

# **Peach Blossom Pavilion**

By Mingmei Yip



## Peach Blossom Pavilion By Mingmei Yip

In a sunny California apartment, a young woman and her fiancé arrive to record her great-grandmother's story. The story that unfolds of Precious Orchid's life in China, where she rises from a childhood of shame to become one of the most successful courtesans in the land, is unlike any they've heard before. . .

When Precious Orchid's father is falsely accused of a crime and found guilty, he is executed, leaving his family a legacy of dishonor. Her mother's only option is to enter a Buddhist nunnery, so she gives her daughter over to the care of her sister in Shanghai.

At first, life at Peach Blossom Pavilion feels like a dream. Surrounded by exotic flowers, murmuring fountains, colorful fishponds, and bamboo groves, Precious Orchid sees herself thriving. She is schooled in music, literature, painting, calligraphy, and to her innocent surprise, the art of pleasuring men. For the beautiful Pavilion hides its darker purpose as an elite house of prostitution. And even as she commands the devotion of China's most powerful men, Precious Orchid never gives up on her dream to escape the Pavilion, be reunited with her mother, avenge her father's death, and find true love. And as the richest, most celebrated Ming Ji or "prestigious courtesan" in all of China, she just might have her way even if it comes with a devastating price. . .

Sweeping in scope and stunning in its evocation of China, *Peach Blossom Pavilion* is a remarkable novel with an unforgettable heroine at the heart of its powerful story. . .

"Riveting. . .a rare peek into an exotic culture that is thrilling, captivating, and moving." --Shobhan Bantwal, author of *The Dowry Bride* 

"In the sure voice of Precious Orchid, Mingmei Yip recounts thirteen tumultuous years of Chinese history: vicious politics, pristine piety and heartrending scandal, framed in the classical arts. She writes with a painter's fastidious eye and the irresistible energy of grand storytelling. The pages just turn themselves." --Neal Chandler, Director, Creative Writing Program of Cleveland State University.

"Peach Blossom Pavilion, story of the last geisha in China, is told with amazing insight as if the author had lived in the tumultuous China of a century ago.

Through her beautiful, lucid prose, Mingmei brings modern Western readers into the mysterious world of the cultivated courtesan." --Hannelore Hahn, Founder and Executive Director, International Women's Writing Guild.

"Peach Blossom Pavilion is a vivid account of the forgotten past." --Chun Yu, author of Little Green: Growing Up During the Chinese Cultural Revolution



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## Peach Blossom Pavilion By Mingmei Yip Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

In this disappointing courtesan novel, a 98-year-old Chinese émigré woman in present-day San Francisco reviews her youth in early 20th-century China, where she was a ming ji, or "prestigious prostitute." Falsely accused of rape and murder, Xiang Xiang's father is executed, and her mother retreats into a Buddhist nunnery. Xiang Xiang, alone and friendless at 13, is tricked into entering the Peach Blossom Pavilion, where she is given the "art name" of Bao Lan, or "Precious Orchid." Her extraordinary beauty and gifts in painting, writing poems and performing music, and in the bedchamber, make her a prize. After some improbable adventures (including a liaison with a female transvestite and a love affair with a Taoist monk), Xiang Xiang eventually makes her peace with what fate has made of her-just as the Japanese invade China. While Xiang Xiang's forthright perceptiveness, grace and smarts are intriguing, Yip's English language debut vacillates between melodrama and fictionalized sociological study. That split personality is reflected in the clunky prose, which never does its lead justice.

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#### Review

Mingmei Yip has written an enchanting debut novel "Peach Blossom Pavilion" which tells the story of the last surviving Chinese courtesan (prostitute), Precious Orchid, the most sought-after woman in all of China. Just as Arthur Golden's novel "Memoirs of a Geisha" introduced readers to the Japanese geisha tradition nearly a decade ago, Peach Blossom Pavilion provides a vivid account of a forgotten history, immersed in Chinese culture of the early 1990's, by transporting us to another place and time where prostitutes were glamorous, elegant and cultured women that were well-versed in the arts. --Asiance Magazine, June 1, 2008

#### Review

Novelist MINGMEI YIP tells a familiar story with some surprising twists throughout.

MINGMEI YIP, who has published five previous books in Chinese, shows an impressive depth of knowledge in a range of subjects from the inner workings of a brothel to Buddhist practice to music. She infuses her characters, especially Precious Orchid with a realness that readers would certainly recognize as signs of an assured author capable of fleshing out what may be stereotypes...

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

## **Catherine Williams:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled Peach Blossom Pavilion? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have other opinion?

## **Mark Feaster:**

This Peach Blossom Pavilion book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific Peach Blossom Pavilion without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Peach Blossom Pavilion can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Peach Blossom Pavilion having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Dave Thomas:**

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## **Jeffrey Lambert:**

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Looking at a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Peach Blossom Pavilion book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

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