

Novelist Amy Tan was born in Oakland, California in 1952. Her parents emigrated from China in the 1940s, and she grew up struggling to assimilate with other kids, wishing that she would look less Chinese.

She was working as a freelance writer when she took her mother on a trip to China, and she said, "It was a sense of completeness, like having a mother and a father. I had China and America, and everything was all coming together finally."

She came home and found out that based on two short stories, she had received an advance for a book. She quit her freelancing work and spent every day writing in her basement, thinking about her trip to China. In just four months, she had

finished *The Joy Luck Club*

(1989), which was a big best-seller. She went on to write more novels about relationships between women, and especially, between mother and daughter. These novels include: *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), and *Saving Fish from Drowning* (2005), all *New York Times* bestsellers and the recipient of various awards. Her work has been translated into 35 languages, from Spanish, French, and Finnish to Chinese,

Arabic, and Hebrew. Amy Tan continues to live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

