

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Lily is the second daughter of a farmer in Yoming County. The diviner predicts that she must have perfect golden lilies after her footbinding, so that Lily will be able to marry into a higher class family. To make sure the diviner is not joking, the diviner calls the best matchmaker in the best village, named Madame Wang. Madame Wang says the same as the diviner said to Lily's parents. She matches Lily with Snow Flower, the daughter of a wealthy family of privilege, who has the same birthday, same hour of birth, and the same foot size, to be her *laotong*, (old same) a lifelong friendship between women that is closer and deeper than marriage.

Lily and Snow Flower share all of their life experiences for 25 years, including the torture of footbinding, arranged marriages, and childbirth. After joining sisterhood, they are faced with their arranged marriages. After Lily gets married into the most wealthy family in the county, her characteristics change. Her society and family treats her differently than before because of her husband's power. She now has the authority to decide the best thing for her family, and, she even makes decisions for her *laotong*. That is totally different from previous habit, when Lily has to take decisions from her family and her *laotong*.

### Synopsis of Women of the Silk

Pei Ling is the first-born daughter of a Chinese peasant family. Although her mother has been pregnant several times, only Pei and her younger sister Li survive the early days after birth. When Pei turns eight, she is brought to a fortune teller by her father, together with her sister, Li. The fortune teller says that Pei is an unmarriageable daughter, so her father tricks her and sells her to an area of China known for its silk factories. She is unaware of what will happen to her when her father leaves; and that she has been sold and her parents will receive money for providing her as a silk worker in one of the silk factories.

Pei is at first shy and lonely but she slowly learns about her job well and makes friends with an older silk worker, Lin. After several years, when Lin and Pei become comfortable with their surroundings and situations, Pei chooses to be bound to the sisterhood of silk workers by taking part in the hair ceremony. Once this ceremony is over, Lin and Pei will not be free to marry or work elsewhere but promise their lives to the sisterhood of silk workers.

## **Biography of the Author**

### **Lisa See**

Lisa See was born on February 18, 1955 in Paris. See grew up in the Chinatown section of Los Angeles. Both her grandfather and mother were novelists. Her mother's name is Carolyn See, active in cultural affairs in the Los Angeles Chinese-American community. Lisa See's best work is Snow Flower and the Secret Fan. Lisa See is the author of the non-fiction family history On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Families and the novel Snow Flower and the Secret Fan. See is one-eighth Chinese, she grew up in Los Angeles surrounded by Chinese-American families. After an early career writing for Publishers Weekly and other magazines. See published her first book, On Gold Mountain, in 1995. The book was a success and See followed it up with three mystery novels set in China: Flower Net (1997), The Interior (1999) and Dragon Bones (2003). Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (2005) was her bestseller.

### **Gail Tsukiyama**

Gail Tsukiyama was born in San Francisco. Her mother was a Chinese immigrant, while her father was a Japanese from Hawaii. Gail Tsukiyama now lives in El Cerrito, California. She attended San Francisco State University, where she received both her Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in English, majoring in Creative Writing. Most of her college works were focused on poetry and she was the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Award. Between 1997 and 1999, she sat as a judge for the Kiriyaama Book Prize and

served as Book Review Editor for the Online magazine, The WaterBridge Review. In September 2001, she was one of fifty authors chosen by the Library of Congress to participate in the first National Book Festival in Washington D.C. and was invited to be a speaker at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival and the Sydney Writer's Festival. Her multicultural upbringing is reflected in her stories about Chinese women, about whom she has been writing since her first novel. Her novels include Dreaming Water, The Language of Threads, The Samurai's Garden, and Night of Many Dreams. Women of the Silk has become a bestseller; it launched Gail's successful writing life.