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Readers of *Women of the Silk* never forgot the moving, powerful story of Pei, brought to work in the silk house as a girl, grown into a quiet but determined young woman whose life is subject to cruel twists of fate, including the loss of her closest friend, Lin. Now we finally learn what happened to Pei, as she leaves the silk house for Hong Kong in the 1930s, arriving with a young orphan, Ji Shen, in her care. Her first job, in the home of a wealthy family, ends in disgrace, but soon Pei and Ji Shen find a new life in the home

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of Mrs. Finch, a British ex-patriate who welcomes them as the daughters she never had. Their idyllic life is interrupted, however, by war, and the Japanese occupation. Pei is once again forced to make her own way, struggling to survive and to keep her extended family alive as well. In this story of hardship and survival, Tsukiyama paints a portrait of women fighting the forces of war and time to make a life for themselves.

In *Women of the Silk* Gail Tsukiyama takes her readers back to rural China in 1926, where a group of women forge a sisterhood amidst the reeling machines that reverberate and clamor in a vast silk factory from dawn to dusk. Leading the first strike the village has ever seen, the young women use the strength of their ambition, dreams, and friendship to achieve the freedom they could never have

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hoped for on their own. Tsukiyama's graceful prose weaves the details of "the silk work" and Chinese village life into a story of courage and strength.

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idyllic life is interrupted, however, by war, and the Japanese occupation. Pei is once again forced to make her own way, struggling to survive and to keep her extended family alive as well. In this story of hardship and survival, Tsukiyama paints a portrait of women fighting the forces of war and time to make a life for themselves.

Bestselling author Gail Tsukiyama is known for her poignant, subtle insights into the most complicated of relationships. *Dreaming Water* is an exploration of two of the richest and most layered human connections that exist: mother and daughter and lifelong friends. Hana is suffering from Werner's syndrome, a disease that makes a person age at twice the rate of a healthy individual: at thirty-eight Hana has the appearance of an eighty-year-old. Cate, her mother, is caring for

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her while struggling with her grief at losing her husband, Max, and with the knowledge that Hana's disease is getting worse by the day. Hana and Cate's days are quiet and ordered. Cate escapes to her beloved garden and Hana reads and writes letters. Each find themselves drawn into their pasts, remembering the joyous and challenging events that have shaped them: spending the day at Max's favorite beach, overcoming their neighbors' prejudices that Max is Japanese-American and Cate is Italian-American, and coping with the heartbreak of discovering Hana's disease. One of the great joys of Hana's life has been her relationship with her beautiful, successful best friend Laura. Laura has moved to New York from their hometown in California and has two daughters, Josephine and Camille. She has not been home in years and begs Hana to let her bring her daughters to meet her, feeling

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that Josephine, in particular, needs to have Hana in her life. Despite Hana's latest refusal, Laura decides to come anyway. When Laura's loud, energetic, and troubled world collides with Hana and Cate's daily routine, the story really begins. *Dreaming Water* is about a mother's courage, a daughter's strength, and a friend's love. It is about the importance of human dignity and the importance of all the small moments that create a life worth living.

A powerful new novel about an ordinary family facing extraordinary times at the start of the Chinese Cultural Revolution China, 1957. Chairman Mao has declared a new openness in society: "Let a hundred flowers bloom; let a hundred schools of thought contend." Many intellectuals fear it is only a trick, and Kai Ying's husband, Sheng, a teacher, has promised not to

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jeopardize their safety or that of their young son, Tao. But one July morning, just before his sixth birthday, Tao watches helplessly as Sheng is dragged away for writing a letter criticizing the Communist Party and sent to a labor camp for "reeducation." A year later, still missing his father desperately, Tao climbs to the top of the hundred-year-old kapok tree in front of their home, wanting to see the mountain peaks in the distance. But Tao slips and tumbles thirty feet to the courtyard below, badly breaking his leg. As Kai Ying struggles to hold her small family together in the face of this shattering reminder of her husband's absence, other members of the household must face their own guilty secrets and strive to find peace in a world where the old sense of order is falling. Once again, Tsukiyama brings us a powerfully moving story of ordinary people facing

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extraordinary circumstances with grace and courage.

As World War II threatens their comfortable life in Hong Kong, young Joan and Emma Lew escape with their family to spend the war years in Macao. When they return home, Emma develops a deep interest in travel and sets her sights on an artistic life in San Francisco, while Joan turns to movies and thoughts of romance to escape the pressures of her real life. As the girls become women, each follows a path different from what her family expects. But through periods of great happiness and sorrow, the sisters learn that their complicated ties to each other--and to the other members of their close-knit family—are a source of strength as they pursue their separate dreams.

It is Tokyo in 1939. On the Street of a

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Thousand Blossoms, two orphaned brothers dream of a future firmly rooted in tradition. The older boy, Hiroshi, shows early signs of promise at the national obsession of sumo wrestling, while Kenji is fascinated by the art of Noh theater masks. But as the ripples of war spread to their quiet neighborhood, the brothers must put their dreams on hold--and forge their own paths in a new Japan.

Meanwhile, the two young daughters of a renowned sumo master find their lives increasingly intertwined with the fortunes of their father's star pupil, Hiroshi. *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms* is a powerfully moving masterpiece about tradition and change, loss and renewal, and love and family from a glorious storyteller at the height of her powers.

Shortly before World War II, a Chinese man, sent to Japan to recover from

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tuberculosis, meets a lovely Japanese girl and four older residents, in a story of passion and sacrifice

Soms is het einde van een liefdesverhaal slechts het begin Hongkong, 1942. Will Truesdale is nog maar net in de stad als hij een hartstochtelijke relatie krijgt met Trudy Liang, een beeldschone half Portugese, half Chinese vrouw die het sprankelende middelpunt is van de vele Europese feesten en partijen. Maar hun liefde wordt al snel overschaduwd door de dreigende Japanse invasie. Die zal grote gevolgen hebben, niet alleen voor hen beiden, maar ook voor de andere leden van hun besloten gemeenschap voor wie, tijdens de donkerste dagen van de oorlog, vriendschap en verraad hand in hand gaan. Tien jaar later komt Claire Pendleton vanuit het Engelse platteland in Hongkong aan. De pasgetrouwde Claire raakt al snel

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gecharmeerd van het rijke sociale leven in de kolonie. Ze wordt verliefd op Will, met wie ze een verhouding krijgt Langzaam maar zeker ontdekt ze echter dat achter zijn raadselachtige gedrag een dramatisch verleden schuilgaat. In De geur van jasmijn neemt de schrijfster ons mee naar de kolonie die Hongkong ooit was. We zijn getuige van het leven in de clubs, de cocktailpartys en de feesten; en we ervaren de geuren en klanken van deze exotische stad. De geur van jasmijn is een betoverende roman, bevolkt door personages die onmogelijke keuzes moeten maken, zoals die tussen liefde of veiligheid, moed of overleven, en vooral: heden of verleden. Janice Lee werd geboren in Hongkong waar ze, na een studie in de Verenigde Staten, nog steeds woont. De geur van jasmijn is haar debuut en zal wereldwijd verschijnen.

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The response to Nancy Pearl's surprise bestseller *Book Lust* was astounding: the Seattle librarian even became the model for the now-famous Librarian Action Figure. Readers everywhere welcomed Pearl's encyclopedic but discerning filter on books worth reading, and her Rule of 50 (give a book 50 pages before deciding whether to continue; but readers over 50 must read the same number of pages as their age) became a standard MO.

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