**Synopsis:**

From one of China's most celebrated contemporary novelists comes this riveting tale of a young woman's emotional and sexual awakening. Set in the turbulent decades of the Cultural Revolution and the Tian'anmen Square incident, *A Private Life* exposes the complex and fantastical inner life of a young woman growing up during a time of intense social and political upheaval.

At the age of twenty-six, Ni Niuniu has come to accept pain and loss. She has suffered the death of her mother and a close friend and neighbor, Mrs. Ho. She has long been estranged from her tyrannical father, while her boyfriend -- a brilliant and handsome poet named Yin Nan -- was forced to flee the country. She has survived a disturbing affair with a former teacher, a mental breakdown that left her in a mental institution for two years, and a stray bullet that tore through the flesh of her left leg. Now living in complete seclusion, Niuniu shuns a world that seems incapable of accepting her and instead spends her days wandering in vivid, dreamlike reveries where her fractured recollections and wild fantasies merge with her inescapable feelings of melancholy and loneliness. Yet this eccentric young woman -- caught between the disappearing traditions of the past and a modernizing Beijing, a flood of memories and an unknowable future, her chosen solitude and her irrepressible longing -- discovers strength and independence through writing, which transforms her flight from the hypocrisy of urban life into a journey of self-realization and rebirth.

First published in 1996 to widespread critical acclaim, Ran Chen's controversial debut novel is a lyrical meditation on memory, sexuality, femininity, and the often arbitrary distinctions between madness and sanity, alienation and belonging, nature and society. As Chen leads the reader deep into the psyche of Ni Niuniu -- into her innermost secrets and sexual desires -- the borders separating narrator and protagonist, writer and subject dissolve, exposing the shared aspects of human existence that transcend geographical and cultural differences.

  [Abstract] Chen Ran in the "private life" in the Qing Li described the three kinds of women: women with incomplete knowledge of women, in the confrontation between the sexes has grown up in the shadow of women. Although the image of these women vary, but unfortunately the emotional, marital or family life seems to be their resting place. Modern women's indecision, loneliness, alienation and so on here has been a further elaboration. 

**[Keywords:] Chen Ran The Fate Of Women In Personal Writing**

**Chen Ran is a new era since the most influential writer.** In the official ideology of the literary world is still around, still above the grand narrative of "personal writing" today, as a Ruonv Zi, Chen Ran always stick to personal writing positions. Self-made writer: "The more than 10 years, I was outside the mainstream of Chinese literature the edge of trail difficulty walking, loneliness are natural." ...   
  
  
     Chen Ran's masterpiece "private life" from the available starting with a strong personality on the subject of public attention, it was because of rebellion opposition parties. "Private life", by Chen Ran for us to describe the three types of women, and the text of those violent, extremely noisy but also empty of men compared to those of the female characters seem weak to follow their unique feminine and toughness showed different kind of vitality. Ming played in a distinctive female song. This article will try to analyze Chen Ran's "private life" of the three kinds of women's image and try to tap their inherent in common: 

**1, incomplete female**

     Facing incomplete, and even the United States with a birth defect that appreciation and preferences constitute an important aspect of Chen Ran's personality. "Private life" in an eye grandmother, no chest Ge woman, lame Iraqi autumn are included.   
  
 **Grandma used to be her eyes, a brutal man Da Xia had.** Her courage to leave he came to "I" family silver, the nanny. However, the grandmother of the world only from one male to another male fled the world, because in the "I" at home, also has an ideology with a tradition of machismo, personality domineering and violent father. Granny "always spinning her apron," however, is such a hardworking and kind-hearted women who dedicate their lives in all the abandoned even after the inevitable outcome. If a young man's grandmother has taken a proactive position to escape men. Then the old grandmother to leave the "I" house is entirely forced. In the face of these powerful tradition of men. Grandma so there are no economic viability of the source and independent women still could not escape the slavery status. Grandma's life was the tragedy of exile was a man's life.   
  
  
     And the grandmother of external violence and disability due to different women, and Yi Qiu Ge are due to illness and disability. Ge woman suffering from breast cancer in both breasts removed after the bear alone, "from the double oppression of body and spirit," Ge man not only failed to give her the slightest consolation, anti-ended with a belt that she already can not be a long life. This "noisy war of words a lifetime," the family, a woman sick Ge cut milk. Their only loss of harmonious sex scene, the inevitable way to ruin. A strong sexual desire to the Ko family with feelings and sense of responsibility of men burning fuel exhausted, the original law-abiding disciplined his desires are not met after the murder of pro-wife finally embarked on the road also to choose self-defeating way. Here, the desire to destroy the personality of the modern man has reached alarming proportions.   
  
  
     The same for the disabled due to illness, the lame girl Yi Qiu can be said to be "lucky", or at least, she also has a handsome face, full sensual body enough to cause a man to imagine. And Ni Au Au compared. Yi Qiu is a more self-esteem can be more sensitive girl, she played a very strong self-awareness and self-knowledge. This time and any place subject to ridicule, exclusion of girls described in the text as Chen Ran's "cat bird story" in that wherever it can live much more like the moisture of the fat cat has a "remarkable resilience." She has been living with a set of ideas and a means to survival: no matter how unhappy, she "never cry", that "there is nothing to cry": the face of someone else to take her fun, "she not only angry, but also performance than others, but also happy, laughing endlessly "... ... she was trying to do their utmost to integrate into the collective life.Yet. "Because of her own physical disability. She was this too a normal and healthy group excluded." It is precisely because Yi Qiu very aware of their situation and are exerting themselves but to no avail, so she Compared to the initiative away from the collective Ni Au Au run was even more tragic. As a crippled orphan, sensual Iraqi Qiu perhaps only in his bed in order to find true self-confidence. So she and the same has a strong energy and sexuality of young table Kosit great hope of the "sexual" relationship is a natural occurrence of things.   
  
 **Although Ge Yi Qiu woman and has a very different outcome, but as a male lust object on this point they are the same.** Just as Chen Ran in the text by the mouth of Au Au said, "The world is through the desire to control our." Or because of their desire to death, or because the desire was born, and in the desire to perform under the guidance and control scene after scene of tragicomedy of life. As Mr. Wu Yiqin pointed out, "and nowadays commercial tide in a variety of carnival desires of different landscapes, Chen Ran's novel presentation of it is scenes of human tragedy with ultimate survival of images mean, she gave her joy isolation the crowd outside, in a gesture of experience and thinking of those who spoke made appearances behind the mask to survive the pain of the kind of life. "Perhaps this is a cool depth of Chen Ran, as a writer of genius. 

**Second, Knowledge Of Women**

**With a knowledge of women, mothers and Wo also have a big difference.**Mothers are capable of modern women with strong personalities. Is a strong woman: Wo is the decline of aristocratic descent, temperament feminine, with housewives flavor, is a typical small woman.   
  
  
     Despite belonging to different personality types, but in the way of emotion, they have shared the same fate - unhappy marriages and make them once to rely on feelings as the only woman in black and blue. Mother, father, bold choices and break toward divorce: Wo put the emotional sustenance turn the opposite sex. Become a homosexual.   
  
  
     Mother has always been "I" favorite, but authoritarian, arrogant, violent father, has always been "I" hate object, and this often experienced during the Cultural Revolution hit men, with Iraq Fall that cowardly father poetic choice and family passed away-he was to put their grievances both the pressure and violence in the form of vent to the people and things around him. Grandmother were away, a little dog Sophia Loren has been expelled, are the product of the transfer of the father of violence. In addition to the Cold War for many years outside the parents. Marriage has not the slightest sense of romance and tenderness, who then ship the sea in life unsteadily navigating a boat for nearly two decades of marriage is also premature collapse ran aground and analyzed the.   
  
 **Wo.** This "genetically related decline of the blazing Yi Gu and scholarly atmosphere of the nobility," the descendants of the Manchu nobility there had been a very romantic happy marriage. However, as Chen Ran in a bid to "private life" inside attest, a good marriage and family for women, is almost impossible, even if there is merely a flash in the pan, a flash will be disappearing. The couple was affectionate for a while, Wo that adhering to the "distant ancestors of the idle, the son of Colombian Chihepiaodu habits" and betrayal of her husband. Chen Ran Wo's husband set up for the "China Year died," the outcome, as she let Ge men in the years after the murder of a wife into hiding because of "accidents to death," just like women, men betrayed Chen Ran's fiction has always been able to escape death. Such quite "karma" to set the plot color is the male abhorrence of Chen Ran right Baoqingguayi performance. She was also able to find the best way for women Mingbu Ping, even though it is somewhat wishful thinking on Chen Ran. Reposted elsewhere in the paper for free download http://eng.hi138.com  
  
  
     "From love, marriage and family to work, and social status, economic rewards, women's overall frustration finally enable them to produce a fundamental suspicion" that "many women began to recall the feeling that they no longer love, or give it a generous man of worship : on the contrary, they began to re-examine the community designated for men and women of all. " It is this inner depths of the opposite sex from the disappointment, this was mid-twenties Snob woman after the death of a man close ourselves in a small house and began her life of quiet and decadent widowed. As a living individual, Wo widow can not really cut off all personnel in and around the links. "I", it slowly grew up in the collective lonely little girl who has become the day curled up in the bedroom of Wo the only channel for communication with the outside world. A common love of literature so that Wo and the "I" to find more life meeting point, in this neighborhood than the mother, a widow who is more motherly. "I" to find a warm humanity. "Her voice was always like a cool of plaster, soft to quote deposited in the human body in any one wound," while in the "I" who, Wo also found a sign of emotional sustenance, "she said very little from me the time since, they alone will not help the throngs of waiting for me to stand, waiting for me to grow up. " Here, sensual retreat for the second, the soul of communication of the soul sustenance as maintaining Wo and "me" the most important and intimate relationships. Any attempt to level the social ethical criticism of homosexuality to the language here is looked pale and hollow. As a conscientious writer Chen Ran always concerned about the feelings of a compassion for every one of life subject of women's existence. In real life, the confrontation between the men and women like the one pairs of brake sword mercilessly stabbing the two sides make each other's scars. Ho turned to feelings of comfort with same-sex has long been her love of the opposite sex strapping numb heart. In a sense, we can turn such feelings for women as for men in the world, more powerful opposition to homosexual men as a higher sense of betrayal. Wo was closed over many years in the life, "I" as good as a result of the presence of her ashes shine like the quiet life, the only ray of sunshine. "Private life" to listen to about the fate of three women. Ho's life can be said to be the most fragile and the most resilient and therefore silent protest her life is of particular hardship and suffering. Chen Ran's fire death by making Wo and painful end of her brief life, sounded a decline of aristocratic women's elegy mourning. 

**3, in the confrontation between the sexes grew up in the shadow of the female**

     Ni bending bending, this text tells the story of a woman, unfortunately, all women, in the shadow of confrontation between the sexes slowly grew from a small girl into a woman. Childhood to adulthood entire life experience, living experience is to demonstrate to the outside world she was strong and merciless. If the father's tyranny pretty rough period of her childhood can not erase the shadow of the first wipe, then T hypocrisy and deliberately create difficulties for teachers is enveloped her entire primary and secondary stages of a strong group of dark clouds. Is her adolescence insurmountable obstacles. YIN Nan University and the emergence of first love, even though in the beginning but it also brings bend bend sunlight left her in the future more haze. Ni Au Au in the body of this figure, all the modern ethos, such as treasonable and suspicion spirit, strong sense of isolation, alienation of love, irrational thinking, and so on is far more dramatic.   
  
  
     Girls bend bend With an unparalleled hatred had a bad cut his father's pants, have determined to grit one's teeth grow up to his father from the home. As parents, the dissolution of marriage. The role of the authoritarian father, figuratively, figuratively, from the life of a temporary retreat, but the shadow of this comes from an early age is difficult to get rid of her life. T, this is only resentment and dissatisfaction of life of young teachers, obstructive is the disobedient disobedient sensitive, kind of inferiority complex and closed the key to the formation of its way of life. The face of the petite helpless female students, T hesitate to use "problem children" and "carriers" and other insulting title to be slander slander and harm. He even launched the whole class on this poor girl to "isolate movement." And thereby to obtain pleasure. This is a twisted personality of teachers, the name of the human soul under the guise of engineers to carry out the destruction of human health and the dirty mind. However, this has been such a threat to her life and the violation of her student days full of tension and shame men, actually induced her taste the forbidden fruit of sex.   
  
 **Bending bending, this take justice in the "willful," the name itself is full of resistance, rebellion was intended.** Perhaps it is out of the opposite sex in the world of strong pressure from the anti-dial, as a Ruonv Zi, bend bend but are surprisingly treacherous, has a "right of all things natural taboo feelings of desire" and "the general confrontation of the characteristics of expansion to the extreme. " However, like many characters as described by Chen Ran. Ni Au Au is mainly a revolt of the "thinking person" rather than "actors." Her father, the resistance of the T more often through the completion of imagination in the fantasy of the territory, such as the imagined father was led away by van, with your eyes "bite" and so on.   
  
  
     From the huge shadow of the opposite sex from the young since the bend bend with her, a strong sense of loneliness arises from: Long in the family with both parents alive, and she did not feel the flesh and blood affection, enjoy the family warm: living in a large group of campus life, she was isolated and marginalized everywhere, never able to integrate into one: walking in the small town life, and she alone was tantamount to a stranger. Lonely, go hand in hand to follow her, constitutes the basic state of her existence. Even his childhood partners in Iraq's only autumn, the two have been able to "good" to get along also because of their role as the lonely strangers, students are not acceptable for teachers has generated a sympathetic feelings.So. When Wo had knowledge of this woman's character and charm and equally lonely housewives and helpless women appear in the Au Au life, the bend bend the feeling is: Wo, "It is my inner life of a boring light, she made I am in this world has found a warm and amiable friend, one can replace my mother's special woman. "   
  
     "Private life", whether it be platonic love - affection, or love of the sexes - love, are being extremely alienated industrial society. The deterioration of the novel affection often people feel worried of the tremor. Childhood family discord and lack of fatherly love for his father even bend bend filled with hate, has a "patricide" impulse, they made her "obsession imaginary father" image, resulting in "Electra" complex. Obviously, this is a kind of alienation of affection of love. Lovers, husband and wife divide the mind, mixed sex revenge, exploitation, self-torture, this should be a unified body and soul love in "private life" in a variety of reasons for the alienation of a split body and soul ... ... As some commentators pointed out: Chen dyeing in a dream and the reality will be caught between the most representative of relations between the sexes are different, confrontation, desire Trinity will painfully alienated love torn, leaving only the eternal soul of loneliness and vitality of the erosion. Bend bend and T-free love of the teacher, and the final separation of YIN Nan invariably shows that plausible and no real love between the sexes is precisely the most inhumane. Love of the sexes makes it the emotional disappointment of serious distortions and deformation, bend bend and Wo is the widow of homosexual sexual relations alienated the extreme right of interpretation. When the bend bend deeply Ailian Zhao Wo accidental death, childhood had each other's mother died of illness, the only poetic feeling gave her first love is also away from her when, in reality a series of merciless blows, the "zero Ms. "birth seems inevitable. Till bend bend to avoid the crowd and hid in bathtubs, conducted a thorough life "self-closed", which is all that the occurrence of natural things.   
  
  
     Throughout Chen Ran's "private life" in women, it can be said in this by the one-eyed grandmother, mother and Wo, bend bend and the Iraqi Qiu composed of three generations of Chinese women, despite the character's status, personality temperament, taste the different cultivation and way of life different, but unfortunately the marriage and family are property of their ultimate destination. If we say that men are from one-eyed grandmother escaped a forced choice, that is. Mother resolutely break with men is out of an autonomous choice: If we say that after being stabbed in the love of the opposite sex of Wo turned to homosexuality is a woman of the opposite sex self-closed, then. Bend bend of the return to the "Bathtub" is the case of women have no choice but had to take a protective measure. Here, the emotional life of women in the camp retreat step by step, until finally no escape.   
  
 **As a creative writer, Chen Ran through the fate of women and their writing.**Delicate deeply revealing all kinds of modern psychology and fatalistic-like existence. "A lot of writers on private experience (private life) of the concern, it seems not to meet readers, nor is it to meet their own exposure to the so-called desire, but will this act as a defense of human nature against a one to challenge the authoritarian era of the noble behavior. they are such a personal experience (private life) of the value and legitimacy of the most thorough were found. "Undoubtedly, Chen Ran is a typical representative of such a writer. Reposted elsewhere in the paper for free download http://eng.hi138.com