

Novels featuring Chinese Culture and History

- ***The Red Chamber*** by Pauline Chen (F CHEN, TB CD CHEN) - An epic reimagining of the Chinese classic "Dream of the Red Chamber" is set in 18th-century Beijing and follows the intersecting lives of three women.
- ***Pearl of China*** by Anchee Min (F MIN, TB CD MIN) - Anchee Min re-imagines Pearl Buck's childhood in China, through the eyes of her peasant friend Willow. Min has written many other historical fiction titles set in China.
- ***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*** by Lisa See (F SEE, TB CD SEE) - The story of a friendship across class and distance follows two women throughout their lives in 19th-century China.
- ***Dreams of Joy*** by Lisa See (F SEE, TB CD SEE) - Another favorite by Lisa See featuring a mother, a daughter and family secrets, set in Shanghai in the late 1950s.
- ***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*** by Dai Sijie (F DAI) - A semi-autobiographical tale of two teenagers who discover Western classics while at a reeducation camp in the 1970s. Originally published in French.
- ***The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*** by Ann Marie Fleming (92 LONG TACK SAM) - a graphic novel explores the life, family, work and travels of a Chinese magician.

Nonfiction featuring Chinese Culture and History

- ***The Rape of Nanking: the Forgotten Holocaust of WWII*** by Iris Chang (951.042 CHANG)
- ***Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*** by Jung Chang (92 CHANG)
- ***Voices from the Whirlwind: an Oral History of the Chinese Cultural Revolution***, edited by Feng Jicai (951.05 FENG)
- ***The Changing Face of China: from Mao to Market*** by John Gittings (951.05 GITTINGS)
- ***Red Scarf Girl*** by Ji-Li Jiang (92 JIANG)
- ***Things That Must Not Be Forgotten: A Childhood in Wartime China*** by Michael David Kwan (92 KWAN)
- ***The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food*** by Jennifer 8 Lee (641.5951 LEE)
- ***Red Sorrow*** by Nanchu (92 NANCHU)
- ***Out of Mao's Shadow: the Struggle for the Soul of a New China*** by Philip P. Pan (306.2095 PAN)
- ***The People's Dynasty: Culture and Society in Modern China*** (TB CD 951 SHEPHERD) - a Modern Scholar series of lectures by Robert J. Shepherd.
- ***The New Cultural Atlas of China*** edited by Tim Cooke (911.51 NEW)

Novels and Memoirs featuring Chinese-American Families

- ***Midnight at the Dragon Café*** by Judy Fong Bates (F BATES)
- ***Girl from Purple Mountain: Love, Honor, War, and One Family's Journey from China to America*** by May-Lee Chai and Winberg Chai (92 CHAI)
- ***Mona In the Promised Land*** by Gish Jen (F JEN)
- ***The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*** by Maxine Hong Kingston (92 KINGSTON) Try also her novel ***Tripmaster Monkey***.
- ***Falling Leaves: the True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter***, by Adeline Yen Mah (92 MAH) - This book is also available in a version written for younger readers: ***Chinese Cinderella*** (92 MAH).
- ***Watching the Tree: A Chinese Daughter Reflects on Happiness, Tradition, and Spiritual Wisdom*** by Adeline Yen Mah (181.11 MAH)
- ***Bone*** by Fae Myenne Ng (F NG)
- ***Shanghai Girls*** by Lisa See (F SEE, TB CD SEE)

First-Generation, Second-Generation and other Immigrant Stories

- ***Funny in Farsi*** by Firoozeh Dumas (92 DUMAS)
- ***Strength in What Remains*** by Tracy Kidder (92 NIYIZONKIZA)
- ***China Men*** by Maxine Hong Kingston (973.04 KINGSTON)
- ***Girl in Translation*** by Jean Kwok (F KWOK)
- ***The Namesake*** by Jhumpa Lahiri (F LAHIRI, TB CD LAHIRI)
- ***China Boy*** by Gus Lee (F LEE)
- ***Still Life with Rice: A Young American Woman Discovers the Life and Legacy of Her Korean Grandmother*** by Helie Lee (92 BAEK)
- ***A Step From Heaven*** by An Na (YA AN, YA TB CD AN)
- ***On Gold Mountain*** by Lisa See (929.2 SEE)
- ***The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*** by Kao Kalia Yang (305.895 YANG)

Novels featuring Mothers and Daughters

There are hundreds of novels about mothers and daughters, but the ones we list below have a similar reading experience or feel to *The Joy Luck Club*: they tell the stories of several generations, depict difference across cultures, and/or feature groups of women within generations.

- ***The Language of Flowers*** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh (F DIFFENBAUGH, TB CD DIFFENBAUGH)
- ***Empress of Weehawken*** by Irene Dische (F DISCHE)
- ***Everything Will Be All Right*** by Tessa Hadley (F HADLEY)
- ***Inventing Memory*** by Erica Jong (F JONG)
- ***How to Make an American Quilt*** by Whitney Otto (F OTTO, LP F OTTO)
- ***Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*** by Rebecca Wells (F WELLS, TB CD WELLS)

Literary San Francisco & its Authors

- **Lawrence Ferlinghetti** - a poet; he co-wrote ***Literary San Francisco: a Pictorial History From its Beginnings to the Present Day*** (810.8 FERLINGHETTI)
- **Oakley Hall** - taught **Richard Ford** and **Michael Chabon** (among others) at UC Irvine's writing program, and taught **Amy Tan** at the Squaw Valley Community. His ***Ambrose Bierce mystery series*** takes place in 1890's San Francisco.
- **Armistead Maupin** - Amy Tan credits Maupin's ***Tales of the City*** (F MAUPIN) with teaching her about city life. Author **Sean Wilsey's** mother appears thinly veiled as a character in *Tales of the City*. ***Oh the Glory of It All*** is Wilsey's own memoir. (92 WILSEY).
- **Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*** was a Big Read book for JMRL in 2011.
- **Po Bronson, Ethan Watters, and Ethan Canin** founded the San Francisco Writer's Grotto in 1994.



Other works by Amy Tan

Fiction:

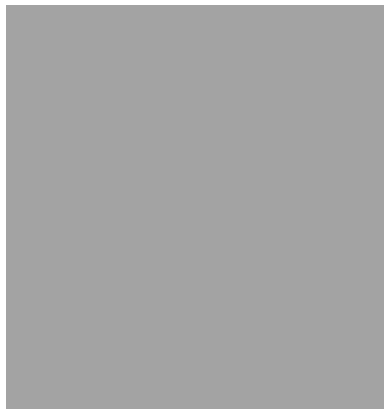
- *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
(F TAN, LP F TAN, TB CD TAN)
- *The Hundred Secret Senses*
(F TAN, LP F TAN)
- *The Kitchen's God's Wife*
(F TAN, LP F TAN)
- *Saving Fish from Drowning*
(F TAN, LP F TAN, TB CD TAN)

Nonfiction:

- *The Opposite of Fate: A Book of Musings*
(92 TAN, LP 92 TAN) - Tan reflects on her family's Chinese-American legacy, her experiences as a writer, and her personal philosophy of fate.

For Children:

- *The Chinese Siamese Cat* (JP TAN) - This story was adapted into the television series *Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat*.
- *The Moon Lady* (JP TAN)



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More information about the books in this list - and more reading suggestions - can be found at jmrl.org/wiki/The_Joy_Luck_Club

More information about THE BIG READ and all of the Library's BIG READ events can be found at jmrl.org/bigread

THE BIG READ is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. It is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

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NATIONAL
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THE
**BIG
READ**

PROGRAM MANAGED BY

Arts
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1/2013 MD/AG

JMRL BIG READ 2013 The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Suggestions for Further Reading



"Then you must teach my daughter the same lesson.
How to lose your innocence but not your hope.
How to laugh forever."

- from *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan



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