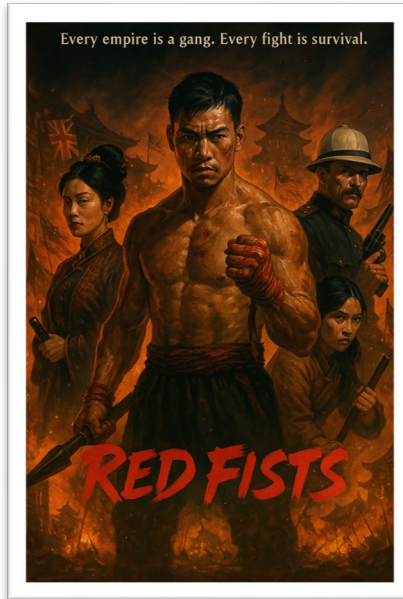


RED FISTS

In a time of empire and collapse, fists are not the only weapons. Love, loyalty, and betrayal shape the fate of nations.

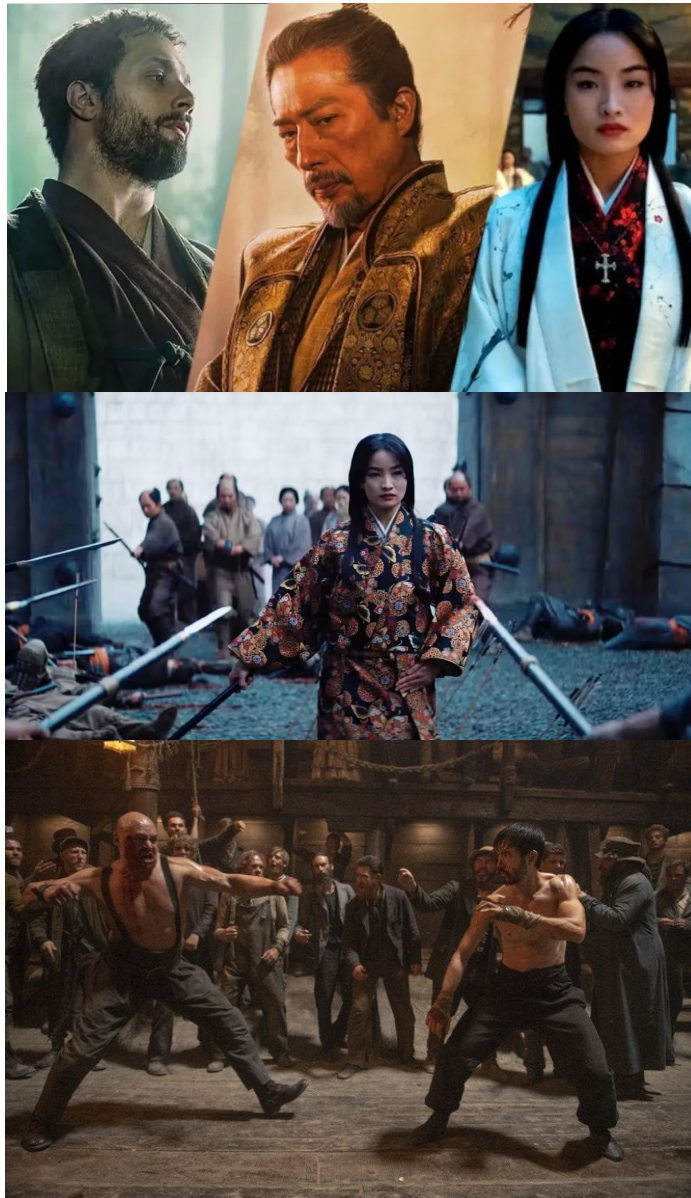


Series Summary

1900, China. A peasant Boxer, a palace ingénue, and a British officer — and the women entwined with them — live out forbidden loves, rivalries, and betrayals. Their stories unfold in parallel, colliding in the chaos of the Boxer Rebellion. History devours empires, but humanity survives in the choices of women and men.

红颜亦可定乾坤

Even beauty may decide the fate of the realm.
— Late Qing proverb



Tone & Style

Intimate, tragic, soap-operatic in scope. Men's stories of martial honor, rivalry, and survival run parallel to women's stories of seduction, strategy, and sacrifice. Martial arts are grounded and visceral. Palace intrigue and forbidden romance bring sensuality and emotional depth. The look is lush and contrasting: dusty villages and burning streets versus jeweled courts and opulent concessions.

知己知彼，百战不殆

Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will never be defeated.

— Sun Tzu



Characters

Li Wei (The Boxer): A young villager turned rebel, torn between vengeance and a forbidden love.

Meilan (The Lover): A strong village woman who supports the Boxers but charts her own fate, even against Li Wei's path.

Madame Xu (Mentor): Widow, mystic, trainer of Boxers — spiritual and pragmatic leader.

Princess Anling (Court): Young consort in the Forbidden City, wielding power through guile and alliances.

Prince Duan (Court): Qing noble backing Boxers, ambitious but doomed.

The Insider (Spy): Eunuch or official who survives through manipulation.

Colonel Harrington (Officer): British professional soldier, honorable yet complicit.

Clara Harrington (Wife): His wife, trapped in the concession, navigating alliances with Chinese women to protect her children.

Missionary Anna: Idealistic Western woman, torn between faith and witnessing atrocities.

大丈夫宁死不屈

A true man would rather die than yield.

— Traditional proverb

Story Structure

Episodes 1–3: Separate arcs. The Boxer's initiation and romance. The Palace ingénue's intrigue. The Colonel's family life in the concession.

Episodes 4–6: Interwoven collisions. Boxer rebellion rises. Palace plots unravel. The Colonel and his wife face moral choices.

Finale: Military defeat of the Boxers. Survivors endure — a child protected, a secret carried, a woman's choice shaping the future.

历史是由人民创造的

History is created by the people.

Themes

Resilience: Dynasties collapse, empires overreach, but ordinary lives endure.

Masculine Competition: Brotherhood, duels, power, betrayal.

Feminine Empowerment: Women steering the fate of families, courts, and even armies through wit, courage, and sacrifice.

Love & Betrayal: Soap opera intimacy equal to martial spectacle.

Universal Reflection: The concessions were immoral — but this isn't propaganda. It's about dignity, survival, and humanity across cultures.

合则强，分则弱

United we are strong, divided we are weak.

Comps & Audience

Comps: Warrior (HBO) — martial grit. Lust, Caution — tragic intimacy. Shōgun — prestige cross-cultural soap opera. Andor — political greyscale.

Audience: Couples watching prestige drama together — martial action for men, emotional intrigue for women, both immersed in a richly built world.

Promise: Every episode offers both a fight and a heartbreak — so everyone has a reason to watch.

In the ashes of empire, humanity survives.

Episode 1: Blood in the Dust

In a drought-stricken Shandong village, Li Wei joins the Boxers after witnessing injustice. Meanwhile, palace intrigue simmers in the Forbidden City, and Colonel Harrington writes tender letters home from the concession.

Action Hooks:

- Opening village brawl reveals Boxer brotherhood and martial skill.
- First ambush against foreign missionaries turns violent.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Li Wei and Meilan share forbidden attraction under the weight of rebellion.
- Princess Anling learns her rival concubine plots against her.
- Clara Harrington struggles with isolation in Beijing, missing her children in England.

Episode 2: Courts of Fire

The palace becomes a battlefield of seduction and betrayal. The Boxers perform mystical rituals, believing themselves invulnerable. In the concession, Clara begins to connect with a Chinese merchant's wife.

Action Hooks:

- Boxer initiation ritual — trance, chanting, Iron Shirt training.
- Qing soldiers clash with Boxer rebels near Beijing.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Princess Anling maneuvers to gain influence over Prince Duan.
- Meilan defies village elders, secretly smuggling weapons.
- Clara and the merchant's wife form a cautious friendship.

Episode 3: Letters and Blood

Colonel Harrington faces pressure to harden his stance. Li Wei leads a Boxer raid that ends in tragedy. Anna the missionary questions her faith as she shelters Chinese converts.

Action Hooks:

- Violent raid on a foreign outpost.
- Colonial soldiers drill for battle inside the concession.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Li Wei's brother is killed — deepening his bond with Meilan.
- Anna is torn between loyalty to her mission and horror at the violence.
- Clara defies her husband's orders, placing her family at risk.

Episode 4: The Siege Begins

The Boxer Rebellion ignites in Beijing. Foreign concessions fortify. Palace nobles debate whether to embrace or betray the Boxers. Clara Harrington finds herself in danger as violence spills into the streets.

Action Hooks:

- Boxers march on Beijing chanting and clashing with Qing soldiers.
- Foreign troops prepare barricades in the concessions.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Meilan is captured while smuggling weapons — Li Wei must choose between rescuing her or leading his fighters.
- Princess Anling seduces a general to secure protection for her allies.
- Clara shelters a Chinese woman fleeing violence, risking scandal.

Episode 5: Ashes in the Forbidden City

Boxers penetrate Beijing. Chaos and paranoia spread. The court splinters. Harrington leads troops into brutal street fighting. Anna, the missionary, hides refugees inside the mission.

Action Hooks:

- Boxer mobs storm foreign shops and embassies.
- Street battle: Boxers ambush foreign patrols, bloody and close-quarters.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Li Wei and Meilan are reunited briefly before tragedy tears them apart.
- Princess Anling betrays a rival concubine, sealing her rise in power.
- Clara confronts Harrington about atrocities she has witnessed.

Episode 6: The Fall

The Eight-Nation Alliance storms Beijing. The Boxers are crushed. The court flees. Survivors must choose whether to endure or perish. Final moments show resilience, not victory.

Action Hooks:

- Foreign troops overwhelm Beijing in coordinated assault.
- Boxer last stand — Li Wei faces Harrington in a doomed clash.

Drama / Soap Hooks:

- Meilan sacrifices herself to save a child, leaving Li Wei broken but alive.
- Princess Anling secures her survival, watching the dynasty crumble around her.
- Clara saves the Chinese woman she sheltered, defying her husband's orders — their marriage left fractured.
- Closing image: a child learns to write 'China will not perish' (中国不亡), symbol of resilience.