



Secret of a Thousand Beauties

By Mingmei Yip

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Secret of a Thousand Beauties By Mingmei Yip

Set against the vibrant and intrigue-laden backdrop of 1930s China, Mingmei Yip's enthralling novel explores one woman's defiant pursuit of independence.

Spring Swallow was promised in marriage while still in her mother's belly. When the groom dies before a wedding can take place, seventeen-year-old Spring Swallow is ordered to become a ghost bride to appease his spirit. Under her in-laws' protection, she will be little more than a servant, unable to know real love or bear children. Refusing to accept her fate as a "bad-luck woman," Spring Swallow flees on her wedding day.

In the city of Soochow, Spring Swallow joins a community of renowned embroiderers. The women work for Aunt Peony, whose exquisite stitching once earned her the Emperor's love. But when Aunt Peony agrees to replicate a famous painting--a lucrative assignment that will take a year to complete--betrayal and jealousy emerges within the group. Spring Swallow becomes entangled in each woman's story of heartbreak, even while she embarks on a dangerous affair with a young revolutionary. On a journey that leads from the remote hillsides around Soochow to cosmopolitan Peking, Spring Swallow draws on the secret techniques learned from Aunt Peony and her own indomitable strength, determined to forge a life that is truly her own.

Praise For The Novels Of Mingmei Yip

"A unique and enthralling style. . .flawless." --*Baltimore Books Examiner on The Nine Fold Heaven*

"Surprising and often funny. . .Part epic, part coming-of-age story, part modern fairy tale." --*Publishers Weekly on Song of the Silk Road*

"A serious, engaging story of faith, devotion, and the commingling of cultures." --*Booklist on Petals From the Sky*

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Editorial Review

Review

Yip is truly a master. Everything about this story was enthralling...strong, memorable characters, unique setting...an emotional roller coaster. -- *Examiner.com*

Fans will enjoy this emotionally poignant novel."-- **Booklist**

Boundless energy that propels the reader to gratifying conclusion. - *Kirkus Reviews:*

Intriguing backdrop...The first person narrative perfectly matches Yip's heroine's thoughts as she strives to find a safe life and love in a changing world. - *RT Book Reviews, 4 Stars*

Rich in detail... should please readers - *Authorlink.com*

About the Author

Mingmei Yip began writing and painting during her childhood in Hong Kong. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and has studied the traditional Chinese arts of Tai Chi, Qin music, Buddhist sacred chant and calligraphy. Mingmei has collaborated with Carnegie Hall and the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is the author of four novels and of the popular "Chinese Children's Favorite Stories". She lives in New York City.

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