



# **The Uncrushable Rose: A Memoir from Concentration Camp to Becoming a Free Woman**

*Bambi Shen*

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**The Uncrushable Rose: A Memoir from Concentration Camp to Becoming a Free Woman** Bambi Shen  
WRONG ...WRONG...WRONG... her mother's words sounded like a gong, over and over, tolling the doom of her destiny—a Chinese born the undesired gender. These words permeated the youth of author Bambi Shen, who, like all Chinese women, has had to contend with the legacy of millennia of cultural subordination and oppression of women.

This moving memoir paints life in World War II Japanese concentration camps from Bambi's three-year-old eyes.

Near-death experiences there, as interpreted by her Buddhist nanny, formed the foundation of Ms. Shen's philosophy of living in gratitude and being of service to others. In the darkest days of the internment, her diplomat father taught her to learn to thrive in spite of any outer circumstances.

Still, surviving concentration camps and wars seemed easier than breaking free from her mother's criticisms and negative prophecies. Bambi's escape from these took the form of academic success, enabling her to receive a Catholic scholarship and make her way to college in the United States.

Arriving with only \$500 in her purse, Bambi learned to look for the gate in every wall. With the help of the nuns of

St. Catharine College and the teachings of Unity, Bambi found her voice and her strength and went on to build a thriving life over the next five decades. Having endured and overcome racial discrimination and domestic violence, Bambi has become a teacher of cross-cultural understanding and an advocate for the empowerment of women everywhere.

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