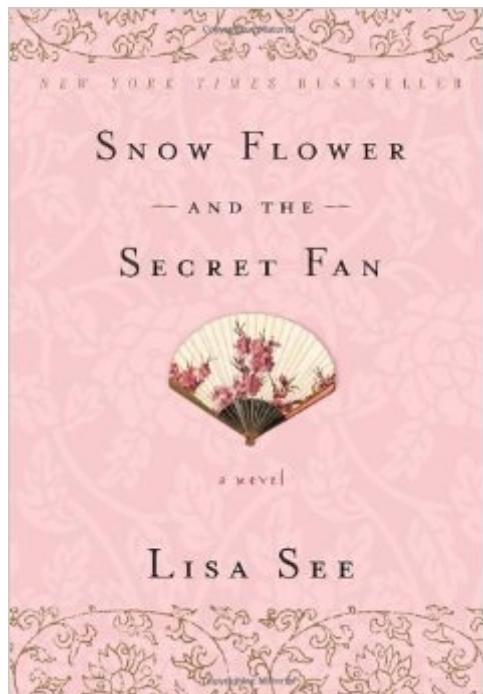


The book was found

# Snow Flower And The Secret Fan: A Novel



## Synopsis

In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, an old same, in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she's written a poem in nu shu, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. As the years pass, Lily and Snow Flower send messages on the fan and compose stories on handkerchiefs, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Together they endure the agony of footbinding and reflect upon their arranged marriages, their loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace in their friendship, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their relationship suddenly threatens to tear apart. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* is a captivating journey back to an era of Chinese history that is as deeply moving as it is sorrowful. Now in a deluxe paperback edition complete with an expanded Random House Reader's Circle guide and an exclusive conversation between Lisa See and her mother, fellow writer Carolyn See, this lyrical and emotionally charged novel is, as the Seattle Times says, a beautifully drawn portrait of female friendship and power.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (May 26, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812980352

ISBN-13: 978-0812980356

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1,468 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,537 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Friendship #1972 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical #2045 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

This 2005 novel is about the friendship between two Chinese women in mid-19th century rural China. What was so wonderful about it was that I actually felt I was part of their world and totally accepted their view of life as my own. *Snow Flower and Lily* are friends, but their friendship was not

random. When they were only seven years old, a marriage broker arranged a contract in which they agreed to be friends for life. They did not live in the same town and Snow Flower came from a more prosperous family than Lily, but Snow Flower visited Lily often, and learned to do household chores as well as the complicated embroidery that all young Chinese girls did in preparation for their future marriages. Yes, both of these girls, as well as the other girls in their households had bound feet. The pain must have been awful. Yet, it was an accepted part of being a woman in those times, and mothers who wanted their daughters to marry well had to force their young girls to go through the agony. A woman's world was completely different from the world of men. Their lives were that of isolation. In order to communicate, they actually had a secret written language. This language has been documented and really did exist. It is the only known language in the world to have been developed exclusively by women for women. The two girls would write to each other in this language on a fan which they sent back and forth to each other. Both of them hoped for a bright future. As the girls grow up we share their experiences of marriage. They didn't meet their husbands until the wedding day. And their function in their new households was only to bear sons.

Mothers-in-law were usually hard taskmasters and were always critical of them.

First of all I'd like to start this review by stating that I lived in China for four years and during that time I saw quite a number of elderly women who still walked with difficulty, using a cane, due to the fact that they had "lotus feet" - in other words, they had endured foot binding when they were children. Also during my stay in Tianjin, I had heard of the ancient practice of "nu shu" (whereby women wrote in code to one another). Therefore, when I began reading Lisa See's novel, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, I was eager, yet skeptical, as to whether or not she would truly delve into what life would have been like for a woman living in a primarily impoverished 19th century rural China that was male dominated or if she would merely skim over the surface and present a superficial vision of life during that time. The book is told from the point of view of Lily, and the author accurately describes life for Lily in this highly suppressed female society. We see in excruciatingly painful detail what Lily had to endure when it was her time for her feet to be bound in order that she might have a bright future. Furthermore, Lisa See clearly spent a great deal of time precisely describing a life where marriages were arranged without consulting the future bride, where a woman's daily life was based on family obligations and respect, and constant obedience. Additionally the author provides us with a rare view of "laotong" where a matchmaker is summoned by a family to formally find a suitable, and lifelong friend for their daughter. In this instance, See describes the necessity and joy of nu shu when shared by Lily and her newly

arranged friend Snow Flower.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: A Novel Flower Pictures Names And Descriptions.: Flower pictures names and descriptions. flower care, annual flowers, bulb flowers, orchids flowers, perennials flowers, roses, wild flowers, organic flowers. Fan Fiction and Fan Communities in the Age of the Internet: New Essays The Snow Leopard's Mate: BBW Snow Leopard Shifter Paranormal Romance Full Court Devotion: A Christmas in Snow Valley Romance (Christmas in Snow Valley series Book 3) Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Snow Avalanche Hazard Wedding Centerpieces - An Illustrated Guide Book For Centerpiece Inspirations: Ideas for Brides and Wedding Planners (wedding flowers, flower arranging, flower arrangements) (Weddings by Sam Siv 4) Flower Power: Lessons from the Los Angeles School of Flower Design The Husband's Secret: Novel By Liane Moriarty -- An Amazing Summary! (The Husband's Secret-- An Incredible Summary-- Audio, Audiobook, Paperback, Novel) RISE of the MACHINES: Secret Weapons, Secret Wars, & Secret Agendas Snow Falling on Cedars: A Novel The Secret of the Golden Flower: A Chinese Book of Life The Ancient Secret of the Flower of Life, Vol. 1 The Ancient Secret of the Flower of Life, Volume 2 The Swear Word Coloring Book: Cuss word coloring book for those who love to swear...and color! If you are a fan of profanity and swearing coloring ... coloring book, you will love this! (Volume 1) Blogging: How To Write Blog Posts That Go Viral Without Selling Out: Attract A Raving Fan Base, Understand Your First Viral Hit, And Discover Your Unique Blogging Voice The Beverly Hills Celebrity Address Book: 1000+ Beverly Hills Celebrity Mail Addresses for Celeb Spotters, Autograph Hunters, Fan Mail, Casting Agents, Charity Fundraisers, and Journalists! 100+ Canadian Celebrity Mail Addresses: For Autograph Collecting, Fan Mail, Charity Fundraising, Event Management, Agents, Journalists, Paparazzi, and more! MAKE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS (OR MORE) ON DRAFT KINGS AND FAN DUEL: I DID IT, NOW YOU CAN TOO. Cold Mountain Poems: Zen Poems of Han Shan, Shih Te, and Wang Fan-chih

[Dmca](#)