

plum in the golden vase pdf

plum in the golden vase pdf is a highly sought-after resource for readers interested in classical Chinese literature. This renowned novel, also known as "Jin Ping Mei," is celebrated for its intricate narrative, vivid character development, and its candid exploration of Ming dynasty society. The availability of plum in the golden vase pdf versions has made it accessible to a global audience, facilitating deeper study and appreciation. This article explores various aspects of the plum in the golden vase pdf, including its historical background, literary significance, and where to find reliable editions. Furthermore, it discusses the novel's themes and the challenges of translating such a complex work into English. Readers will gain comprehensive insights into the novel's enduring relevance and the importance of accessing accurate plum in the golden vase pdf files. The following sections provide a structured overview of these key topics.

- Historical Context of Plum in the Golden Vase
- Literary Significance and Themes
- Availability and Access to Plum in the Golden Vase PDF
- Translation Challenges and Considerations
- Impact and Legacy of the Novel

Historical Context of Plum in the Golden Vase

The novel known as plum in the golden vase pdf, or Jin Ping Mei, was written during the late Ming dynasty, around the 16th century. It is attributed to an anonymous author often believed to be Lanling Xiaoxiao Sheng. The story is set against the backdrop of Ming dynasty China, providing an intimate portrayal of the domestic and social life of the time. This period was characterized by political complexity, economic growth, and social stratification, all of which are reflected in the narrative. The novel is distinctive for its candid depiction of sexuality and human desires, which was unprecedented in Chinese literature of the era.

Origin and Authorship

The exact authorship of the plum in the golden vase pdf remains uncertain, though scholarly consensus suggests a single author with intimate knowledge of the Ming dynasty's social milieu. The work is considered a spin-off or continuation of the classic novel Water Margin, focusing more on domestic life and human relationships. The text's explicit content led to its censorship in China for centuries, yet it survived through manuscripts and later printings, eventually becoming a classic of Chinese literature.

Setting and Historical Influence

The novel's setting in a fictional town during the Ming dynasty provides critical context for understanding its themes. It vividly depicts the lives of merchants, officials, and their families, illustrating the intersection of wealth, power, and morality during this period. The historical influence of the Ming dynasty's social structures is integral to the novel's narrative, making the plum in the golden vase pdf an invaluable resource for historians and literary scholars alike.

Literary Significance and Themes

Plum in the golden vase pdf is renowned for its literary complexity and thematic depth. It is considered one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature, notable for its realistic characterization and exploration of taboo subjects. The novel's themes encompass morality, desire, corruption, and the human condition, all interwoven with cultural and philosophical reflections pertinent to its time.

Major Themes

The narrative explores several major themes that contribute to its lasting impact:

- **Eroticism and Desire:** The novel is famous for its frank depiction of sexual relationships, which serve to reveal character motivations and social dynamics.
- **Power and Corruption:** The story illustrates the corrupting influence of power, particularly within the family and government.
- **Morality and Ethics:** Characters frequently face moral dilemmas, reflecting broader Confucian values and societal expectations.
- **Social Critique:** Through its detailed portrayal of everyday life, the novel critiques the social inequalities and hypocrisies of the Ming dynasty.

Characterization and Narrative Style

The plum in the golden vase pdf stands out for its nuanced characters, each depicted with psychological depth and complexity. The narrative employs a third-person omniscient perspective, allowing insight into characters' thoughts and emotions. This style enriches the storytelling, making the novel a pioneering work in Chinese realist literature.

Availability and Access to Plum in the Golden Vase PDF

Accessing a reliable plum in the golden vase pdf edition is essential for scholars, students, and enthusiasts of classical Chinese literature. Various versions exist online, but their authenticity and completeness vary. Reliable editions often include critical annotations and scholarly introductions that enhance understanding.

Sources for Plum in the Golden Vase PDF

Several platforms offer plum in the golden vase pdf files, ranging from academic repositories to digital libraries specializing in classical literature. It is important to seek versions that provide accurate translations and comprehensive footnotes to fully grasp the novel's historical and cultural contexts.

Considerations When Choosing a PDF Version

When selecting a plum in the golden vase pdf, consider the following factors:

1. **Translation Quality:** Look for editions translated by reputable scholars with expertise in classical Chinese.
2. **Completeness:** Ensure the PDF includes the full text and any supplementary materials.
3. **Annotations:** Critical notes and explanations help clarify historical references and literary devices.
4. **Legality:** Use sources that respect copyright laws and intellectual property rights.

Translation Challenges and Considerations

Translating plum in the golden vase into English poses significant challenges due to its linguistic complexity, cultural nuances, and explicit content. Effective translations require balancing fidelity to the original text with readability for contemporary audiences.

Linguistic Complexity

The original Ming dynasty Chinese language used in the novel contains idiomatic expressions, classical allusions, and regional dialects. Translators must carefully interpret these elements to preserve meaning while adapting to modern English usage. The plum in the golden vase pdf versions

often differ in translation style, reflecting these difficulties.

Cultural and Historical Nuances

The novel is deeply embedded in the culture and social norms of the Ming dynasty, including Confucian values and traditional customs. Translators need to convey these subtleties to readers unfamiliar with Chinese history, often through detailed annotations or explanatory introductions.

Handling Explicit Content

The novel's explicit erotic scenes require sensitive translation to retain their literary significance without alienating readers. Different editions vary in their approach, with some opting for more literal translations and others employing euphemisms or omissions. The availability of plum in the golden vase pdf files with varying levels of explicitness reflects this ongoing debate.

Impact and Legacy of the Novel

The influence of plum in the golden vase extends beyond literature into cultural studies, history, and art. Its candid portrayal of human desires and social realities has inspired numerous adaptations and scholarly works. The novel remains a critical subject for understanding Ming dynasty China and the evolution of Chinese narrative fiction.

Influence on Literature and Culture

The novel set a precedent for realism and complex characterization in Chinese literature. It challenged traditional literary norms and opened the door for more explicit and socially critical narratives. Its themes continue to resonate in contemporary discussions on sexuality, power, and morality.

Modern Adaptations and Studies

Plum in the golden vase pdf editions have facilitated the novel's integration into modern academic curricula and literary discourse. It has been adapted into various media forms, including theater, film, and television, reflecting its enduring appeal. Scholarly research continues to uncover new interpretations and contextual insights, underscoring its importance as a cultural artifact.

Key Points on the Novel's Legacy

- Revolutionized Chinese narrative techniques and themes.
- Serves as a valuable historical document of Ming dynasty society.
- Influences contemporary discussions on literature, gender, and morality.
- Continues to inspire translations and critical editions worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I download the PDF of 'Plum in the Golden Vase'?

'Plum in the Golden Vase' PDF can be found on various literary websites or academic databases. Make sure to use legitimate sources such as university libraries or official ebook platforms to download it legally.

Is 'Plum in the Golden Vase' available for free in PDF format?

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What is the English translation status of 'Plum in the Golden Vase' PDF?

The full English translation of 'Plum in the Golden Vase' was completed by David Tod Roy and published in volumes. Some PDFs might contain partial translations, so for the complete version, look for official publications.

Are there annotated editions of 'Plum in the Golden Vase' available in PDF?

Yes, some academic editions include annotations and commentary to help understand the historical and cultural context. These may be available in PDF through university libraries or scholarly platforms.

What is the best way to study 'Plum in the Golden Vase' using a PDF version?

Use a PDF reader that supports annotations and highlights. Supplement the text with scholarly articles and translations to better understand the classical language and themes.

Can I find 'Plum in the Golden Vase' PDF with illustrations?

Some editions of 'Plum in the Golden Vase' include traditional Chinese illustrations. These versions may be available in PDF format through specialized bookstores or digital archives.

Is the PDF of 'Plum in the Golden Vase' suitable for academic research?

Yes, but ensure you use a reliable edition, preferably one that includes critical notes and accurate translations, to support academic research.

How large is the typical PDF file of 'Plum in the Golden Vase'?

The PDF size varies depending on the edition and inclusion of images or annotations, ranging from a few megabytes for text-only versions to over 100 MB for fully illustrated and annotated editions.

Are there any legal concerns with downloading 'Plum in the Golden Vase' PDF?

Since 'Plum in the Golden Vase' is a work from the 17th century, the original text is public domain. However, modern translations and annotated editions may be copyrighted, so always verify the source's legality before downloading.

What languages are available in PDF versions of 'Plum in the Golden Vase'?

PDF versions are available primarily in Classical Chinese and English translations. Some versions may also exist in other languages depending on the translator and publisher.

Additional Resources

1. *The Plum in the Golden Vase (Jin Ping Mei): A Chinese Novel of Sin and Redemption*

This classic Chinese novel, also known as Jin Ping Mei, is renowned for its intricate portrayal of the domestic and social life during the late Ming dynasty. It explores themes of desire, power, and morality through the story of Ximen Qing and his interactions with several women. The novel is notable for its detailed character development and vivid depiction of everyday life in ancient China.

2. *The Golden Lotus: The Classic Chinese Novel*

An English translation and adaptation of Jin Ping Mei, this book brings the complex narrative and rich cultural context of the original to a modern audience. It highlights the novel's exploration of human passions and the consequences of unchecked indulgence. Readers gain insight into traditional Chinese society and its views on virtue and vice.

3. *Erotic Culture in Ming China: The Plum in the Golden Vase and Its Legacy*

This scholarly work delves into the erotic elements of Jin Ping Mei, situating the novel within the broader context of Ming dynasty literature and art. It examines the cultural significance of sexuality and its expression in the period's literature. The book also explores how Jin Ping Mei influenced

subsequent Chinese literary traditions.

4. *The Art of the Chinese Novel: From Dream of the Red Chamber to Plum in the Golden Vase*

Focusing on major Chinese literary works, this book compares and contrasts Jin Ping Mei with other classical novels. It discusses narrative techniques, thematic depth, and socio-political commentary found in these texts. The analysis provides readers with a broader understanding of Chinese literary history and aesthetics.

5. *Women and Power in Jin Ping Mei*

This feminist critique explores the roles and representations of women in The Plum in the Golden Vase. It investigates how female characters navigate and influence the patriarchal society depicted in the novel. The book offers a nuanced perspective on gender dynamics and the complexities of female agency in classical Chinese literature.

6. *Translation and Interpretation of Jin Ping Mei: Challenges and Approaches*

This academic volume addresses the difficulties of translating The Plum in the Golden Vase into different languages. It covers linguistic, cultural, and historical challenges faced by translators. The book also discusses various interpretative strategies to preserve the novel's original tone and meaning.

7. *The Social History of the Late Ming Dynasty Through Jin Ping Mei*

By analyzing the social customs, class structures, and daily life depicted in Jin Ping Mei, this book provides a historical perspective on the late Ming period. It reveals how the novel serves as a valuable source for understanding the era's economic, political, and social conditions. The work is essential for historians interested in literary sources as historical documents.

8. *Chinese Classic Novels and Their Influence on Modern Literature*

This book explores how works like The Plum in the Golden Vase have shaped contemporary Chinese literature and culture. It discusses adaptations, reinterpretations, and the ongoing relevance of classical themes. The text highlights the enduring legacy of these novels in modern storytelling.

9. *The Sexual Politics of Jin Ping Mei*

This critical study examines the interplay of sexuality, power, and morality in The Plum in the Golden Vase. It considers how the novel critiques social norms and exposes the complexities of human desire. The analysis sheds light on the novel's provocative nature and its impact on Chinese literary discourse.

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Plum in the Golden Vase PDF: A Journey Through Chinese Erotic Literature

Ebook Title: The Secret History of the Plum in the Golden Vase: Unpacking a Literary Masterpiece

Contents Outline:

Introduction: A contextual overview of Jin Ping Mei (Plum in the Golden Vase), its historical context, authorship debates, and enduring literary significance.

Chapter 1: The Social Landscape of 16th Century China: Exploring the societal structures, economic realities, and cultural norms depicted in the novel.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis: Ximen Qing and the Women in His Life: An in-depth examination of the central characters, their motivations, relationships, and the complexities of their interactions.

Chapter 3: Eroticism and Sexuality in Jin Ping Mei: A nuanced discussion of the novel's explicit sexual content, its literary purpose, and its place within the broader context of Chinese literature and sexuality.

Chapter 4: The Narrative Structure and Literary Techniques: Analyzing the novel's unique storytelling methods, including its episodic structure, shifting perspectives, and use of vernacular language.

Chapter 5: Jin Ping Mei's Enduring Legacy and Influence: Examining the novel's impact on subsequent literature, its adaptations, and its continued relevance in contemporary society.

Conclusion: Summarizing key themes and leaving the reader with a deeper understanding of Jin Ping Mei's enduring power and complexity.

Plum in the Golden Vase PDF: A Deep Dive into a Literary Masterpiece

The Jin Ping Mei (often translated as Plum in the Golden Vase), a 17th-century Chinese novel, stands as a landmark achievement in erotic literature and social commentary. This comprehensive guide delves into the complexities of this masterpiece, unraveling its narrative threads and exploring its enduring significance. While its explicit content might initially attract readers, the novel's true strength lies in its insightful portrayal of 16th-century Chinese society, its complex characters, and its masterful use of literary techniques. This article serves as an introduction to the key themes and elements explored in the accompanying PDF ebook, "The Secret History of the Plum in the Golden Vase: Unpacking a Literary Masterpiece."

1. Introduction: Unveiling the World of Jin Ping Mei

The authorship of Jin Ping Mei remains shrouded in mystery, often attributed to the enigmatic figure of Lanling Xiaoxiaosheng. However, regardless of its origins, the novel quickly established itself as a groundbreaking work. Unlike earlier Chinese novels that focused primarily on heroic tales or romantic narratives, Jin Ping Mei offers a stark and realistic portrayal of life in a bustling city during the Ming dynasty. It's a world brimming with merchants, officials, courtesans, and ordinary citizens, their lives intertwined in a complex web of desire, ambition, and moral ambiguity. Understanding the historical context—the social hierarchies, economic realities, and prevailing cultural attitudes of

16th-century China—is crucial to appreciating the novel's depth and complexity. This introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the novel's historical background and enduring appeal.

2. Chapter 1: The Social Landscape of 16th Century China

This chapter examines the socio-economic fabric that forms the backdrop of *Jin Ping Mei*. We delve into the intricacies of the Ming dynasty's social structure, focusing on the merchant class's rising prominence, the power dynamics between different social strata, and the position of women within this hierarchical society. The novel vividly depicts the lives of various social groups—from the wealthy merchant Ximen Qing to the impoverished servants and street vendors—providing a rich tapestry of daily life. Analyzing this social landscape allows for a deeper understanding of the characters' motivations and actions, revealing the influence of societal pressures on their choices and relationships. The chapter also explores the prevailing attitudes towards sexuality, family structures, and moral codes, highlighting the complexities of 16th-century Chinese values.

3. Chapter 2: Character Analysis: Ximen Qing and the Women in His Life

Ximen Qing, the novel's central figure, is a wealthy and powerful merchant whose life is characterized by indulgence and decadence. His pursuit of pleasure and power drives the narrative forward, revealing the darker aspects of human nature. This chapter provides in-depth character analyses, focusing not only on Ximen Qing but also on the numerous women in his life—his wives, concubines, and servants. Each woman possesses a distinct personality and backstory, showcasing the diversity of female experiences within the novel's world. Their relationships with Ximen Qing, and with each other, are examined in detail, exploring the power dynamics, emotional complexities, and the consequences of their actions within a patriarchal society. The chapter also considers how these characters embody particular social roles and contribute to the novel's overall social commentary.

4. Chapter 3: Eroticism and Sexuality in Jin Ping Mei

Jin Ping Mei is renowned for its explicit depiction of sexual encounters. This chapter approaches the novel's erotic content not as mere titillation but as a crucial element of its literary artistry and social commentary. We examine how the portrayal of sexuality reflects the societal attitudes of the time, challenging conventional notions of morality and exploring the complexities of human desire. The chapter also analyzes the literary techniques used to describe sexual acts, examining the language, imagery, and symbolism employed by the author. Furthermore, it places the novel's treatment of sexuality within the broader context of Chinese literary tradition, comparing its approach to those of earlier and later works. The discussion focuses on the significance of the erotic scenes in revealing

character motivations, driving the plot, and providing insights into the socio-cultural landscape.

5. Chapter 4: The Narrative Structure and Literary Techniques

This chapter delves into the novel's unique narrative structure and the literary techniques that contribute to its lasting impact. We examine the episodic nature of the narrative, its shifting perspectives, and the use of vernacular language, which creates a sense of realism and immediacy. The chapter also analyzes the novel's use of foreshadowing, irony, and symbolism, examining how these techniques enrich the narrative and contribute to its thematic depth. Understanding the novel's sophisticated narrative structure and literary craftsmanship is essential for appreciating its artistic merit and its lasting influence on subsequent literary works. This section also explores the novel's use of detailed descriptions, creating a vivid picture of 16th-century Chinese life and its various settings.

6. Chapter 5: Jin Ping Mei's Enduring Legacy and Influence

Despite its explicit content, Jin Ping Mei has exerted a profound influence on Chinese literature and beyond. This final chapter examines the novel's enduring legacy, exploring its adaptations into other media, its impact on subsequent literary works, and its continued relevance in contemporary society. We discuss the novel's critical reception throughout history, analyzing the various interpretations and debates surrounding its themes and significance. We also explore its influence on later works of literature and art, highlighting its lasting impact on the portrayal of sexuality, social relationships, and human nature in Chinese and world literature. The chapter concludes by considering the novel's continued relevance in addressing ongoing debates surrounding gender, power, and social justice.

7. Conclusion: A Lasting Impression

In conclusion, Jin Ping Mei remains a complex and multifaceted work of literature that continues to captivate and challenge readers. Its vivid portrayal of 16th-century Chinese society, its intricate character development, and its masterful use of literary techniques make it a landmark achievement in world literature. While its explicit content might be controversial, its enduring power lies in its unflinching exploration of human desires, social inequalities, and the complexities of human relationships. This ebook aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of this literary masterpiece, allowing readers to appreciate its artistic merit and its enduring relevance in the modern world.

FAQs:

1. Is Jin Ping Mei suitable for all readers? Due to its explicit sexual content, it is not recommended for young readers or those sensitive to such material.
2. What makes Jin Ping Mei a significant work of literature? Its realism, complex characters, and social commentary make it a landmark in Chinese literature.
3. What is the historical context of Jin Ping Mei? It depicts 16th-century Ming Dynasty China, highlighting its social hierarchies and economic realities.
4. Who is Ximen Qing? He is the wealthy and powerful merchant who drives much of the novel's plot.
5. What are the main themes of Jin Ping Mei? Desire, power, social inequality, and the complexities of human relationships.
6. What are the novel's literary techniques? Episodic structure, shifting perspectives, vivid descriptions, and the use of vernacular language.
7. What is the significance of the erotic content? It's not merely titillation but a crucial element of the novel's social commentary and character development.
8. What is the enduring legacy of Jin Ping Mei? Its influence on subsequent literature, adaptations, and continued relevance in contemporary discussions.
9. Where can I find more information about Jin Ping Mei? Scholarly articles, academic journals, and literary criticism databases are excellent resources.

Related Articles:

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5. The Symbolism and Imagery in Jin Ping Mei: Unpacking the rich symbolism used to enhance the novel's meaning.
6. Ximen Qing: A Psychological Study of a Powerful Merchant: Delving into the motivations and psyche of the novel's protagonist.
7. The Moral Ambiguity of Jin Ping Mei: Exploring the complex ethical dilemmas presented in the novel.
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plum in the golden vase pdf: *The Plum in the Golden Vase Or, Chin P'Ing Mei* Xiaoxiaosheng, 1993 A five-volume translation of the classic sixteenth-century Chinese novel on the domestic life of a corrupt merchant.

plum in the golden vase pdf: *Golden Lotus Volume 1* Lanling Xiaoxiaosheng, 2016-11-22 The greatest novel of physical love which China has produced. —Pearl S. Buck A saga of ruthless ambition, murder, and lust, *The Golden Lotus* (Jin Ping Mei) has been called the fifth Great Classical Novel in Chinese literature and one of the Four Masterworks of the Ming novel. Admired in its own time for its literary qualities and biting indictment of the immorality and cruelty of its age, it has also

been denigrated as a dirty book for its sexual frankness. It centers on Ximen Qing, a wealthy, young, dissolute, and politically connected merchant, and his marriage to a fifth wife, Pan Jinlian, literally Golden Lotus. In her desire to influence her husband and, through him, control the other wives, concubines, and entire household, she uses sex as her main weapon. The Golden Lotus lays bare the rivalries within this wealthy family while chronicling its rise and fall. It fields a host of vivid characters, each seeking advantage in a corrupt world. The author of The Golden Lotus is Lanling Xiaoxiaosheng, whose name, a pseudonym, means Scoffing Scholar of Lanling. His great work, written in the late Ming but set in the Song Dynasty, is a virtuoso collection of voices and vices, mixing in poetry and song and sampling different social registers, from popular ballads to the language of bureaucrats, in order to recreate and comment mordantly on the society of the time. This edition features a new introduction by Robert Hegel of Washington University, who situates the novel for contemporary readers and explains its greatness as the first single-authored novel in the Chinese tradition. This translation contains the complete, unexpurgated text as translated by Clement Egerton with the assistance of Shu Qingchun, later known as Lao She, one of the most prominent Chinese writers of the twentieth century. The translation has been pinyinized and corrected.

plum in the golden vase pdf: Jin Ping Mei English Translations Lintao Qi, 2018-05-15 This book investigates the English translations and adaptations of the sixteenth century classic Chinese novel Jin Ping Mei. Acclaimed the 'No.1 Marvellous Book' of the Ming dynasty, Jin Ping Mei was banned soon after its appearance, due to the inclusion of graphically explicit sexual descriptions. So far there have been more than a dozen English adaptations and translations of the novel. Working within the framework of descriptive translation studies, this book provides a translational history of the English versions of Jin Ping Mei, supported by various paratexts, including book covers, reviews, and archival materials. It also conducts textual comparisons to uncover the translation norms at work in the only two complete renditions, namely The Golden Lotus by Clement Egerton and The Plum in the Golden Vase by David Roy, respectively. The notions of agency, habitus and capital are introduced for the examination of the transference of linguistic, literary and cultural aspects of the two translations. The book represents the first systematic research effort on the English Translations of Jin Ping Mei. Given its pioneering status and interdisciplinary nature, the data, structure and findings of this book will potentially enrich the fields of Translation Studies, Comparative Literature, Chinese Studies, Cultural Studies and Book History.

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history of reading and daily life and challenges us to rethink the nature of Chinese literature.

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plum in the golden vase pdf: Golden Lotus Volume 2 Lanling Xiaoxiaosheng, 2012-04-17 The greatest novel of physical love which China has produced. --Pearl S. Buck A saga of ruthless ambition, murder, and, famously, Chinese erotica, *The Golden Lotus* (also known as *The Plum in the Golden Vase*) has been called the fifth Great Classical Novel in Chinese Literature and one of the Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel. Admired in its own time for its literary qualities and biting indictment of the immorality and cruelty of its age, this Chinese classic has also been denigrated for its sexual frankness. It centers on Ximen Qing, a young, dissolute, and politically connected merchant, and his marriage to a fifth wife, Pan Jinlian, literally Golden Lotus. In her desire to influence her husband and, through him, control the other wives, concubines, and entire household, she uses sex as her primary weapon. *The Golden Lotus* lays bare the rivalries within this wealthy family while chronicling its rise and fall. This great work of classic Chinese literature, from an author whose pseudonym means Scoffing Scholar of Lanling, is a virtuoso collection of voices and vices, mixing in poetry and song. It samples different social registers from popular ballads to the language of bureaucrats to recreate and comment mordantly on the society of the time. Little-known in the west but utterly iconic amongst the Chinese classics in worldly circles, reading *The Golden Lotus* promises both an astute reflection on human tendencies and a sumptuous, intoxicating take on Chinese erotica. This new edition: Features a superb new introduction by Robert Hegel of Washington University, who explains its importance as the first single-authored novel in the Chinese tradition Contains the complete, unexpurgated text as translated by Clement Egerton with the assistance of Shu Qingchun (later known as Lao She, one of the most prominent Chinese writers of the twentieth century) Ensures translation has been pinyinized and corrected for this new edition

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from potential historical analogues. The historical resonances of literary objects illuminate the rhetorical strategies of individual works of fiction and, more broadly, conceptions of fictionality in the Ming and Qing. Rather than offering a transparent lens on the past, fictional objects train the reader to be aware of the fallibility of perception. A deeply insightful analysis of late Ming and Qing texts and reading practices, *The Substance of Fiction* has important implications for Chinese literary studies, history, and art history, as well as the material turn in the humanities.

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