

Great Reads of CHINA



Stories of Chinese
culture, people,
history, and politics

Fiction

Anyi, Wang *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* A girl born in working class Shanghai is transformed during the age of reform.

Chang, Eileen *Lust, Caution: The Story* An intense, passionate affair between a powerful politician and a young activist is doomed by WW II politics.

Chen, Da *Brothers* Two sons of a great Chinese general are driven – one by glory, one by revenge.

Epstein, Jennifer Cody *The Painter from Shanghai* Based on the life of Pan Yuliang, former child prostitute turned famous painter. [12/08]

Ghosh, Amitav *Sea of Poppies* A former slave ship sails the Indian Ocean during the Opium Wars.

Guo, Xiaolu *Twenty Fragments of a Ravenous Youth* A young peasant woman seeks her fortune in modern Beijing, ill-prepared for what she finds.

Han, Bangqing *The Sing-Song Girls of Shanghai* Desire and virtue dwell in the brothels of 19th century Shanghai.

Hua, Yu *Cries in the Drizzle* A young outcast observes familial and societal changes during Communist rule.

Jian, Ma *Beijing Coma* An activist shot by a soldier in Tiananmen Square emerges from a coma a decade later.

Jin, Ha *A Free Life* A family emigrates to the U.S. after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Li, Yiyun *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* A collection of stories depicting the effects of politics, language, and culture on an entire people.

Lord, Bette Bao *The Middle Heart* Three young people form an alliance in 1930s China that is repeatedly tested by conflicting loyalties.

May, Peter *The Firemaker* A forensic pathologist's temporary job in China changes her life.

McBurney-Lin, Jana *My Half of the Sky* A young woman struggles to be true to self and live up to the words of Mao.

Min, Anchee *Empress Orchid* A young concubine becomes China's last empress.

Mones, Nicole *The Last Chinese Chef* A young widow seeking to solve a mystery is transformed by culture and cuisine.

Pattison, Eliot *Prayer of the Dragon* A former Beijing investigator solves a murder case in a remote village in Tibet.

Qiu, Xialong *When Red is Black* Inspector Chen and Detective Yu solve the case of a young novelist's murder.

Rong, Jiang *Wolf Totem* The Mongolian wolf battles for spiritual survival, along with the Mongol people.

Sa, Shan *Empress* A girl living in 7th century China rules alone as emperor after her husband dies.

See, Lisa *Snowflower and the Secret Fan* A long-time friendship between two women is threatened by a misunderstanding.

Sijie, Dai *Mr. Muo's Travelling Couch* A man seeks to introduce psychoanalysis to 21st century China and finds romance.

Tan, Amy *The Kitchen God's Wife* An aging Chinese émigré tells her Americanized daughter a life's worth of secrets.

Tsukiyama, Gail *Women of the Silk* Rural Chinese factory workers unite in courage and strength to achieve freedom.

van Gulik, Robert *The Chinese Maze Murders* Answers to three interwoven mysteries are in the Governor's garden.

Wang, Annie *The People's Republic of Desire* Four professional women in modern Beijing explore topics once considered taboo.

Wen, Robert K. *Dream of Spring and Autumn* Although marriages and wars complicate a woman's life, destiny intervenes.

Yan, Mo *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out* A wealthy landowner executed during Mao's "land reform" undergoes successive reincarnations.

Zhang, Wei *The Ancient Ship* Three families in a small town are affected differently and drastically by 20th century reform.

Zhu, Wen *I Love Dollars: And Other Stories of China* A collection of narratives depicting the dark side of Chinese society in post-Mao times.

Non-Fiction

Gifford, Rob *China Road: A Journey in the Future of a Rising Power* The adventures of a radio reporter on a two-month trip along Route 312—the Asian Route 66.

Kynge, James *China Shakes the World* A journalist explains China's explosive transformation, its weaknesses, and the consequences for America.

Lin-Liu, Jen *Serve the People! A Stir-fried Journey Through China* A freelance writer's journey from cooking student to restaurant intern includes many flavors and characters.

Lord, Bette Bao *Legacies: A Chinese Mosaic* Brutal realities of the Cultural Revolution and its aftermath are expressed insightfully and poignantly.

Meredith, Robyn *The Elephant and the Dragon* Survival in a new global economy requires an understanding of the opposing political and economic strategies of India and China.

Spence, Jonathan *Return to Dragon Mountain: Memories of a Late Ming Man* The biography of Zhang Dai, a celebrated historian and essayist, provides insight into the Ming dynasty period.

Tzu, Sun *The Art of War* The wisdom of ancient Chinese warlords is relevant to life in modern times.

Winchester, Simon *The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom* A biography of Joseph Needham, who documented China's evolution to greatness.

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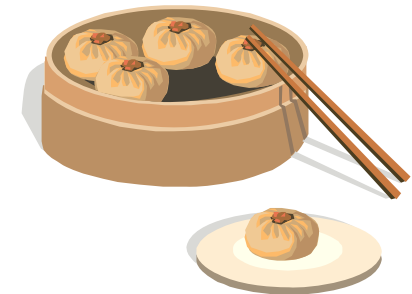
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