

# China In Fiction

**Buck, Pearl**

**The good earth**

A story of China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people. This moving, classic story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during this century.

**Buck, Pearl**

**Imperial Woman**

A biographical novel of Tzu-Hsi, the last Empress of China beginning with her younger years before she was hand-picked by the emperor to be his concubine. In the imperial court, Tzu-Hsi loses her innocence and learns how to navigate her way through personal and political intrigues.

**Chen, Da**

**Two brothers**

Two sons born to a powerful general, one born to the general's wife and one born to his mistress, know nothing of each others existence. One is driven to glorify his father, the other wants revenge.

**Clavell, James**

**Noble House**

Ian Dunross is the Tai-pan (all-powerful leader) of Noble House, Hong Kong's most influential trading firm. His ruthless rival has vowed to stop at nothing until Dunross and Noble House have been destroyed.

**Dai, Sijie**

**Mr. Muo's traveling couch**

After years of studying Freud in Paris, Mr. Muo returns home to bring the benefits of psychoanalysis to twenty-first-century China and to free his college sweetheart, now a political prisoner.

**Harrison, Kathryn**

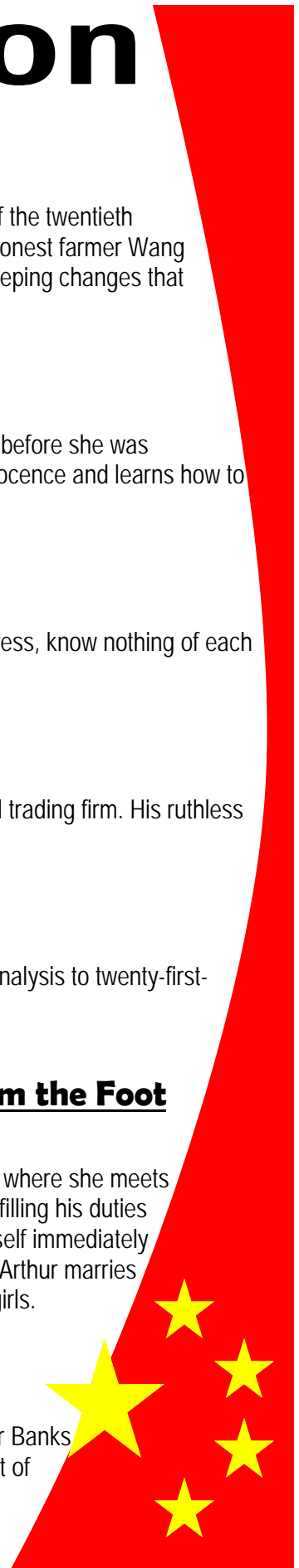
**The binding chair, or, a visit from the Foot Emancipation Society**

May escapes an arranged marriage in rural nineteenth-century China for a life of prostitution, where she meets Arthur, an Australian whose philanthropic pursuits lead him into one scrape after another. Fulfilling his duties as a member of the Foot Emancipation Society, Arthur plans to reform May, only to find himself immediately Seduced by the sight of her bound feet. Reforming May is out of the question, so love-struck Arthur marries her instead and brings her home to live with him, his sister and brother-in-law, and their two girls.

**Ishiguro, Kazuo**

**When we were orphans**

After the mysterious disappearance of his parents in post-World War I Shanghai, Christopher Banks is sent to live in England where he grows up to become a famous detective. The ultimate test of his skills comes when he returns to Shanghai in the 1930s to discover what happened to his mother and father.



**Jin, Ha**

**Waiting**

A Chinese doctor in the Revolutionary army, trapped in a loveless marriage, wishes to divorce his wife and marry the nurse he loves, but Communist Party functionaries look upon divorce with deep suspicion, and for 17 years, his wife refuses to go along with his wishes.

**Lancaster, John**

**Fragrant harbor**

In 1935, Tom Stewart, a young man from Kent, England, sails to Hong Kong in search of adventure and fortune. War with the Japanese is soon on the horizon, and Stewart is recruited as a British spy. Over his long life in Hong Kong—which he rarely leaves—the city is presented with sweeping scope, from its colonial origins and millions of immigrants to its grandeur in the realms of banking and finance.

**Liu, Aimee**

**Cloud mountain**

In 1906 San Francisco, Hope Newfield meets Liang Po-yu, a Chinese scholar and revolutionary, while she is teaching his students how to speak English. They fall in love, marry, and raise a family, ignoring the prejudice that comes with mixed-race unions. After 1911, the entire family moves to Shanghai in the pursuit of freedom in the new Republic, but the land proves dangerous for them all. Based on the lives of the author's grandparents.

**Min, Aichee**

**Becoming Madame Mao**

Jiang Ching, the power-hungry, cruel, and enigmatic wife of Mao Zedong in Communist China, continually reinvents herself throughout her life: from an unhappy child in the 1920s to actress to Communist sympathizer and tyrant

**Min, Aichee**

**Empress Orchid**

A biographical novel about the Last Empress of China.. Tzu Hsi, better known as Orchid, enters China's Forbidden City as a minor concubine to the emperor in 1852. In this insular environment, ritual is everything, and thousands of hopeful women vie for his attention. She sets out to seduce him and succeeds, falling in love and bearing him a much-needed heir. Orchid becomes empress at her husband's death, fighting off calls for her ouster, and holding the troubled country together almost single-handedly.

**Min, Anchee**

**Last empress**

Late 19th-century China is a tumultuous land beset by warring enemies--both from beyond its borders and within the fabled walls of the Forbidden City. When her die early deaths, Orchid reluctantly assumes greater power, but sees her nation split while foreign nations fight for control over China.

**Min, Anchee**

**Wild Ginger**

The Red Guards have branded her dead father a traitor and have driven her mother to a horrible suicide, but Wild Ginger fervently embraces Maoism to save her spirit. She rises quickly through the ranks and is held up as a national model for Maoism. Now she has everything, even a young man who vies for her heart. But Mao's prohibition on romantic love places her in an untenable position.

**Namioka, Lensey**

**Ties that bind, ties that break**

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

**Pattison, Eliot**

**Beautiful ghosts**

Disgraced former Beijing Inspector Shan Tao Yun has been living in the remote mountains of Tibet since his unofficial release from a work camp. But now there's apparently been a murder in a ruined monastery and the very officials who exiled Shan are after his help.



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**Ruby, Lois**      **Shanghai shadows**

From 1939 to 1945, a Jewish family struggles to survive in occupied China--young Ilse by remaining optimistic, her older brother by joining a resistance movement, her mother by maintaining connections to the past, and her father by playing the violin that had been his livelihood.

**See, Lisa**      **Flower net**

A thriller on a joint American-Chinese investigation into the smuggling of immigrants and human organs, this novel examines cultural differences through the lives of a Chinese policeman and an American lawyer.

**See, Lisa**      **Peony in love**

Peony is the cloistered daughter of a wealthy family is betrothed to a suitor she has never met. In the garden of the Chen Family Villa, a small theatrical troupe is performing scenes from an epic opera, The Peony Pavilion, which seems to mirror Peony's feeling. Peony attends the production, watching from behind a screen, but catches sight of a handsome man and begins a journey of love and sorrow.

**See, Lisa**      **Snow Flower and the secret fan**

Told in the voice of an 80-year-old woman (Lily) looking back on her life, friendships, and loves, this novel offers a glimpse into 19th-century Chinese cultural life, complete with portrayals of foot-binding, the powerful connections between female friends, arranged marriages, and "nu shu," a secret written language among women.

**Shan, Sa**      **The girl who played go**

A teenage girl in remote 1930s Manchuria plays the ancient Chinese game of "go" with a soldier stationed there with the occupying Japanese army. While the soldier feels homesick and weary of his occupation, the girl grows steadily more comfortable with her own sexuality and learns how it may be used for political gain.

**Stewart, Fred Mustard**      **The young Savages**

The adventures of Julie Savage who flees 1880s New York, where men won't marry a half-Chinese woman, and ends up in China by the side of an American revolutionary.

**Tan, Amy**      **The Bonesetter's daughter**

With her mother LuLing suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Ruth learns the full story of LuLing's early life in China when she finally reads her mother's old journals.

**Tan, Amy**      **The Joy Luck Club**

In 1949, four Chinese women--drawn together by the shadow of their past--begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and "say" stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club--and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades.

**Tsukiyama, Gail**      **The language of threads**

After the Japanese invade China, a woman in the silk trade flees her village, taking along an orphaned "silk sister." The two find refuge in Hong Kong, only to lose everything when World War II breaks out and the Japanese come again.



**Tsukiyama, Gail**      **Night of many dreams**

A historical novel on the stifling atmosphere of colonial Hong Kong. The protagonists are two sisters from an upper-class Chinese family who are sent abroad to escape the Japanese occupation in World War II and who return with a new perspective on life.

**Tsukiyama, Gail**      **Women of the silk**

Spanning the years between the world wars, this tale of a young Chinese girl forced to work in a silk factory describes the sisterhood of workers she discovers there

**West, Christopher**      **Death of a red mandarin**

On the brink of Hong Kong's hand-over to China, a Chinese official is found dead in the harbor. Inspector Wang can't ignore the signs that the man's death may be tied to his past in China--a past even his superiors in the People's Republic want to keep secret.

**Zhou, Xun**      **Balzac and the little Chinese seamstress**

Set in the early 1970s during the later stages of China's Cultural Revolution, two city-bred teenage best friends are sent to a backward mountainous region for Maoist re-education.

