



## **Banyaga: A Song of War**

*Charlson Ong*

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"Banyaga's unflinching and unforgettable portrait of three immigrants and their familial, business, romantic, political and social entanglements over eight decades effectively demystifies the lingering myth-understandings surrounding the 'Chinese.' But Ong's main achievement lies in his revelation of the wondrous alchemy that turns foreigner into Filipino and, just as important, Filipino into someone (and something) at once familiar and ineluctably foreign." - Caroline S. Hau, Writer and literary critic

## **Banyaga: A Song of War Details**

Date : Published 2006 by Anvil Publishing

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Author : Charlson Ong

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# **From Reader Review Banyaga: A Song of War for online ebook**

## **Kim says**

I rarely finish required readings in school but this one got me hooked. My favorite required reading in my entire school life (and it's local!).

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## **Langley Gratuito says**

Charlson Ong's Banyaga simply put is an epic.

This is a fictional account of the entire history of the Filipino- Chinese, from their first immigration to the Philippines up to their contemporary struggle. Literally the title "song of war" is an allusion to the epic-like quality of the book, a song of struggles and triumphs of this people in their attempt to settle in the Philippines.

Reading this feels like reading Amy Tan (author of Joy Luck Club). The writing styles are of course different. But the purpose of writing finds great semblance. Just like Tan, one of the leading voices of the American-Chinese, Ong demands for recognition as the leading Filipino- Chinese writer of our time.

The book explores the Filipino-Chinese psyche: mainly a people of endurance and resilience, a people firmly planting its feet on the soil of our homeland, at the same time looking forward, and refusing to bow down to derision and the changing times.

Definitely recommended to the Filipino-Chinese community and all Filipinos interested in the "Tsinoy" experience. If not so interested, a word of warning: the book is a bit lengthy and complex for the average reader.

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## **Aimee Capinpuyan says**

Don't be dissuaded by all the changes in the characters' names. This novel is an excellent work of Filipino historical fiction. It's the first novel I've ever read about the Chinese-Filipino identity.

There's also a lot of Hokien words here that never get translated in the text, so it pays to have some background in Chinese language and culture.

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## **Giselle Banzon says**

The name shifts of the characters make it confusing to read, but the story itself is amazing. It depicts another

version of Philippine society (and history) that I wasn't exposed to before reading this novel.

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**Pia Rulla says**

i want to read this story

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**Lou says**

Unexpectedly pleasing.

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