

---

# Hunan A Lifetime Of Secrets From Mr Peng S Chines

---

Yeah, reviewing a books **Hunan A Lifetime Of Secrets From Mr Peng S Chines** could go to your near friends listings. This is just one of the solutions for you to be successful. As understood, attainment does not suggest that you have fabulous points.

Comprehending as competently as concurrence even more than other will pay for each success. next-door to, the statement as with ease as sharpness of this Hunan A Lifetime Of Secrets From Mr Peng S Chines can be taken as without difficulty as picked to act.

*Hunan A  
Lifetime Of  
Secrets From  
Mr Peng S  
Chines*

2020-05-28

---

## MAURICIO HAAS

---

*The Food of Sichuan*  
Bloomsbury Publishing  
“The most revealing book ever published on Mao, perhaps on any dictator in history.”—Professor Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University From 1954 until Mao Zedong's death twenty-two years later, Dr. Li Zhisui was the Chinese ruler's personal physician, which put him in daily—and increasingly intimate—contact with Mao and his inner circle. in *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*, Dr. Li vividly reconstructs his extraordinary experience at the center of Mao's decadent imperial court. Dr. Li clarifies numerous long-standing puzzles,

such as the true nature of Mao's feelings toward the United States and the Soviet Union. He describes Mao's deliberate rudeness toward Khrushchev and reveals the actual catalyst of Nixon's historic visit. Here are also surprising details of Mao's personal depravity (we see him dependent on barbiturates and refusing to wash, dress, or brush his teeth) and the sexual politics of his court. To millions of Chinese, Mao was more god than man, but for Dr. Li, he was all too human. Dr. Li's intimate account of this lecherous, paranoid tyrant, callously indifferent to the suffering of his people, will forever alter our view of Chairman Mao and of China under his rule. Praise for *The Private Life of Chairman*

Mao “From now one no one will be able to pretend to understand Chairman Mao's place in history without reference to this revealing account.”—Professor Lucian Pye, Massachusetts Institute of Technology “Dr. Li does for Mao what the physician Lord Moran's memoir did for Winston Churchill—turns him into a human being. Here is Mao unveiled: eccentric, demanding, suspicious, unregretful, lascivious, and unfailingly fascinating. Our view of Mao will never be the same again.”—Ross Terrill, author of *China in Our Time* “An extraordinarily intimate portrait of Mao. [Dr. Li] portrays [Mao's imperial court] as a place of boundless decadence, licentiousness,

selfishness, relentless toadying and cutthroat political intrigue.”—Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times* “One of the most provocative books on Mao to appear since the publication of Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China*.”—Paul G. Pickowicz, *The Wall Street Journal*  
*World Report 2020*  
 Random House  
 Two-time British Fantasy Award Winner Astounding Award Winner Lambda Literary Award Finalist Hugo Award Finalist Locus Award Finalist Otherwise Award Finalist  
 “Magnificent in every way.”—Samantha Shannon, author of *The Priory of the Orange Tree*  
 “A dazzling new world of fate, war, love and betrayal.”—Zen Cho, author of *Black Water*  
*Sister She Who Became the Sun* reimagines the rise to power of the Ming Dynasty’s founding emperor. To possess the Mandate of Heaven, the female monk Zhu will do anything “I refuse to be nothing...” In a famine-stricken village on a dusty yellow plain, two children are given two fates. A boy, greatness. A girl, nothingness... In 1345, China lies under harsh Mongol rule. For the

starving peasants of the Central Plains, greatness is something found only in stories. When the Zhu family’s eighth-born son, Zhu Chongba, is given a fate of greatness, everyone is mystified as to how it will come to pass. The fate of nothingness received by the family’s clever and capable second daughter, on the other hand, is only as expected. When a bandit attack orphans the two children, though, it is Zhu Chongba who succumbs to despair and dies. Desperate to escape her own fated death, the girl uses her brother's identity to enter a monastery as a young male novice. There, propelled by her burning desire to survive, Zhu learns she is capable of doing whatever it takes, no matter how callous, to stay hidden from her fate. After her sanctuary is destroyed for supporting the rebellion against Mongol rule, Zhu takes the chance to claim another future altogether: her brother's abandoned greatness. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.  
[Healthy at 100](#) Algonquin Books

In 1992, Vasili Mitrokhin, a former KGB archivist, snuck out of Russia carrying with him a vast cache of transcriptions of top-secret KGB intelligence files. The FBI later described his trove of documents as “the most complete and extensive intelligence ever achieved from any source.” Renowned historian Christopher Andrew had exclusive access to both Mitrokhin and his archive. In 1999, they published the explosive bestseller *The Sword and the Shield*, which provided a complete account of KGB operations in Europe and America. In *The World Was Going Our Way*, Andrew now chronicles the KGB's extensive penetration of governments throughout the Third World—the battlefield on which the U.S.S.R. sought to achieve global supremacy. Andrew's definitive account fundamentally revises the history of the Cold War, and sheds new light on the state of the world today. The KGB worked tirelessly for decades to foster anti-Americanism in the developing world, making this book essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the

intractable hostility  
 America faces in the  
 ongoing war on terror.  
*Land of Fish and Rice*  
 Abrams  
 Learning Chinese can be  
 frustrating and difficult,  
 partly because it's very  
 different from European  
 languages. Following a  
 teacher, textbook or  
 language course is not  
 enough. They show you  
 the characters, words and  
 grammar you need to  
 become proficient in  
 Chinese, but they don't  
 teach you how to learn  
 them! Regardless of what  
 program you're in (if any),  
 you need to take  
 responsibility for your own  
 learning. If you don't, you  
 will miss many important  
 things that aren't included  
 in the course you're  
 taking. If you study on  
 your own, you need to be  
 even more aware of what  
 you need to do, what  
 you're doing at the  
 moment and the  
 difference between them.  
 Here are some of the  
 questions I have asked  
 and have since been  
 asked many times by  
 students: How do I learn  
 characters efficiently?  
 How do I get the most out  
 of my course or teacher?  
 Which are the best  
 learning tools and  
 resources? How can I  
 become fluent in  
 Mandarin? How can I

improve my  
 pronunciation? How do I  
 learn successfully on my  
 own? How can I motivate  
 myself to study more?  
 How can I fit learning  
 Chinese into a busy  
 schedule? The answers  
 I've found to these  
 questions and many  
 others form the core of  
 this book. It took eight  
 years of learning,  
 researching, teaching and  
 writing to figure these  
 things out. Not everybody  
 has the time to do that! I  
 can't go back in time and  
 help myself learn in a  
 better way, but I can help  
 you! This book is meant  
 for normal students and  
 independent language  
 learners alike. While it  
 covers all major areas of  
 learning, you won't learn  
 Chinese just by reading  
 this book. It's like when  
 someone on TV teaches  
 you how to cook: you  
 won't get to eat the  
 delicious dish just by  
 watching the program;  
 you have to do the  
 cooking yourself. That's  
 true for this book as well.  
 When you apply what you  
 learn, it will boost your  
 learning, making every  
 hour you spend count for  
 more, but you still have to  
 do the learning yourself.  
 This is what a few readers  
 have said about the book:  
 "The book had me  
 nodding at a heap of

things I'd learnt the hard  
 way, wishing I knew them  
 when I started, as well as  
 highlighting areas that I'm  
 currently missing in my  
 study." - Geoff van der  
 Meer, VP engineering  
 "This publication is like a  
 bible for anyone serious  
 about Chinese proficiency.  
 It's easy for anyone to  
 read and written with  
 scientific precision." -  
 Zachary Danz, foreign  
 teacher, children's theatre  
 artist About me I started  
 learning Chinese when I  
 was 23 (that's more than  
 eight years ago now) and  
 have since studied in  
 many different situations,  
 including serious  
 immersion programs  
 abroad, high-intensity  
 programs in Sweden,  
 online courses, as well as  
 on the side while working  
 or studying other things. I  
 have also successfully  
 used my Chinese in a  
 graduate program for  
 teaching Chinese as a  
 second language, taught  
 entirely in Chinese mostly  
 for native speakers (the  
 Graduate Institute for  
 Teaching Chinese as a  
 Second Language at  
 National Taiwan Normal  
 University). All these parts  
 have contributed to my  
 website, Hacking Chinese,  
 where I write regularly  
 about how to learn  
 Mandarin.  
Empress Orchid W. W.

Norton

An old woman tells of her relationship with her 'old-same', their arranged marriages, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood - until a terrible misunderstanding written on their secret fan threatens to tear them apart. With the detail and emotional resonance of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* delves into one of the most mysterious and treasured relationships of all time - female friendship.

Ordinary Girls Penguin

A new 2023 translation into American English from the original manuscript of Nietzsche's 1878 *Menschliches, Allzumenschliches/ Human, All Too Human*. This is volume 3 in *The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche* from Newcomb Livraria Press. This chronological, systematic set of Nietzsche's works is the first ever bilingual "Hauptwerke" or complete major works of Nietzsche published in English & the original German. *Human, All too Human* was first published in 1878 on the 100th anniversary of Voltaire's death, a second expanded edition was published in 1886 with a preface and consolidated

versions of his *Miscellaneous Opinions and Sayings* (1879) and *The Wanderer and his Shadow* (1880). These two works are sometimes published separately. This edition is the second extended edition with both volumes. *Human, All too Human* is primarily an "Aphorismensammlung", a collection of aphorisms. Across 350 small sections, Nietzsche deals with a vast range of topics, some trivial and some ancient-music, various artists including Goethe, Schiller, Hegel, and Schopenhauer, the Reformation, reason and logic, German idealism as a whole and the dwindling of *Metaphysics*. *Human, all too Human*, is Nietzsche's first coordinated attack on *Metaphysics* itself. He is tremendously dismissive of German Criticism and Idealism and is not interested in being a logician in this tradition, but shows a deep understanding of the fields even in his short dismissal of them. Moral sentiments he understands in a Darwinian-historical sense, emerging from physical need and intellectualized in *Metaphysics*, and we see here the beginnings of his concept of the *Wille zur*

*Macht* and the *übermensch*.

*Every Grain of Rice* Profile Books

"The Joy Luck Club is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational." —Kevin Kwan, author of *Crazy Rich Asians* Amy Tan's beloved, New York Times bestselling tale of mothers and daughters, now the focus of a new documentary *Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir* on Netflix Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what

was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue. With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan Hodder & Stoughton

The third in Robert Greene's bestselling series is now available in a pocket sized concise edition. Following *48 Laws of Power* and *The Art of Seduction*, here is a brilliant distillation of the strategies of war to help you wage triumphant battles everyday. Spanning world civilisations, and synthesising dozens of political, philosophical, and religious texts, *The Concise 33 Strategies of*

War is a guide to the subtle social game of everyday life. Based on profound and timeless lessons, it is abundantly illustrated with examples of the genius and folly of everyone from Napoleon to Margaret Thatcher and Hannibal to Ulysses S. Grant, as well as diplomats, captains of industry and Samurai swordsmen.

The Veggie Chinese Takeaway Cookbook Basic Books

This open access book offers comprehensive information on Wang Yang-ming's life, helping readers identify and grasp the foundations on which his philosophy was established. Though a great man, Wang had an extremely difficult life, full of many hardships. Based on various official histories, Wang's own writings, and his disciples' records, the book explores the legendary life of this ancient philosopher, who not only diligently pursued his objective of living as a sage, but also persistently sought the ideal state of a sage in ideology. The author also shares his own interpretations of the main aspects of Wang's philosophy using simple and straightforward language. This book will

help readers understand and appreciate Wang Yang-ming's extraordinary life, his generous mind, deep thoughts and bright personality, inspiring them to pursue enriching lives. It offers a unique and insightful work for undergraduate students and all others interested in Wang's philosophy and life story.

Revolutionary Chinese Cookbook W. W. Norton

Not only is Gok Wan one of the UK's top fashion stylists, but he can cook too! Gok's fantastic book, *Gok Cooks Chinese*, contains 80 personal and family recipes, which are not only delicious and healthy but incredibly simple to make. Gok's love and passion for Chinese food and cooking techniques shine through from every page. From his unique perspective he gives us his personal and modern take on the Chinese food that he grew up eating, drawing on his Chinese heritage to give us a different angle on how to eat - for Gok, it's all about sitting down, tucking into fantastic food that is fuss-free and relaxed. Gok's food is about balance, health, flavour and fun. From his absolute favourite recipe for Prawn Wonton Noodle Soup (which he calls

'happiness in a bowl') to Perfect Fried Rice or classics like his dad's Honey-glazed Char Siu Pork, through chapters on Dim Sum, Street Food, One Pot Wonders and Feasting, you will find recipes for all occasions and moods, whether entertaining friends or enjoying a meal at home by yourself. Above all, Gok Wan will demystify Chinese ingredients and equipment. Gok Cooks Chinese shows us how easy it is to shop and cook just like him.

*Hunan* Disney Electronic Content

Lily is the daughter of a humble farmer, and to her family she is just another expensive mouth to feed. Then the local matchmaker delivers startling news: if Lily's feet are bound properly, they will be flawless. In nineteenth-century China, where a woman's eligibility is judged by the shape and size of her feet, this is extraordinary good luck. Lily now has the power to make a good marriage and change the fortunes of her family. To prepare for her new life, she must undergo the agonies of footbinding, learn nu shu, the famed secret women's writing, and make a very special friend, Snow Flower. But a

bitter reversal of fortune is about to change everything.

**Sapiens** Sasquatch Books From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The 48 Laws of Power* comes the definitive new book on decoding the behavior of the people around you Robert Greene is a master guide for millions of readers, distilling ancient wisdom and philosophy into essential texts for seekers of power, understanding and mastery. Now he turns to the most important subject of all - understanding people's drives and motivations, even when they are unconscious of them themselves. We are social animals. Our very lives depend on our relationships with people. Knowing why people do what they do is the most important tool we can possess, without which our other talents can only take us so far. Drawing from the ideas and examples of Pericles, Queen Elizabeth I, Martin Luther King Jr, and many others, Greene teaches us how to detach ourselves from our own emotions and master self-control, how to develop the empathy that leads to insight, how to look behind people's masks,

and how to resist conformity to develop your singular sense of purpose. Whether at work, in relationships, or in shaping the world around you, *The Laws of Human Nature* offers brilliant tactics for success, self-improvement, and self-defense.

*A Farewell to Alms*

Heinemann

A RECOMMENDED BOOK FROM: Bon Appetit \* The New York Times Book Review \* Epicurious \* Plate \* Saveur \* Grub Street \* Wired \* The Spruce Eats \* Conde Nast Traveler \* Food & Wine \* Heated For the last 100 years, Nom Wah Tea Parlor has been slinging some of the world's greatest dim sum from New York's Chinatown. Now owner Wilson Tang tells the story of how the restaurant came to be—and how to prepare their legendary dishes in your own home. Nom Wah Tea Parlor isn't simply the story of dumplings, though there are many folds to it. It isn't the story of bao, though there is much filling. It's not just the story of dim sum, although there are scores and scores of recipes. It's the story of a community of Chinese immigrants who struggled, flourished,

cooked, and ate with abandon in New York City. (Who now struggle, flourish, cook, and eat with abandon in New York City.) It's a journey that begins in Toishan, runs through Hong Kong, and ends up tucked into the corner of a street once called The Bloody Angle. In this book, Nom Wah's owner, Wilson Tang, takes us into the hardworking kitchen of Nom Wah and emerges with 75 easy-to-make recipes: from bao to vegetables, noodles to desserts, cakes, rice rolls, chef's specials, dumplings, and more. We're also introduced to characters like Mei Lum, the fifth-generation owner of porcelain shop Wing on Wo, and Joanne Kwong, the lawyer-turned-owner of Pearl River Mart. He paints a portrait of what Chinatown in New York City is in 2020. As Wilson, who quit a job in finance to take over the once-ailing family business, struggles with the dilemma of immigrant children—to jettison tradition or to cling to it—he also points to a new way: to savor tradition while moving forward. A book for har gow lovers and rice roll junkies, *The Nom Wah Cookbook* portrays a culture at a crossroads.

### **The Private Life of Chairman Mao**

Bloomsbury Paperbacks  
Why do some people age in failing health and sadness, while others grow old with vitality and joy? In this revolutionary book, bestselling author John Robbins presents us with a bold new paradigm of aging, showing us how we can increase not only our lifespan but also our health span. Through the example of four very different cultures that have the distinction of producing some of the world's healthiest, oldest people, Robbins reveals the secrets for living an extended and fulfilling life in which our later years become a period of wisdom, vitality, and happiness. From Abkhasia in the Caucasus south of Russia, where age is beauty, and Vilcabamba in the Andes of South America, where laughter is the greatest medicine, to Hunza in Central Asia, where dance is ageless, and finally the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa, the modern Shangri-la, where people regularly live beyond a century, Robbins examines how the unique lifestyles of these peoples can influence and improve our own. Bringing the traditions of these ancient

and vibrantly healthy cultures together with the latest breakthroughs in medical science, Robbins reveals that, remarkably, they both point in the same direction. The result is an inspirational synthesis of years of research into healthy aging in which Robbins has isolated the characteristics that will enable us to live long and—most important—joyous lives. With an emphasis on simple, wholesome, but satisfying fare, and the addition of a manageable daily exercise routine, many people can experience great improvement in the quality of their lives now and for many years to come. But perhaps more surprising is Robbins' discovery that it is not diet and exercise alone that helps people to live well past one hundred. The quality of personal relationships is enormously important. With startling medical evidence about the effects of our interactions with others, Robbins asserts that loneliness has more impact on lifespan than such known vices as smoking. There is clearly a strong beneficial power to love and connection. *Gok Cooks Chinese*

Bloomsbury Publishing  
Any kitchen can be a Chinese kitchen with these 80 easy homestyle recipes—plus tips and techniques for cooking with a wok, stocking your pantry, making rice, and more Chinese food is more popular than any other cuisine and yet it often intimidates North American home cooks. Chinese Soul Food draws cooks into the kitchen with recipes that include sizzling potstickers, simply but delicious stir-fries, saucy braises, and soups that bring comfort with a sip. These are dishes that feed the belly and speak the universal language of "mmm!" In Chinese Soul Food, you'll find approachable recipes and plenty of tips for favorite homestyle Chinese dishes, such as red-braised pork belly, dry-fried green beans, braised-beef noodle soup, green onion pancakes, garlic eggplant, and the author's famous potstickers, which consistently sell out her cooking classes in Seattle. You will also find helpful tips and techniques, such as caring for and using a wok and how to cook rice properly, as well as a basic Chinese pantry list that also includes acceptable substitutions,

making it even simpler for the busiest among us to cook their favorite Chinese dishes at home. Recipes are streamlined to minimize the fear factor of unfamiliar ingredients and techniques, and home cooks are gently guided toward becoming comfortable cooking satisfying Chinese meals. *The Vegan Chinese Kitchen* Harper Collins  
One of the Must-Read Books of 2019 According to O: The Oprah Magazine \* Time \* Bustle \* Electric Literature \* Publishers Weekly \* The Millions \* The Week \* Good Housekeeping "There is more life packed on each page of *Ordinary Girls* than some lives hold in a lifetime." —Julia Alvarez In this searing memoir, Jaquira Díaz writes fiercely and eloquently of her challenging girlhood and triumphant coming of age. While growing up in housing projects in Puerto Rico and Miami Beach, Díaz found herself caught between extremes. As her family split apart and her mother battled schizophrenia, she was supported by the love of her friends. As she longed for a family and home, her life was upended by violence. As she celebrated her Puerto

Rican culture, she couldn't find support for her burgeoning sexual identity. From her own struggles with depression and sexual assault to Puerto Rico's history of colonialism, every page of *Ordinary Girls* vibrates with music and lyricism. Díaz writes with raw and refreshing honesty, triumphantly mapping a way out of despair toward love and hope to become her version of the girl she always wanted to be. Reminiscent of Tara Westover's *Educated*, Kiese Laymon's *Heavy*, Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club*, and Terese Marie Mailhot's *Heart Berries*, Jaquira Díaz's memoir provides a vivid portrait of a life lived in (and beyond) the borders of Puerto Rico and its complicated history—and reads as electrically as a novel.  
*The Joy Luck Club*  
Princeton University Press  
In Thomas Ligotti's first nonfiction outing, an examination of the meaning (or meaninglessness) of life through an insightful, unsparing argument that proves the greatest horrors are not the products of our imagination but instead are found in reality. "There is a signature



motif discernible in both works of philosophical pessimism and supernatural horror. It may be stated thus: Behind the scenes of life lurks something pernicious that makes a nightmare of our world." His fiction is known to be some of the most terrifying in the genre of supernatural horror, but Thomas Ligotti's first nonfiction book may be even scarier. Drawing on philosophy, literature, neuroscience, and other fields of study, Ligotti takes the penetrating lens of his imagination and turns it on his audience, causing them to grapple with the brutal reality that they are living a meaningless nightmare, and anyone who feels otherwise is simply acting out an optimistic fallacy. At once a guidebook to pessimistic thought and a relentless critique of humanity's employment of self-deception to cope with the pervasive suffering of their existence, *The Conspiracy against the Human Race* may just convince readers that there is more than a measure of truth in the despairing yet unexpectedly liberating negativity that is widely considered a hallmark of Ligotti's work.

*The World Was Going Our Way* Random House  
A comprehensive collection of authentic recipes from the diverse regions of China, sumptuously photographed throughout. Phoenix Claws and Jade Trees Random House  
Ken Hom is widely regarded as the world's leading authority on Oriental cuisine, and with the *Complete Chinese Cookbook*, he has created a seminal collection of his best-loved dishes. With Cantonese stir-fries and spicy Sichuan favourites alongside new discoveries from the lesser-known culinary styles of Yunnan and Hong Kong, this comprehensive collection is filled with accessible and easy recipes, demonstrating the amazing depth of flavour that is only now being fully appreciated in modern Chinese cuisine. Set to become a kitchen classic, this all-encompassing cookery book guides you through the essential cooking techniques, equipment and ingredients, all with Ken's trusted blend of experience and enthusiasm. Featuring 250 recipes covering all aspects of Chinese food, Ken offers tips and inspiration for a wealth of

dishes that use simple, healthy ingredients to create quick and delicious meals. Over the past 25 years Ken has brought Chinese cookery into mainstream British homes, and in this beautifully photographed cookbook, he brings together all of his expertise to offer the ultimate guide to the flavours of China.

### **China - A Cookbook**

Crossroad Press

"A fascinating novel, similar to Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* . . . A revisionist portrait of a beautiful and strong-willed woman" (*Houston Chronicle*). A *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year From Anchee Min, a master of the historical novel, *Empress Orchid* sweeps readers into the heart of the Forbidden City to tell the fascinating story of a young concubine who becomes China's last empress. Min introduces the beautiful Tzu Hsi, known as Orchid, and weaves an epic of the country girl who seized power through seduction, murder, and endless intrigue. When China is threatened by enemies, she alone seems capable of holding the country together. In this "absorbing companion

piece to her novel *Becoming Madame Mao*,” readers and reading groups will once again be transported by Min’s lavish evocation of the Forbidden City in its last days of imperial glory and

by her brilliant portrait of a flawed yet utterly compelling woman who survived, and ultimately dominated, a male world (The New York Times). “Superb . . . [An] unforgettable heroine.”

—People “A sexually charged, eye-opening portrayal of the Chinese empire . . . with heart-wrenching scenes of desperate failure and a sensuality that rises off its heated pages.” —Elle