



China Sky

Pearl S. Buck

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Sullo sfondo del conflitto cino-giapponese, si svolge la vicenda avventurosa e patetica di due indimenticabili figure di occidentali che, attraverso le fiamme della guerra, trovano in se stessi il conforto di un amore sublime. Mentre la popolazione di Chen-li, una piccola città situata nel cuore della Cina, resiste impavida ai bombardamenti giapponesi, due giovani medici americani, Gray Thomison e Sara Durand, si battono, con un senso inflessibile del dovere, contro la povertà e le malattie. E quando una serie di circostanze minaccia questa pietosa missione, i nodi si sciolgono, la verità si fa luce e con essa l'amore. Dalle pagine di Cielo cinese che, con ritmo serrato, narra una storia estremamente avvincente, balzano creature luminose, studiate con profonda intuizione psicologica, a simboleggiare le più alte qualità umane, il coraggio, la lealtà, il sacrificio, la dedizione al dovere, l'amore che non conosce compromessi.

China Sky Details

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From Reader Review China Sky for online ebook

Teri Heyer says

I haven't read a book by Pearl S. Buck since my college days. I saw this one on Amazon/Kindle & had to get it. I started reading & couldn't put it down. Now I'm on a quest to read & reread the rest of Pearl S. Buck's books.

Greg says

This book looks, reads, and sounds like a Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew story, right down to not-subtle racism, a plot with as many twists and turns as a mop handle, forced, formal-sounding adverbs modifying "said" or its synonyms . . .

I really don't have it in me to point out everything that's wrong with this book.

Imagine if Nancy Drew were a missionary doctor in a love triangle (with an American, of course) in China, and everything that could be terrible about that book was, in fact, terrible.

Rebecca says

With a predictable plot and one-dimensional characters, this isn't Buck's best. Still, even with its flaws, I enjoyed the suspense. If you want a fairy tale romance and spies in the midst of war, you could do worse than this book. However, overall I missed Buck's complex female characters; in this novel, their desires mostly revolve around men, unfortunately. This definitely wouldn't pass the Bechdel test, even with a female doctor in China at a time when there were very few femal doctors. Oh well, I still love anything Buck wrote, so more like 2.5 stars out of pure sentimentality.

Carla Brown says

This book is different than other Pearl S. Buck books I've read, but I enjoyed it thoroughly and read it very quickly.

Dee Sun says

I liked it.

M. Newman says

This is another excellent book by Pearl S. Buck although not nearly as good as *Dragon Seed* which I read right before this. Like *Dragon Seed*, this one takes place during the Japanese occupation of China in the late 1930s. It is set at a hospital which is headed by an American doctor and his second in command, a female American doctor. A male and a female Chinese doctor round out the medical staff. Sarah, the American M.D. had never realized that she was in love with Grey until he returned with his new wife, Louise from a trip back home. What follows is a nice love story (actually two love stories) accompanied by a subplot of treason and intrigue.

Donette says

As usual Pearl S. Buck does not disappoint. Although this is the first Buck novel, I've read that has had American's as the central characters. Great, surprisingly easy read from Buck.

Hugh Centerville says

I've Got This Nagging Feeling, Doc

China Sky is not Pearl Buck at her best. It has a perfunctory feel ? hey, with my knowledge of China and her people, especially the peasants, I can dash off a pretty good yarn, and without much effort. Well, she has. A pretty good yarn despite containing one giant-size, potentially fatal flaw, as well as some smaller flaws.

Our hero, an American doctor, Gray Thomison, is saintly, altruistic and sensitive, and handsome too, the whole package. He's established a hospital in the Chinese hinterland sometime during the 1930s. The U.S. isn't into the war yet with Japan but the Japanese have invaded China and every night, Japanese bombers come flying in to hit the city where the hospital is located. It's become routine, everyone in the city tramping into the hillsides, to wait out the bombardment in caves, and coming back afterward to survey the damage, which is often significant.

Here's the flaw:

Gray goes away to America, to raise money for his hospital, and while he's there, he falls in love with Louise, courts her, marries her, and brings her back to China with him. Say what? Louise is a catch. She's drop-dead gorgeous and seductive, so we're told, a lot, and shown, occasionally. Louise's daddy is filthy rich. Louise is a debutante, a self-centered society girl who revels in her lifestyle. So why does she give it all up, pack her bags and go trotting off to help her new husband with his hospital? Because she loves him, of course, and if she doesn't go, there's no story.

Opposites may attract, but this is ridiculous.

That all happens in the first fifteen or so pages, and for the rest of the book, we're scratching our heads. Girl, what were you thinking? You should have talked the good doctor out of going back, or told him to go without you, and to look you up when he was done saving the peasants and was ready to come home. If you hadn't in the meantime married one of those lawyers or bankers who were so ardently pursuing you, maybe you'd take a fresh look at him.

But love conquers all, and off Louise goes, to China, and surprise, surprise, she hates it, and didn't Thomison warn her about the bombs? And about spending long nights in damp caves with smelly peasants?

What else Louise doesn't like about her new life in backwater China, and it's maybe something else Doc neglected to tell her, is Doctor Sara, a female version of Doctor Gray. She's selfless too, and beautiful, and the two doctors are in love ... with one another. How did they manage to work together for so long at the hospital, and not speak about their feelings, until it was too late? (Too late because both Gray and Sara are too saintly to ever acquiesce to an affair.) And if Doc loves Sara, why'd he bring Louise back with him?

Then, the story takes over and we forgive Miss Buck's contrivances, or overlook them, because China Sky is a pretty good yarn, as wartime romances go.

There's the peasants and the war and a nefarious doctor and a Japanese officer who's not the stereotypical, cunning "Nip" of World War Two paperbacks and 1950s and 60s comic books. There's a Chinese guerrilla chief, the Eagle, probably the most interesting character in the book (and played in the movie by Anthony Quinn, who must hold the record for number of ethnics played, or does Rita Moreno hold the record?)

It does all sort of get convoluted but never so much that we don't know what's going on, and even overlooking Louise's inexplicable choice, we still have to deal with those other, nagging flaws. The folks in the story, we're told, are pretty bright, so why can't they figure out why the hospital, once the target of those bombing raids, is suddenly off-limits to the Japanese planes? And those fortuitous deaths, people dying (or not) at just the right moments, to move things along.

Pearl Buck spent a good part of her life in China, the daughter of missionaries, then a missionary herself, and she certainly knows the lay of the land, and puts it to good use here, same as she does in all of her books. She loves the peasants and shows them to us without getting overly maudlin about it, and she's more than fair to the Japanese officer, straining to assure us how his being on the wrong side of history doesn't necessarily make him a bad guy.

It all plays out in just under 250 pages, an easy read, and compelling enough. Buck is a marvelous writer and keeps things interesting, and even if we pretty much figure it all out before we get to the end, it's still a fun ride, a pleasant afternoon or two on the couch.

Richard Crowe says

Wonderful!

Pearl Buck has been one of my favorite authors for 50 years. I thought I had read all of her books until her whole library of work became available on Amazon. How great it is to find more books like China Sky. Buck's understanding of the Chinese people and culture during her lifetime makes every book feel like a biography of the characters. Her stories are so real and compelling that I simply cannot put them down. I would recommend China Sky to anyone.

Marina Maidou says

I have read this author's books when I was a little kid (and I still remember the terror and the awe for this so exotic and mysterious world!) and she's one of my favorites. Her best novel, for me, it's the Pavillion of Women. This one isn't of her best books and to be honest, it seemed like a typical romance with unreal characters. Anyway, even this, had the magic of Pearl Buck showing the China before Mao Zedong. I think I

will re-read her novels again in English, to see if the original text has the same sense as its greek translation.

Dan says

Ho-hum. Is this meant to be a romance that includes a mystery complete with villains and heroes (but that can't be, since we know whodunit), or a thriller with romantic subplots (but that's lame, too, since we know early on that the heroes and heroines will end up together)? Either way, this was weak.

James N. Rzepka says

Great read!

As always Pearl S. Buck brings her characters to life, felt as if I was there with them. Love the way she describes the scenery; makes you see the beauty as she did.

Jeannie says

Simple story but interesting

Again Pearl Buck opens up the eastern mind and way of thinking to the western reader. Her years of living in China are so apparent in her writing. The love story is fairly simple, but the story of the people surrounding it , is what makes it interesting .you can tell she understands the common people , her characters are so true to life.
