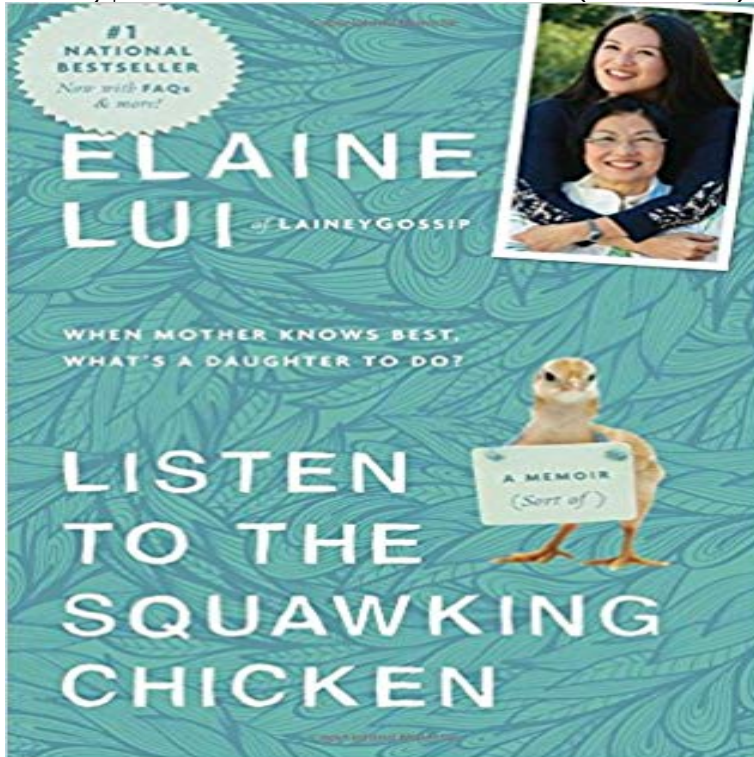


Listen to the Squawking Chicken: When Mother Knows Best, Whats a Daughter To Do? A Memoir (Sort Of)



Most people think I'm exaggerating at first when I talk about the Chinese Squawking Chicken. But once they actually spend some time with her, they understand. They get it. Right away. She's Chinese, she squawks like a chicken, she is totally nuts, and I am totally dependent on her. When Elaine Lui was growing up, her mother told her, Why do you need to prepare for the good things that happen? They're good. They won't hurt you. My job is to prepare you for the hard times, and teach you how to avoid them, whenever possible. Neither traditionally Eastern nor conventionally Western, the Squawking Chicken raised her daughter drawing on Chinese fortune-telling, feng shui blackmail, good old-fashioned ghost stories, and shame and embarrassment in equal measure. And despite years of chafing against her mother's parenting style, Elaine came to recognize the hidden wisdom and immeasurable value in her rather unorthodox upbringing. Listen to the Squawking Chicken lays bare the playbook of unusual advice and warnings used to teach Elaine about hard work (Miss Hong Kong is a whore), humility (I should have given birth to a piece of barbecue pork), love and friendship, family loyalty (Where's my money?), style and deportment (Don't be low class), finding one's own voice (Walk like an elephant, squawk like a chicken) among other essentials. Along the way, Elaine poignantly reveals how her mother earned the nickname Tsiang Gai or squawking chicken growing up in Hong Kong, enduring and rising from the ashes of her own hard times. Listen to the Squawking Chicken is a loving mother-daughter memoir that will have readers laughing out loud, gasping in shock, and reconsidering the honesty and guts it takes to be a parent.

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