men started to have mistresses. You know second wives are very, very popular in China.

So I read in the newspaper there were six older women, all retired. They were very upset. They were very upset about this, you know, men keeping second wives, this phenomenon, and they did not start a blog. They started a private detective agency. [Laughter] And their specialty was to find mistresses for cheated wives. And in the newspaper, I think the news--whoever wrote that newspaper story, I was so mad at her.

She really made fun of these older women. The title is "Strange People at an Odd Time". She was talking about these six women, strange people at an odd time. And so, but I think these six women were ( inaudible ) because they looked just like every day, you know, grandmas. So they started a private detective agency and this was, you know, when the cellphone was still very big. So they would hide their cellphones under their scarfs and they would walk to the market with walkie-talkie and their, you know, vegetables. And they would go to these high-end apartments. You know who can resist a grandma coming to chat with you. So they would chat with the guard. Not the guard, the custodian, the doorman, yeah. They would chat with the doorman. They would find all these, you know, secrets of this man who they were speaking with and they had a very successful business. And I love what--they were very brilliant, they also invented something that they claimed that they invented. They did not follow people because they said, if I follow you, say, so if I follow you, you know people have the instinct that you are being followed, you would feel really not comfortable. So they invented something that you can—so it's not, "I'm following you." So they will know like if Sarah goes to the office, I would sort of meet Sarah in the office. So Sarah would see me in the hallway and the next day I would meet halfway between Sarah's house and office. And so Sarah would still see my face in the street. After a few days you would always see these women's faces around and you start to--you did not feel followed, you just felt--you felt natural to see these faces in your world. So that's what these six women did, and they had a very successful business.

And I was quite fascinated by that story. And I decided to write a story about these six women. But when you have six women--in China we say if you have three women, you have a theater troupe already. [Laughter] So when you have six women, six characters, you have two troupes running around in your story. But one question I did ask again and again was why did these women do this? When they said, we're doing this for the moral standard of the country; I think that is a lie. People always lie. And I really do want to know what they were doing, what's the reason. So I sort of--you know when your characters lie to you, you have to push them a little. If they don't tell you, you just push them. And I just kept pushing them and in the end it turned out, you know, everybody had a secret agenda in this business. One of the older women, she--her son got an MBA in America. And she was very business oriented and she just wanted to have a good, you know she wanted to make money because she thought she missed that opportunity when she was younger. So now it's her time to make money. And another wife, another older woman, her husband divorced her very easily, so she was very mad. And yet another woman who was married to a man and the man died in a snow accident. It turned out to be a suicide because he was gay. So he could not stand that pressure so he killed himself, but they had a daughter. So this woman maintained this facade of (he was) a very good father, so she was interested in this business for another reason, because she was very lonely. She just wanted to get closer to human beings and that's one way to get closer to human beings was to stay, you know, together with five other friends and you know find out other people's secrets. So again and again, when I--when you started to push these characters, they started to show what they were really thinking, what they were really doing, and what their secrets were.

And it's wonderful when the character collapses in front of you or cracks in front of you. So, those are the kinds of the things that I like to write and...

I'm thinking, what time did we start? 7:30. [Inaudible Remark] Oh it's been--I've been blabbering forever. No. I'll stop talking.

Oh, just one more thing because you talked about it. The title of the book is "Gold Boy, Emerald Girl." And it is a direct translation from Chinese but it means--Gold Boy is a very handsome rich boy, and a very beautiful perfect girl. And so it's always the perfect match when you have Gold Boy and Emerald Girl. And the title story was about, you know, a Gold Boy and the Emerald Girl. It turned out to be there's never a perfect match in life. Everybody, you know, everything is not perfect so that's sort of the thing I wanted to write about. Not only China, but America, too--is there's always a surface. but you have to strip that surface away and then you see what's going on. And you strip that surface away and then what's going on, you have to strip many layers of surfaces.

I was giving a book--I was at a bookstore one time. I mean this is a long story, I have to start from the beginning, so--I stole this story from Annie Proulx so I just always thought Annie Proulx told that story really well so I started to use that story, too. So Annie Proulx said when she went to Australia she was giving a book talk and there was a long line of people waiting for her to sign the book. And there was one woman, the last woman in the line, she came to Annie and she's slipped a little envelope to Annie and she ran away. This was an older woman. And Annie said she opened the envelope and it says "Dear Annie, I have hated my husband for 40 years. What do I do?" And I just thought, I told the story yesterday at a high school and all these kids were like, what? [Laughter] And I said well, you know, the world is very interesting. It's more interesting than you thought. But I have--so that story I think it's very interesting.

I have a similar story to that. A friend of mine in New York City, she said, she used to grow up with, you know, this older couple who were her parents' best friends. They were the most loving couple, a model couple. And when they died my friend took care of the estate sale and she said, you walk down the basement and there was a partition in the middle of the basement. And one side was the husband's side, the other side was the wife's side and she said on both sides they wrote years of profanity against each other. And people live very interesting lives. I think that's fascinating, people lie all the time, people maintain that surface. When they come up from the basement they are the most loving couple but they have to go down to the basement and live another life. That to me is always very interesting.

So coming back to that, so I was actually in a bookstore, I started to tell the story above, you know, the basement. And there was one woman who's absolutely lovely and she said, at the beginning, she told me, she said oh, you know, my husband was supposed to come with me, you know, and something happened he couldn't come. And after I told the story she started to tell--she started to--she got really upset and she said, she said, you know I used to have a really good job. I'm a, I think she was a psychiatrist she said. She said, I really have a good job. And my husband retired and he said well, just don't

work anymore, we have enough money. Why don't you just retire so we could sail around the world? And she said. "I believed him." I just love that sentence, she said, "I believed him," and she got really upset. And I just thought, people are very interesting. In one sense people are very lonely and people tell lies to, you know, so they look less lonely or they look happier. On the other hand, everybody is waiting to tell his or her story and it's always just what you ask, the question you ask.

A few years ago I went to Chicago with my best friend and we were going to a conference. When you check in at a hotel they always ask you if you pay by credit card or by cash, right. So I was asked this question, you know, a hundred times. I never--it never occurred to me to ask. My best friend was the nosiest woman in the world so the man said "Well ladies, are you paying by cash or by credit card?" And my friend said "Wait a minute, does anyone pay by by cash?" And guess what the man said. His face just lit up. You could see that he had worked in that hotel for 40 years and he was waiting for someone to ask that question. [Laughter] So funny. There was a long line behind us and he was in no hurry to check in other guests. He said "Let me tell you a story. Let me tell you this. All the men cheating on their wives, they pay by cash." I said how wonderful and then I thought lovely men and then he was not ready to finish that. He actually was very--I think he was the loneliest person in the world because he had this thought in his mind, I think he was waiting for someone to come and ask. So, he said, "Well, let's imagine you were a man, you wanted to sleep with another woman, you have to pay \$250 and how would you do that? You have to go to ATM machine today and get a 20 and tomorrow you get another 20--you can't get \$250 so your wife would notice right away." Then he said, "Well, imagine how many days you have to withdraw the money before you can sleep with that woman again." [Laughter] He's just like--I love him so much. And I just feel that that's what's interesting is, you know, people either they don't tell you the truth or they just can't wait but you have to ask the right question. If you don't ask the right question they don't talk. Once you ask the right question they start talking, and he's lovely. I always--I always remember him.

And the Pritchett story, I'm sorry this is a--so there is a V. S. Pritchett. story exactly about that man but not in a hotel, it's about a barber in a small town. When the barber in the small town is cutting hair, he was waiting for someone to come and ask him about his story. So, I like those things.

I think I've talked a lot so I'm going to stop talking so you can ask me questions. If you ask the right question I will talk. [Laughter] Yes.

**Audience member:** So, what do you think of reality TV? [Laughter] Are you fascinated by it or did you watch [inaudible]?

**Yiyun Li:** You know, I have to confess I don't watch TV. So, I watched TV for first time in seven years a couple weeks ago and I was actually disappointed, I don't [laughter]. So, I can't say a lot. There are a lot of things there, here and there, yeah.

**Audience member:** So, is it easy to tell the truth to a stranger than [simultaneous talking].

**Yiyun Li:** Yes, I do--is it easy to tell the truth to a stranger? I think so. You know, I have this really lovely hairdresser that I would go to. Actually, I stopped going to her. I'll explain why. But I liked her a lot and--again, you know you just have to ask people questions, and I started to sort of ask a little bit about her life and she's trying to tell this extraordinary story. And she was--she's actually Chinese but she used to live in Vietnam and she dated a Vietnamese boy. She was 17 and he was 18 and the two countries went into war. So, her family had to go to Hong Kong, then came as refugees to America. So, she said, she really--she was so in love with the boy. She said she wanted to stay and her father said if you stay you will be killed in no time. And then she told the boy, she said, well, you have to leave with us, you have to--and the boy said I cannot leave my family here. So, they were separated and it was a very sad story at that point and she said the only thing she remembers--she last heard about him was when they were in Hong Kong. Their old neighbor said after they left this boy cried in front of her house for three days, got very sick, and that's what she last heard of him. Thirty years later, now the story becomes very interesting. Well, you know, if only any story could finish at that point, the most beautiful tragic point...that would be nice. Thirty years later, she had--she has two grown-up children, you know, and she has a family business. She's a hairdresser and her husband is very lovely. Somehow she thought of getting in touch with this man. So, she went through a few friends, she found this man, and turned out he's married, too, and had three children. All three children were named after this woman. No, not the same name but with one character of this woman's name in all three children's names. Not only that, the man had her picture in the bedroom for 30 years. And I was like [laughter] that's not great. Don't tell me that. It's very interesting because I realized exactly that's the one most extraordinary thing she had in her life. And she started to cut my hair really slowly because she needed to tell me the story. And she had to cut one strand at a time. [Laughter] And I--and then later she started to bring all these old pictures to me. I mean, the reason is she wanted me to write her story into a book and make a movie. [Laughter] That's when I stopped going because I just thought I would let her down tremendously. I can never make that movie and--but she did show me all these pictures. And one time when she was--you know, this went on for months when she told me a little bit at a time everything--every time she told me a little bit more. I was just like--it's chilling when she said those things. At one time, at one moment I questioned was she making it up or was it all in her mind, you know, or was it real but I did--she brought a lot of pictures of when they were young. And she also went--actually, she went back to visit and she became good friend--

(Continued in Part 2)