



## Mu Guiying

Mu Guiying, a tough yet feminine lady, was a General from the famous House of Yang. She was confident and had exceptional talent, courage and skills in commanding army to battle against Liao invasion, making her one of the best female commander in Chinese classic.

This lady is best known through history as the only one who could defeat the Liao's Heavenly-Gate Formation. When she did she was only nineteen years old and it dealt such a blow to the Liao's they never recovered nor regained their former power. As a result of her victory in important battles, she has been immortalized as one of China's greatest

Mu Guiying was the daughter of Mu Ke, an official of the Song court who had been wrongfully sent into exile. Mu Guiying grew up in his fortress on Mount Mu which was where young people who distrusted the Emperor came. She practised martial arts from young and mastered many esoteric aspects of it. The special skills she developed proved useful in helping her break the famous Heavenly-Gate Formation of the Liao's. But hers is a story of turning her back on her father and joining the side of her husband's illustrious family of generals.

Her life greatly changed when she met Yang Zongbao, scion of the illustrious Yang family of generals. He was the only male heir of this illustrious family. Rash and hot-headed, he provoked an argument with Mu Guiying which escalated into a full-blown duel. In the process, the two fell in love and Yang demanded the Dragon-Subduing Wood which the Song forces direly needed to counter the Heavenly-Gate Formation. Mu Guiying helped her husband get the Wood and chose to cast her lot with the Yang family. She thus left Mount Mu to serve the court her father despised. She was the second woman, after her grandmother-in-law, She Saihua, to hold the seal of Supreme Commander, and with it she led the Imperial Song troops to crack the Heavenly-Gate Formation.

Mu Guiying's name is likened to that of the "Yang Men" to be immortalized as a woman warrior of noble bearing and integrity, worthy to be lauded by posterity. Her image is the symbol of steadfastness.

