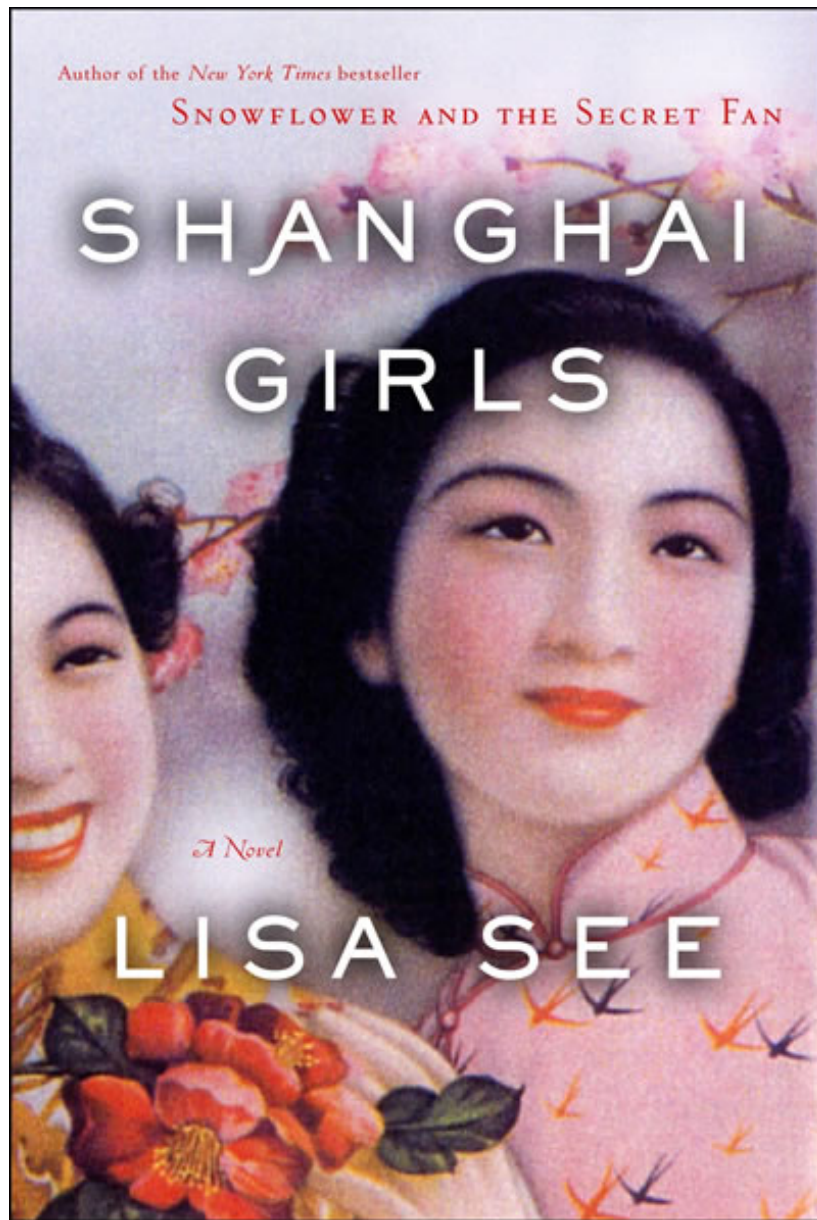


Reader's Roadmap

Helping you navigate the world of books



F S4512sh



**Book of the Month
December 2009**



Reader's Roadmaps enable readers to pursue threads of interest inspired by a book they've just read.

Shanghai Girls F S4512sh

Shanghai Girls chronicles the story of two sisters who worked as models as “the beautiful girls” for commercial artists to appear in the popular Calendars in Shanghai. Their father, owing money to the underworld and in the dangerous atmosphere of 1930s Shanghai when the Japanese occupied China, had to save himself. He sold his daughters by arranging their marriages to suitors in the United States. It is a masterly woven plot about survival: immigration, identity, disappointment, love and war; about the unbreakable bonds of sisters who share hopes and dreams but also rivalries and jealousies. The plot is fast moving and takes us from exotic 1930s Shanghai, called the Paris of Asia, where the wealthy, the glamorous, the warlords and gamblers lived and interacted, to the misery of the Hong Kong waterfront, to the horrific experience of the detention centre at Angel Island and finally to Los Angeles. The details are thoughtful and intricate, the characters are richly drawn, and the themes are powerful. Well-researched, See’s flowing prose takes us on an enlightening journey as the sisters struggle to assimilate in L.A.’s Chinatown.

Lisa See

Lisa See was born in Paris but grew up in Los Angeles where the Chinese side of her family has had a great impact on her life and work. She says she has always been intrigued by stories that have been lost, forgotten or deliberately covered up whether in the past or happening in the World now.

For her bestselling novel *Snow Flower & the Secret Fan*, Lisa See traveled to a remote area of China where she was told she was the only foreigner ever to visit. While there she researched the secret writing invented and kept secret by women for over a thousand years.

For *Shanghai Girls* the author was inspired by many things.

For years Lisa See had been collecting Shanghai advertising images from the twenties, thirties & forties. Those so-called “beautiful girls” who posed for commercial artists were right in the heart of the excitement in 1930s Shanghai. She also wanted to write about arranged marriages & drew upon some of the women in her own extended family. She was also intrigued by sisters, and says “sibling relationships are the longest we’ll have in our lifetime; your sister will stand by you, support you, love you no matter what but she also knows exactly where to drive the knife in your heart”.

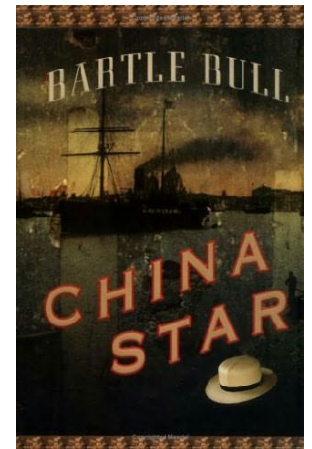


Shanghai

- Bound Feet & Western Dress by Pang-Mei Natasha Chang
951 C4562
- Tracing it Home: Journeys Around a Chinese Family by Lynn Pan
951.05 P187
- Frommer's Shanghai by Sharon Owyang
915.1132 F932

Shanghai - Fiction

- The Sing-song Girls of Shanghai by Bangqing Han
F H2332h
- China Star by Bartle Bull
F B935c
- From a Far Land by Robert S. Elegant
F E38f
- The Painter from Shanghai by Jennifer Cody Epstein
F E645p
- When We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro
F I795w
- Shanghai: the Ivory Compact by David Rotenberg
F R8434s



China – Emigration & Immigration

- Sons of the Yellow Emperor: a History of the Chinese Diaspora by Lynn Pan
951.004 P187
- The Girl from Purple Mountain by May-Lee Chai
92 C434c



Chinese Americans

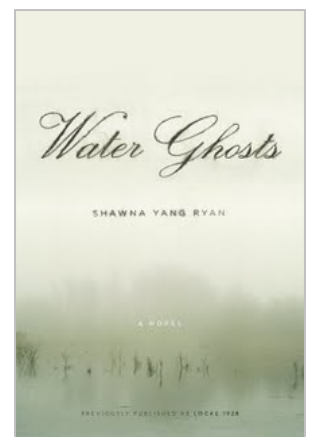
- The Good Luck Life by Rosemary Gong
394.2 G638
- Chasing Hepburn: a memoir of Shanghai, Hollywood... by Gus Lee
951.05 L478

Chinese Americans – Los Angeles - Fiction

- Water Ghosts by Shawna Yang Ryan
F R9895w

Arranged Marriages - Fiction

- Under the Lemon Trees by Bira Bakchaus
F B126u
- The Silent Raga by Ameen Merchant
F M5544s



Sisters – Fiction

- Atonement by Ian McEwan
F M1418at
- The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan
F T161h
- Night of Many Dreams by Gail Tsukiyama
F T8825n

Sisters

- Sister Knot: Why we fight, why we're jealous... by T.E. Apter
306.875 A655
- The Sisters of Hofei by Ann-ping Chin
951.05 C5392
- My Sister, My Self by Vikki Stark
646.786 S795
- You Were Always Mom's Favorite by Deborah Tannen
646.786 T166

