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## **KEY=DALBY - TRISTIAN HUGHES**

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**Kimono Fashioning Culture** Random House In This Beautifully Written And Lavishly Illustrated Book Liza Dalby Traces The History Of The Kimono - Its Designs, Uses, Aesthetics And Social Significance - And In Doing So Explores The World Of The Geisha, Last Wearers Of The Kimono. The Colourful And Stylised Kimono, The National Garment Of Japan, Expresses Not Only Japanese Fashion And Design Taste But Also Reveals Something Of The Soul Of Japan. Amazingly Beautiful, Many Today Consider It Impractical, Too Uncomfortable To Wear In Modern Life - It Was Generally Discarded By Men For Suits And Ties A Century Ago, And Now Only Worn Occasionally By Women. However, The Kimono Still Retains A Powerful Hold On The Japanese Heart And Mind, And Provides A Link To Japan'S Past. **Geisha** Random House Available For The First Time In The Uk Geisha: The Mystique Never Dies. Available Again, This Classic Bestseller Offers An Intimate Glimpse Into A Unique Female Community. In Her Account Of Her Experience As The Kyoto Geisha Ichigiku, Liza Dalby - The Only Non-Japanese Ever To Have Trained As A Geisha - Reveals The Realities Of A World That Has Long Been The Subject Of Rumour And Fantasy, And That Continues To Fascinate Japanese And Westerners Alike. **East Wind Melts the Ice A Memoir Through the Seasons** Univ of California Press "To read East Wind Melts the Ice is to slip into a time stream that is both as long and sinuous as history and as ephemeral as the present moment. Drawing inspiration from the thousand year old history of Japanese poetic diaries, and form from the ancient Chinese almanac that she uses to contain her musings, Liza Dalby has accomplished the seemingly impossible task of translating the sensibility of the Heian Court of 11th century Japan into the context of contemporary America. The result is a stunning chronicle of the beauty of time passing and an evocation of the transient and whimsical nature of all things."—Ruth Ozeki, author of My Year of Meats and All Over Creation "I imagine Liza Dalby writing this book in an ancient library, a lion sleeping at her side, as in the paintings of Saint Jerome. As she collects and layers arcane and fascinating

pieces of knowledge, she builds her own very personal almanac packed with the wonder of loving two cultures, the intense inner life of each season, and boundless curiosity of the scholar/child. This is a book to dip in and out of throughout the year."—Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* "Liza Dalby's memoir of the seasons is as fresh and captivating as springtime. A very special book."—Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* "This beautiful book awakens the senses. A journal, an almanac of the seasons, and a series of reflections on ancient Eastern Chinese and Japanese cultures, here you will find subtle observations of rain and heat, tangerines, mulberries and paulownia trees, crickets and doves forming a rich tapestry as they are woven with evocative fragments of history—stories of geishas, of salesmen who sold bulk fireflies, of the wood that was used for kimono chests, of emptiness in the tea ceremony. Like a lush garden, this book is meant to savor."—Susan Griffin, author of *The Book of the Courtesans*

**The Tale of Murasaki A Novel** "The sensitive and modest daughter of a mid-ranking court poet, Murasaki Shikibu staves off loneliness with her active imagination, telling stories about the dashing Prince Genji to her close friends. At first, they are their private entertainment, but soon Genji's amorous adventures are leaked to the public and Murasaki is thrust into the life of a kind of eleventh-century Japanese celebrity. She is compelled by a charismatic regent to accept a position at court regaling the empress with her stories."--Jacket.

**Autobiography of a Geisha** Random House The glamorous world of Kyoto's geisha is familiar to many readers but Sayo Masuda's tale tells a different story, one that bears little resemblance to the elegant geisha quarters frequented by illustrious patrons. Masuda was a geisha at a rural hot-spring

**Geisha A Life** Simon and Schuster A Kyoto geisha describes her initiation into an okiya at the age of four, the intricate training that made up most of her education, her successful career, and the traditions surrounding the geisha culture. Reprint.

**The Tale of Murasaki** Anchor Murasaki Shikibu, the real-life author of "The Tale of Genji," uses her imagination and storytelling abilities to escape from loneliness, and later to entertain the empress and express the political and sexual intrigue she has experienced.

**Geisha 25th Anniversary Edition, Updated with a New Preface** Univ of California Press The author, an American anthropologist, describes her experiences during the year she spent as a Japanese geisha, and looks at the role of women, and geishas, in modern Japan.

**Asian American Fiction, History and Life Writing International Encounters** Routledge The last ten years have witnessed an enormous growth in American interest in Asia and Asian/American history. In particular, a set of key Asian historical moments have recently become the subject of intense American cultural scrutiny, namely China's Cultural Revolution and its aftermath; the Korean American war and its legacy; the era of Japanese geisha culture and its subsequent decline; and China's one-child policy and the rise of transracial, international adoption in its wake. Grice examines and accounts for this cultural and literary preoccupation, exploring the corresponding historical-political situations that have both circumscribed and enabled greater cultural and political contact between Asia and America.

**"The Gei of Geisha: Music, Identity and Meaning "** Routledge The Japanese geisha is an international icon, known almost universally as a symbol of traditional Japan.

Numerous books exist on the topic, yet this is the first to focus on the 'gei' of geisha - the art that constitutes their title (gei translates as fine art, sha refers to person). Kelly M. Foreman brings together ethnomusicological field research, including studying and performing the shamisen among geisha in Tokyo, with historical research. The book elaborates how musical art is an essential part of the identity of the Japanese geisha rather than a secondary feature, and locates current practice within a tradition of two and half centuries. The book opens by deconstructing the idea of 'geisha' as it functions in Western societies in order to understand why gei has been, and continues to be, neglected in geisha studies. Subsequent chapters detail the myriad musical genres and traditions with which geisha have been involved during their artistic history, as well as their position within the traditional arts society. Considering the current situation more closely, the final chapters explore actual dedication to art today by geisha, and analyse how they create impromptu performances at evening banquets. An important issue here is geisha-patron artistic collaboration, which leads to consideration of what Foreman argues to be the unique and essential nexus of identity, eroticism and aesthetics within the geisha world.

**The Women of the Pleasure Quarter Japanese Paintings and Prints of the Floating World** This volume is the first comprehensive study of the women of the pleasure quarters and entertainment districts of Japan of the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. It examines the cultural and metaphorical meanings of courtesans and geisha and their appearance in art and Kabuki theater. These women were at the nexus of social relations, part of public culture, organized into institutions and transformed into emblems of femininity, personifications of the romantic ideal. The Women of the Pleasure Quarter reproduces paintings and woodblock prints by forty-six artists, virtually all the leading masters of the genre, including Miyagawa Choshun, Ando Hiroshige, Katsushika Hokusai, and Kitagawa Utamaro. These works, the most familiar forms of Japanese art to Westerners, are important both for their intrinsic aesthetic quality and for their value as documents of Japanese cultural history. Art and life were fundamentally intertwined in the floating world; it was a realm in which art not only influenced life but in which popular entertainment also transformed itself into art by inventing its own conventions and artistic forms. The Women of the Pleasure Quarter is published in conjunction with an exhibition organized by the Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts, and also seen at Equitable Gallery, New York, and Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth. Every work in the exhibition, including several rare hand-colored photographs, is reproduced in full color and discussed in an individual commentary. Capsule biographies of each artist, a glossary, and a selected bibliography complete this enchanting survey of one of the most extraordinary bodies of work in art history.

**Asian Beauty Secrets: Ancient and Modern Tips from the Far East** Bush Street Press **Bad Girls of Japan** Springer Are bad girls casualties of patriarchy, a necessary evil, or visionary pioneers? The authors in this volume propose shifts in our perceptions of bad girls by providing new ways to understand them through the case of Japan. By tracing the concept of the bad girl as a product of specific cultural assumptions and historical settings, Bad Girls of Japan maps new roads and old detours in revealing a disorderly politics of gender. Bad Girls of Japan explores deviancy in richly diverse media: mountain witches, murderers, performance artists, cartoonists, schoolgirls and shoppers

gone wild are all part of the terrain. **Memoirs of a Geisha** Longman "Captivating, minutely imagined . . . a novel that refuses to stay shut" ("Newsweek"), "Memoirs of a Geisha" is now released in a movie tie-in edition. **Falling From the Floating World** Unbound Publishing When Ray is sacked from his job in London, he goes to Japan hoping to start his life afresh. Things begin well: he lands work as an English teacher and strikes up a relationship with the beautiful, intriguing Tomoe. But his world is turned upside down when Tomoe's father is found dead. Convinced that his death was a murder, Tomoe sets out after the killers, and when she goes missing Ray is forced to act. In his quest to find her he's dragged into the 'floating world' – a place of corrupt politicians, yakuza, sumo wrestlers and call-girls – living out an adventure that echoes his dreams of Tokyo's feudal past. It's a search guaranteed to bring further loss of life, and Ray is pulled into a desperate chase to ensure it won't be his. **Geisha The Secret History of a Vanishing World** Ever since Westerners arrived in Japan, we have been intrigued by geisha. This fascination has spawned a wealth of fictional creations from Madame Butterfly to Arthur Golden's Memoirs of a Geisha. The reality of the geisha's existence has rarely been described. Contrary to popular opinion, geisha are not prostitutes but literally arts people. Their accomplishments might include singing, dancing or playing a musical instrument but, above all, they are masters of the art of conversation, soothing worries of highly paid businessmen who can afford their attentions. The real secret history of the geisha is explored here. **Geisha of Gion The True Story of Japan's Foremost Geisha** Simon and Schuster The extraordinary, bestselling memoir from Japan's foremost geisha. 'A glimpse into the exotic, mysterious, tinged-with-eroticism world of the almost mythical geisha' Val Hennessy, Daily Mail '[An] eloquent and innovative memoir' The Times 'I can identify the exact moment when things began to change. It was a cold winter afternoon. I had just turned three.' Emerging shyly from her hiding place, Mineko encounters Madam Oima, the formidable proprietress of a prolific geisha house in Gion. Madam Oima is mesmerised by the child's black hair and black eyes: she has found her successor. And so Mineko is gently, but firmly, prised away from her parents to embark on an extraordinary profession, of which she will become the best. But even if you are exquisitely beautiful and the darling of the okiya, the life of a geisha is one of gruelling demands. And Mineko must first contend with her bitterly jealous sister who is determined to sabotage her success . . . Captivating and poignant, Geisha of Gion tells of Mineko's ascendancy to fame and her ultimate decision to leave the profession she found so constricting. After centuries of mystery Mineko is the only geisha to speak out. This is the true story she has long wanted to tell and the one that the West has long wanted to hear. **Urban Spaces in Japan Cultural and Social Perspectives** Routledge Urban Spaces in Japan explores the workings of power, money and the public interest in the planning and design of Japanese space. Through a set of vivid case studies of well-known Japanese cities including Tokyo, Kobe, and Kyoto, this book examines the potential of civil society in contemporary planning debates. Further, it addresses the implications of Japan's biggest social problem – the demographic decline – for Japanese cities, and demonstrates the serious challenges and exciting possibilities that result from the impending end of Japan's urban growth. Presenting a synthetic approach that reflects both the physical aspects and the social significance of urban spaces, this book scrutinizes the

precise patterns of urban expansion and shrinkage. In doing so, it also summarizes current theories of public space, urban space, and the body in space which are relevant to both Japan and the wider international debate. With detailed case studies and more general reflections from a broad range of disciplines, this collection of essays demonstrates the value of cross-disciplinary cooperation. As such, it is of interest to students and scholars of geography and urban planning as well as history, anthropology and cultural studies.

**Kimono** Hotei Pub Presents color photographs of the kimono that illustrate how it is designed, the historical and cultural significance of the garment, the individuals who wear it, and the types of accessories worn with it.

**Wabi Sabi Japanese Wisdom for a Perfectly Imperfect Life** Hachette UK 'A truly transformative read' Sunday Times STYLE 'More than ever, we need books like this' Jessica Seaton, Co-Founder of Toast and author of Gather, Cook, Feast A whole new way of looking at the world - and your life - inspired by centuries-old Japanese wisdom. Wabi sabi ("wah-bi sah-bi") is a captivating concept from Japanese aesthetics, which helps us to see beauty in imperfection, appreciate simplicity and accept the transient nature of all things. With roots in zen and the way of tea, the timeless wisdom of wabi sabi is more relevant than ever for modern life, as we search for new ways to approach life's challenges and seek meaning beyond materialism. Wabi sabi is a refreshing antidote to our fast-paced, consumption-driven world, which will encourage you to slow down, reconnect with nature, and be gentler on yourself. It will help you simplify everything, and concentrate on what really matters. From honouring the rhythm of the seasons to creating a welcoming home, from reframing failure to ageing with grace, wabi sabi will teach you to find more joy and inspiration throughout your perfectly imperfect life. This book is the definitive guide to applying the principles of wabi sabi to transform every area of your life, and finding happiness right where you are.

**Places** University of Hawaii Press "Places is an English translation of Setouchi Jakuchō's 2001 memoir titled Basho ("Places") in Japanese. Born in 1922, Setouchi wrote this memoir when she was seventy-seven years old. In it she traces her journey back to the geographical locations that anchor memories and reminiscences of her childhood and scandalous earlier life as a novelist, seen through the filter of her later years as a Buddhist nun. The book is accordingly structured by place. Although the narrative proceeds roughly chronologically, it leaps about-the way thoughts and memories often do-connecting things across time and space. As a consciously constructed narrative, it calls to mind and has much in common with Vladimir Nabokov's Speak Memory-which he calls 'an autobiography revisited.'"--

**An Introduction to Social Anthropology Other People's Worlds** 'Brilliant This is just the book I have been looking for...good format and layout, and is reasonably priced.' - Dr D. Burnett, All Nations Christian College 'Brilliant examples. I've already used 'the Japanese handkerchief' in my class.' - Dr S. Wright, University of Birmingham 'I especially like the fact that films are recommended for each chapter.' - Dr F. Hughes-Freeland, University of Wales This refreshingly clear and easy-to-read text offers the perfect introduction to social anthropology for anyone approaching the subject for the first time. It is carefully structured so that one chapter builds on the next and it covers all the core topics in an even-handed and illuminating manner, introducing the reader to the depth of divergent views on all the most basic subjects - food, hygiene, gift-exchange, rites of passage, symbolism, religion,

politics and the environment. Combining an abundance of unobtrusive reference and further reading for the serious student with an immensely readable and engaging writing style, this book offers a compelling introduction to a growing and exciting subject. **Modern Girls on the Go Gender, Mobility, and Labor in Japan** Stanford University Press This spirited and engaging multidisciplinary volume pins its focus on the lived experiences and cultural depictions of women's mobility and labor in Japan. The theme of "modern girls" continues to offer a captivating window into the changes that women's roles have undergone during the course of the last century. Here we encounter Japanese women inhabiting the most modern of spaces, in newly created professions, moving upward and outward, claiming the public life as their own: shop girls, elevator girls, dance hall dancers, tour bus guides, airline stewardesses, international beauty queens, overseas teachers, corporate soccer players, and even female members of the Self-Defense Forces. Directly linking gender, mobility, and labor in 20th and 21st century Japan, this collection brings to life the ways in which these modern girls—historically and contemporaneously—have influenced social roles, patterns of daily life, and Japan's global image. It is an ideal guidebook for students, scholars, and general readers alike. **Madame Sadayakko The Geisha who Bewitched the West** Penguin The author of *Women of the Pleasure Quarters* shares the story of the famous geisha whose life inspired Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, from her training and participation in secret geisha traditions to her defection from her lucrative career to marry the penniless actor and political maverick Otojiro Kawakami and her rise to international celebrity. Reprint. **Anthropological Locations Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science** Univ of California Press "A vitally important contribution to anthropology. . . . Most importantly, although the critique is sharply directed, the tone of the volume is constructive rather than destructive—or deconstructive."—Joan Vincent, Barnard College "A rich, thought-provoking, and highly original collection. . . . The research presented is new and the perspectives original. This collection of essays casts significant new light on phenomena and practices which have long been central to anthropology, while at the same time introducing new substantive materials."—Don Brenneis, University of California, Santa Cruz **Dimensions of Japanese Society Gender, Margins and Mainstream** Springer Japan remains one of the most intriguing yet least understood nations. In a much needed, balanced and comprehensive analysis, among other remarkable revelations, this book presents for the first time a vital key to understanding the organisation of Japan's society and the behaviour of its people. The Japanese are not driven by a universal morality based on Good and Evil, but by broad aesthetic concepts based on Pure and Impure. What they include as 'impure' will surprise many readers. **Stranger in the Shogun's City A Japanese Woman and Her World** Scribner A vivid, deeply researched work of history that explores the life of an unconventional woman during the first half of the 19th century in Edo—the city that would become Tokyo—and a portrait of a great city on the brink of a momentous encounter with the West. The daughter of a Buddhist priest, Tsuneno was born in a rural Japanese village and was expected to live a traditional life much like her mother's. But after three divorces—and a temperament much too strong-willed for her family's approval—she ran away to make a life for herself in one of the largest cities in the world: Edo, a bustling metropolis at its peak. With

Tsuneno as our guide, we experience the drama and excitement of Edo just prior to the arrival of American Commodore Perry's fleet, which transformed Japan. During this pivotal moment in Japanese history, Tsuneno bounces from tenement to tenement, marries a masterless samurai, and eventually enters the service of a famous city magistrate. Tsuneno's life provides a window into 19th-century Japanese culture—and a rare view of an extraordinary woman who sacrificed her family and her reputation to make a new life for herself, in defiance of social conventions. Immersive and fascinating, *Stranger in the Shogun's City* is a revelatory work of history, layered with rich detail and delivered with beautiful prose, about the life of a woman, a city, and a culture. **Mirror of Modernity Invented Traditions of Modern Japan** Univ of California Press This collection of essays challenges the notion that Japan's present cultural identity is the simple legacy of its pre-modern and insular past. Scholars examine "age-old" Japanese cultural practices and show these to be largely creations of the modern era. **Collecting Qualitative Data A Field Manual for Applied Research** SAGE Providing a practical and step-by-step guide to collecting and managing qualitative data, this book focuses on the three most often used forms of qualitative methods: participant observation, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. Designed to be very applied, this textbook includes many checklists and tips for how to use each technique while doing research. It also includes numerous real-life examples and cases so that the reader will benefit from seeing the broader picture. *Collecting Qualitative Data: A Field Manual* is intended both for beginning researchers and the more experienced research collector. **The Teahouse Fire** Random House 'When I was nine, in the city now called Kyoto, I changed my fate... What I asked for? Any life but this one.' When Aurelia flees the fire that kills her missionary uncle and leaves her orphaned and alone in nineteenth-century Japan, she has no idea how quickly her wish will be answered. Knowing only a few words of Japanese she hides in a tea house and is adopted by the family who own it: gradually falling in love with both the tea ceremony and with her young mistress, Yukako. As Aurelia grows up she devotes herself to the family and its failing fortunes in the face of civil war and western intervention, and to Yukako's love affairs and subsequent marriage. But her feelings for her mistress are never reciprocated and as tensions mount in the household Aurelia begins to realise that to the world around her she will never be anything but an outsider. A lushly detailed, spellbinding story, *The Teahouse Fire* is an unforgettable debut. **The Tale of Genji** Vintage In the eleventh century Murasaki Shikibu, a lady in the Heian court of Japan, wrote the world's first novel. But *The Tale of Genji* is no mere artifact. It is, rather, a lively and astonishingly nuanced portrait of a refined society where every dalliance is an act of political consequence, a play of characters whose inner lives are as rich and changeable as those imagined by Proust. Chief of these is "the shining Genji," the son of the emperor and a man whose passionate impulses create great turmoil in his world and very nearly destroy him. This edition, recognized as the finest version in English, contains a dozen chapters from early in the book, carefully chosen by the translator, Edward G. Seidensticker, with an introduction explaining the selection. It is illustrated throughout with woodcuts from a seventeenth-century edition. **Manners and Mischief Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan** Univ of California Press "Manners and Mischief is a cohesive, stimulating volume. Reading these essays and the editors' enlightening

introduction was a joy: I learned a great deal, smiled and laughed with uncommon regularity, and marveled at the quality of this remarkable collection." -William M. Tsutsui, author of *Godzilla on My Mind* "This book is full of fascinating insights. Well-written and often witty, it captures a detailed snapshot of Japanese society in the early 21st century. I would say this is the most insightful book on modern Japan I have read in years." -Liza Dalby, anthropologist and novelist

**Kimono A Modern History** Reaktion Books What is the kimono? Everyday garment? Art object? Symbol of Japan? As this book shows, the kimono has served all of these roles, its meaning changing across time and with the perspective of the wearer or viewer. *Kimono: A Modern History* begins by exposing the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century foundations of the modern kimono fashion industry. It explores the crossover between 'art' and 'fashion' in this period at the hands of famous Japanese painters who worked with clothing pattern books and painted directly onto garments. With Japan's exposure to Western fashion in the nineteenth century, and Westerners' exposure to Japanese modes of dress and design, the kimono took on new associations and came to symbolize an exotic culture and an alluring female form. In the aftermath of the Second World War, the kimono industry was sustained through government support. The line between fashion and art became blurred as kimonos produced by famous designers were collected for their beauty and displayed in museums, rather than being worn as clothing. Today, the kimono has once again taken on new dimensions, as the Internet and social media proliferate images of the kimono as a versatile garment to be integrated into a range of individual styles. *Kimono: A Modern History*, the inspiration for a major exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, not only tells the story of a distinctive garment's ever-changing functions and image, but provides a novel perspective on Japan's modernization and encounter with the West.

**Kimono as Art The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota** The first major book on Japanese textile artist Itchiku Kubota, published to accompany a touring exhibition. **Geisha A Unique World of Tradition, Elegance, and Art** Sterling Publishing Company, Inc. Japan's geisha have fascinated and allured westerners for centuries. But just who are geisha? This book delves into their lives and history with detailed coverage of their training, their costumes, and the intricate world of tradition in which they live and work. This finely illustrated book looks at the gradations of rank, clothing, and makeup, as well as the subtle changes of geisha appearance through the seasons. It explores the network of dance schools, teahouses, temples, offices and traditional crafts, with calligraphers, dyers, and sake warmers among the many occupations serving in the hanamachi or "flower towns," as geisha districts are known. The geisha craft itself draws on an array of traditional Japanese arts: dance, tea ceremony, traditional music, and games, all in the service of leisure. This book explains how this complex and often misunderstood world evolved, how it fits into modern Japan, and how it is adapting in order to survive there.--From publisher description. **36 Views** Overlook Press In this acclaimed play, Naomi Iizuka has created a carefully textured exploration of the meaning of truth-not just in the art world, but in personal relationships as well. At its heart is an art dealer and an art historian who discover what they think is an ancient manuscript-a priceless Japanese pillow book. As they try to learn whether it's authentic, their search becomes an erotic game of greed, love, and mental hide-and-seek. **Sandakan Brothel No.8:**

### **Journey into the History of Lower-class Japanese Women**

**Journey into the History of Lower-class Japanese Women** Routledge This is a pioneering work on "karayuki-san", impoverished Japanese women sent abroad to work as prostitutes from the 1860s to the 1920s. The narrative follows the life of one such prostitute, Osaki, who is persuaded as a child of ten to accept cleaning work in Sandakan, North Borneo, and then forced to work as a prostitute in a Japanese brothel, one of the many such brothels that were established throughout Asia in conjunction with the expansion of Japanese business interests. Yamazaki views Osaki as the embodiment of the suffering experienced by all Japanese women, who have long been oppressed under the dual yoke of class and gender. This tale provides the historical and anthropological context for understanding the sexual exploitation of Asian women before and during the Pacific War and for the growing flesh trade in Southeast Asia and Japan today. Young women are being brought to Japan with the same false promises that enticed Osaki to Borneo 80 years ago. Yamazaki Tomoko, who herself endured many economic and social hardships during and after the war, has devoted her life to documenting the history of the exchange of women between Japan and other Asian countries since 1868. She has worked directly with "karayuki-san", military comfort women, war orphans, repatriates, women sent as picture brides to China and Manchuria, Asian women who have wed into Japanese farming communities, and Japanese women married to other Asians in Japan.

### **The Gei of Geisha: Music, Identity and Meaning**

**The Gei of Geisha: Music, Identity and Meaning** Routledge The Japanese geisha is an international icon, known almost universally as a symbol of traditional Japan. Numerous books exist on the topic, yet this is the first to focus on the 'gei' of geisha - the art that constitutes their title (gei translates as fine art, sha refers to person). Kelly M. Foreman brings together ethnomusicological field research, including studying and performing the shamisen among geisha in Tokyo, with historical research. The book elaborates how musical art is an essential part of the identity of the Japanese geisha rather than a secondary feature, and locates current practice within a tradition of two and half centuries. The book opens by deconstructing the idea of 'geisha' as it functions in Western societies in order to understand why gei has been, and continues to be, neglected in geisha studies. Subsequent chapters detail the myriad musical genres and traditions with which geisha have been involved during their artistic history, as well as their position within the traditional arts society. Considering the current situation more closely, the final chapters explore actual dedication to art today by geisha, and analyse how they create impromptu performances at evening banquets. An important issue here is geisha-patron artistic collaboration, which leads to consideration of what Foreman argues to be the unique and essential nexus of identity, eroticism and aesthetics within the geisha world.

**The Pearl Diver** Anchor In 1948, a nineteen-year-old pearl diver's dreams of spending her life combing the waters of Japan's Inland Sea are shattered when she discovers she has leprosy. By law, she is exiled to an island leprosarium, where she is stripped of her dignity and instructed to forget her past. Her name is erased from her family records, and she is forced to select a new one. To the two thousand patients on the island of Nagashima, she becomes Miss Fuji. Although drugs arrest the course of Miss Fuji's disease, she cannot leave the colony. Instead, she becomes a caretaker to the other patients, and through the example of their courage, she gains insight into the deep

wellspring of strength she will need to reclaim her freedom. Written with precision and eloquence, *The Pearl Diver* is a dazzling meditation on isolation and community, cruelty and compassion. **The Ghost Brush** HarperPerennial Oei is the daughter of the great Japanese printmaker Hokusai. Long consigned to a minor role as gloomy sidekick, she is barely a footnote in the historical record. Here, Oei recounts her life with one of the great eccentrics of the 19th century. Dodging the Shogun's spies, she and Hokusai live amongst actors, novelists, tattoo artists and prostitutes, making the exquisite pictures that define their time. Disguised, they escape the city gates to view waves and Mount Fuji. But they return to enchanting, dangerous Edo (Tokyo), the largest city in the world. Wielding her brush, Oei defies all expectations of womanhood-- all but one. She is dutiful until death to the exasperating father who created her and, ultimately, steals her future. A breathtaking work of imagination, *The Ghost Brush* illuminates the most tender and ambiguous love of all--that between father and daughter.