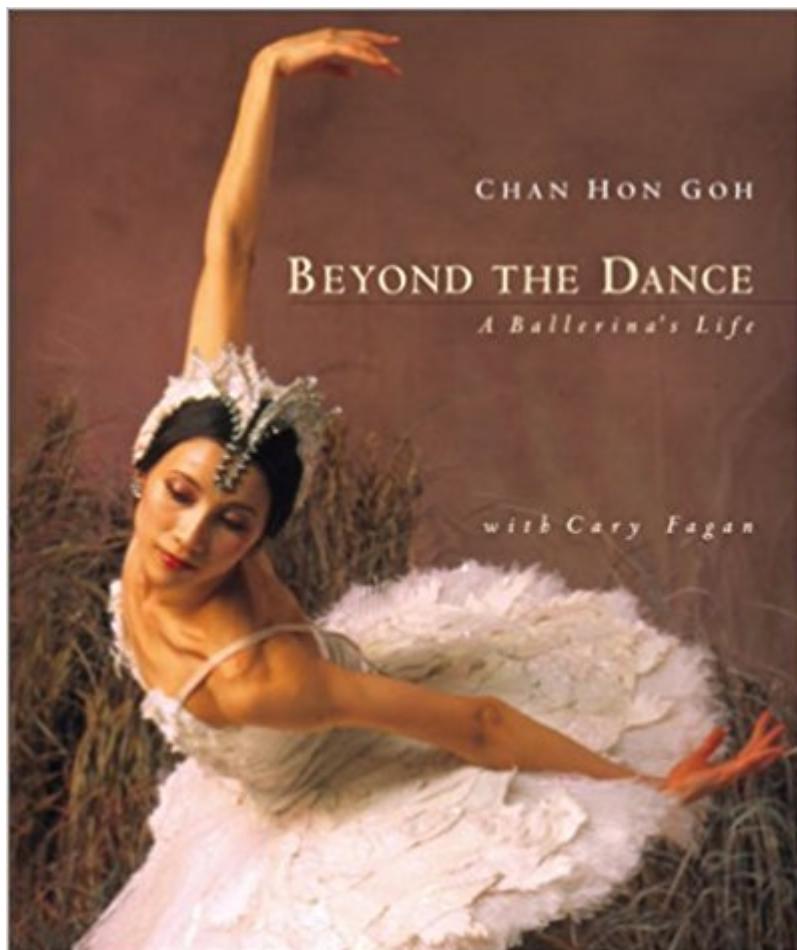


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# Beyond The Dance: A Ballerina's Life



## **Synopsis**

Shortlisted for the Rocky Mountain Book AwardNominated for The Rocky Mountain Book Award (An Alberta Children's Choice Book Award)Nominated for the 2003 Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Childrenâ™s Non-FictionAn elegant, expressive dancer, Chan Hon Goh is one of the ballet worldâ™s great stars. She is a brilliant technician possessing a delicate beauty and radiant stage presence. Born in Beijing to dancer parents, she tells the story of their flight to Canada from an oppressive regime that thwarted her fatherâ™s career, her rigorous training, and her battle to achieve acceptance as the only Chinese-born primaballerina in the history of the National Ballet. This fascinating look at the life of a dancer will appeal not only to the legions of Chan Hon Gohâ™s admirers and to students of ballet, but also to young readers who understand what it is to pursue a dream.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 152 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books (September 15, 2002)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,030,743 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #109 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Biographies #400 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional Canada

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 6 Up-This highly readable autobiography introduces a prima ballerina with the National Ballet of Canada. Goh was born in Beijing but raised in Vancouver by her dancer parents. She discusses the events in her homeland that led her family to emigrate, their adjustment to life in Vancouver, and her parents' struggles to build the Goh Ballet Company. She had amazing successes at international ballet competitions, earned a place with the American Ballet Theatre, but instead decided to accept a position with the National Ballet of Canada, where she quickly rose in the ranks. The tone of the book is overwhelmingly positive, but Goh does discuss some disappointments and

hardships. The impression is that she has led somewhat of a charmed life, though it couldn't really have been as easy as it seems. The book is lavishly illustrated with black-and-white photographs, and balletomanes will enjoy poring over every detail. Cheri Estes, Detroit Country Day Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

âœSimply written, this is a wonderful book for [Chan Hon Gohâ™s] many, especially young, admirers and will be an eminently affordable addition to any dancerâ™s Christmas list.â•â“Dance Internationalâœâœ[Chanâ™s] autobiographyâœ is equally merry and sweet-temperedâœ for one have derived much inspiration from reading this uplifting book.â•â“The Asian Wall Street JournalâœThis autobiography has a refreshing candour about itâœ Gohâ™s account of her life to date is engrossing for any reader, but especially for aspiring dancers.â•â“The Globe and MailâœThe book is lavishly illustrated with black-and-white photographs, and balletomanes will enjoy poring over every detail.â•â“School Library JournalâœCary Fagan has crafted an excellent portrait that allows Chanâ™s voice to shine through. The book will appealâœ to young dancers and ballet lovers, but should not be overlooked as an inspiration to a wide range of readersâœ It is a lovely memoir âœ like her dancing, it is delicate and passionate âœ and a revealing story of a remarkable woman.â•â“Childrenâ™s Book News âœThis is a book for anyone interested in reading about an exquisite ballet dancerâ™s rise to the top. Itâ™s also a book for young dancers interested in reading first hand what it takes to make it as a professional classical dancerâœ the story is easy to follow for dancers and non-dancers alike.â•â“The Gazette [Montreal]

I loved this book! It's a rather quick read, but very interesting. Since it's a mix between Chan Hon Goh's personal journey as a Chinese immigrant and her journey as a ballet dancer, I was concerned about either aspect of the book seeming less interesting than the other. This was not the case at all, and Goh managed to intertwine these two aspects of her life in a very interesting and enjoyable way. The many photos were also beautiful to look at. The cover mentions a children's book prize, but I really think the book would appeal to almost anyone. Definitely recommended!

My daughter (6th grade and an aspiring dancer) was required to read a non-fiction work for a book report. This fit the bill perfectly. It appealed to her love of dance, and was appropriate for her age and reading level. She loved the book, and it opened the door to conversations about history the role government plays in society, capitalism vs communism, and the kind of dedication and LUCK required to make it as a dancer.

Beyond the Dance: A Ballerina's Life was purchased as a gift and sent directly to the recipient. From her comments of thanks, I believe it is very much appreciated.

Wonderful story, the life in ballet like it is.

Great book but slightly damaged by post office when they tried to stuff it into my mailbox

Very good and such an inspiration to many girls and dancers. Well done on a good book very cool y

I absolutely loved this book and will recommend it to my two amazing dance teachers, I 'll love you girls!!!!!!

It told her whole story, and how much she loved dancing. It was a great pleasure to read. I would definitely recommend this book.

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