



Peony in Love

By See, Lisa.

Random House. 1 Paperback(s), 2008. soft. Book Condition: New. On the verge of 16, a sheltered and unusually well educated girl of Qing dynasty China is allowed to see the epic opera The Peony Pavilion staged in her family's garden. She is betrothed to a man she has never met, but under the powerful spell of the three-evening performance she falls in love with a handsome stranger in the audience. Unwilling to live without him, she lets herself die, only to learn that the stranger was her intended. But this is just the beginning of her story. Incorporating actual works of Chinese literature, the author of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan and On Golden Mountain evokes 17th-century China as well as a spirit world of bureaucrats and ancestral obligations, women who must hide their literary powers, and hungry ghosts who influence the loved ones they've left to ensure their eternal rest. "A novel whose protagonist hangs, after death, from a room's rafters and climbs inside a rival's womb to untangle a child's umbilical cord, who dies of self-starvation and communes with the ghosts of her mother and grandmother, who pens a major commentary on a seemingly seditious text and ends..."



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