THIS IS MY DAD.
HE IS A PHYSICIST.
HE LOVES MUSIC AND PLAYING THE GUITAR.

HE WAS ONLY 3 YEARS OLD WHEN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION STARTED.

MAO WANTED TO PURGE ALL CAPITALIST ELEMENTS AND SPLIT FROM THE USSR'S COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY.

ANARCHY: CHAOS ENSUED FROM MAO'S ORDERS TO ATTACK BUREAUCRACY.
Because it was normal

Everyone was a Red Guard...

Just like my dad.

And everyone’s brain was controlled by the same ideology.

Communist lessons were taught in schools.

Red Book

Re-education took place in the countryside.

Books were burned.
Then Mao died and the Cultural Revolution ended.

The new leader, Deng Xiaoping, opened the door to the West.

China was rebuilding and modernizing after the chaos of the last 10 years.

The horrors of the Cultural Revolution were revealed... and this resulted in the liberation of the people's thought.
So my dad studied to get into college...

In a college interview, he was asked, "Who do you worship, Mao, Einstein, or yourself?"

He doesn't remember exactly why he said that.

He got in and graduated in 1984 with a degree in applied physics.

But it speaks to his free thinking and trust in himself.
Right out of college, he was assigned by the government to work in a semiconductor factory.

He saw no future at the factory and his only way out was graduate school.

He studied while working, staying up till 2 am every night for three months.

It paid off, and he attended grad school in 1988.

There, during his first year, he met my mom. She was even more ambitious than he was. He would later follow her to continue their education after grad school.
A year later, inspired by democratic ideals and ignited by the death of dsg raced leader Hu Yaobang,

students were frustrated

and begun

the tiananmen square protests

for political and economic reform.

though he was a student, my father was only a by-stander

he thought the protesters were too unreasonable.

he said, "we don't want civil war," and he was almost attacked by other students.

he watched his friends be consumed by the chaos.

one of his old coworkers was killed from 4 shots to the stomach.
After the end of the protests and bloodshed, many students sought freedom and opportunity abroad.

The US or UK could provide a future China could not.

After my father graduated,

He left China.

He got his PhD in physics at the Univ of Wales.

He got her PhD in Materials Science at Cambridge University.

The technology was much greater and the salaries were much higher in the UK and US. So they stayed.

They found jobs in the US and became naturalized citizens in 2005.

The US became their new home because it is where I was born and where their future is.
THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, MY DAD WAS SURROUNDED BY INFLUENCE: BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND BY HIS FERVENT PEERS.

DESPITE THIS, HE MAINTAINED HIS FREE WILL AND HIS INDEPENDENT THOUGHT TO BECOME THE MAN I KNOW AND LOVE TODAY. ♥