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# Threads Of Silk



## Synopsis

When I was a child, I thought my destiny was to live and die on the banks of the Xiangjiang River as my family had done for generations. I never imagined that my life would lead me to the Forbidden City and the court of China's last Empress. Born in the middle of nowhere, Yaqian, a little embroidery girl from Hunan Province, finds her way to the imperial court, a place of intrigue, desire, and treachery. From the bed of an Emperor, the heart of a Prince, and the right side of an Empress, Yaqian weaves her way through the most turbulent decades of China's history and witnesses the fall of the Qing Dynasty. Fans of Amy Tan, Lisa See, Anchee Min, and Pearl S. Buck are sure to love this debut novel by Amanda Roberts. This richly descriptive and painstakingly researched novel brings the opulence of the Qing Court to life as Yaqian and Empress Cixi's lives intertwine over six decades. AMANDA ROBERTS is a writer, editor, and teacher who has been living in China since 2010. Amanda has an MA in English from the University of Central Missouri. While in college she also studied Chinese language and history. She has been published in magazines, newspapers, and anthologies around the world and she regularly contributes to numerous blogs. She is the author of the Crazy Dumplings series of cookbooks and is a well-known blogger in China. Amanda can be found all over the Internet, but her home is [TwoAmericansinChina.com](http://TwoAmericansinChina.com). RED EMPRESS PUBLISHING is a full-service publisher offering traditional and new services for their authors to help them succeed and stand out in an ever-changing market. Red Empress Publishing is actively seeking submissions by women and people of color as part of the company's philosophy of diversity and inclusion. They are currently seeking submissions in all genres of fiction but especially romance, mystery, fantasy, and historical fiction. Authors can submit their books and request more information on Red Empress Publishing's official website <http://redempresspublishing.com>. Be sure to also follow Red Empress Publishing on Facebook and Twitter for all their latest news and releases.

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## Customer Reviews

This book gives a glimpse of China from an incredible woman that weaves beautiful designs with silk. I was caught captive from beginning to end reading it in one sitting. It was a pleasure to read a book so detailed. A woman goes from poverty to the palace and captured my attention with her worthiness.

This was a very good read. Take a trip into the inner courts of 18th century China through the eyes of a poor country girl who ends up living in the royal palace in the Forbidden City for over 50 years.

Although the character of Yaquian, and her story, are fiction, the facts of Empress Cixi's fit with newly released documents. In her recent biography by Jung Chang, Cixi's intelligence, strength of character, and love of China vindicate her. It was a pleasure to read a fiction story that did the same.

Overall, I must say that I am pleasantly surprised with this book. Threads of Silk is an engaging story that is certainly worth the read for anybody who is interested in learning about Chinese history and culture. Roberts does an excellent job weaving together the personal story of Hunan embroidery girl Yang Yaquian with the history of the late Qing Dynasty. The only criticisms that I have are that some points the story seems slow. There were also areas where the thought process and actions of Yaquian seemed questionable, as I found that I was asking myself whether her character was truly reflective of women in China during the early 20th century. However, I still thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and definitely would recommend it to others.

This is a light historical fiction; meaning not too complex in the historic rendering, but enough to set the context and period. Except for the Empress and protagonist, the characters were only moderately developed. Despite these shortcomings, I enjoyed the novel very much.

I had an immediate connection with this story because I also embroider and enjoy how it help weave the novel together

This story weaves through unimaginable hardship and joy. The skill and drive of a young girl carries her from a small village to life in the Forbidden City. It is the people not often mentioned in history that have the deepest impact to change. Sorry that it had to end.....

A interesting story that is set in China . This is a history lesson in how silk thread is made and women were treated ,while being woven into the boo/ I read it in one sitting. I will read more of her books.

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