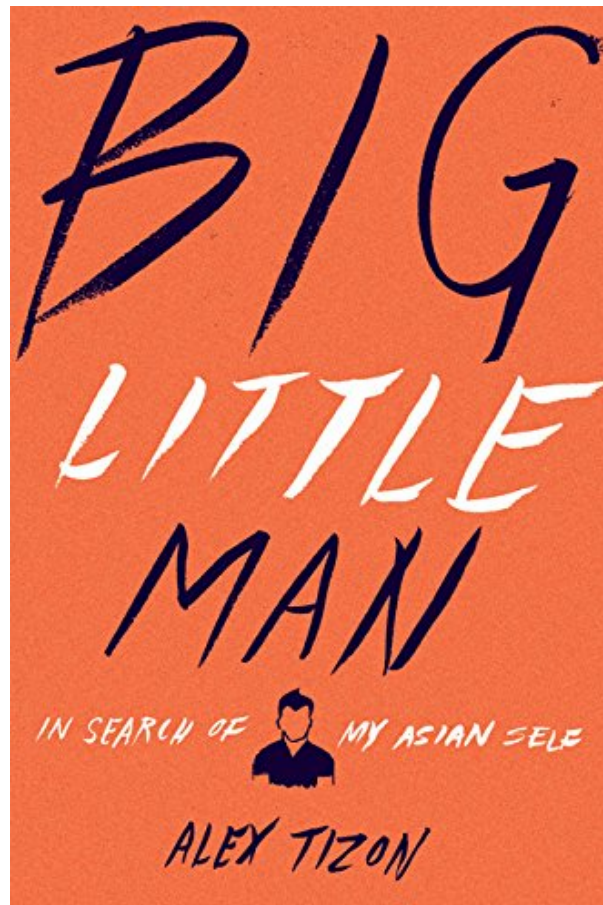


# BIG LITTLE MAN: IN SEARCH OF MY ASIAN SELF BY ALEX TIZON



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## From Booklist

This hybrid memoir-history, written compellingly by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and professor Tizon, moves back and forth and all around in the history of yellow men and women—the author (a Filipino), in particular, and all those who have come to be lumped into the politically correct category of Asian. Why are Asian women hot and Asian men not? How to make a white world understand the concept of *wen wu* (“the containment rather than the use of power”), which Westerners view as wimpiness and servitude? Growing up with U.S. culture portraying dim and unassertive yellow men on TV (e.g., on *Bonanza*) and in films (where the Asian guy never gets the girl), Tizon launches on a personal and historical exploration. From the yellow peril (WWII) to “Yellow Fever” (e.g., blogs about Asian women’s sexiness) to the yellow tornado (contemporary Asian sports and business stars), impressions are changing. And here, along with eye-opening information about such forgotten figures as the much-loved Chinese warrior-thinker Zheng He (a mid-1400s explorer), Tizon portrays his color-tinged youth, young adulthood, and life now in deeply felt, extensively researched, and question-filled prose. --Eloise Kinney

## Review

"In *Big Little Man* Alex Tizon fearlessly penetrates the core of not just what it means to be male and Asian in America, but what it means to be human anywhere."-Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*

"Part candid memoir, part incisive cultural study, *Big Little Man* addresses - and explodes - the stereotypes of Asian manhood. Alex Tizon writes with acumen and courage, and the result is a book at once illuminating and, yes, liberating." -Peter Ho Davies, author of *The Welsh Girl* "A well-paced, engaging combo of history, memoir, and social analysis. . . Tizon’s skill as a feature reporter serves the book well, producing a narrative that moves fluidly between subjects, settings, and gazes." -- Publishers Weekly "A deft, illuminating memoir and cultural history." -- Kirkus Reviews "Written compellingly....eye-opening... deeply felt, extensively researched." -- Booklist "Tizon’s candid journey into the shifting and multiplying definitions of manliness and the masculine ideal is revelatory and sobering."-- Library Journal "Highly readable . . . This personal narrative of self-education and growth will engage any reader captivated by the sources of American, and Asian-American, manhood — its multitude of inheritances and prospects." – Minneapolis Star Tribune

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An award-winning writer takes a groundbreaking look at the experience and psyche of the Asian American male.

?? Alex Tizon landed in an America that saw Asian women as sexy and Asian men as sexless. Immigrating from the Philippines as a young boy, everything he saw and heard taught him to be ashamed of his face, his skin color, his height.

?His fierce and funny observations of sex and the Asian American male include his own quest for love during college in the 1980s, a tortured tutorial on stereotypes that still make it hard for Asian men to get the girl. Tizon writes: "I had to educate myself on my own worth. It was a sloppy, piecemeal education, but I had to do it because no one else was going to do it for me."

?And then, a transformation. First, Tizon's growing understanding that shame is universal: that his own just happened to be about race. Next, seismic cultural changes – from Jerry Yang's phenomenal success with Yahoo! Inc., to actor Ken Watanabe's emergence in Hollywood blockbusters, to Jeremy Lin's meteoric NBA rise.

?Finally, Tizon's deeply original, taboo-bending investigation turns outward, tracking the unheard stories of young Asian men today, in a landscape still complex but much changed for the Asian American man.?

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