

APPENDIX

Summary of *Memoirs of a Geisha*

Chiyo's mother is dying, and her father is really old at the time Mr. Tanaka sells her and her sister to Gion. Chiyo is lucky enough to be sold to an okiya, a house of the geisha, as her older sister, Satsu, is sold to become a prostitute. When Chiyo tries to run away from her okiya, she fails and Mother, the owner of the okiya, does not want to invest in her anymore. Mother considers Chiyo a bad investment and she is only useful as a maid.

One day, when Chiyo is running errands in the city, she meets the Chairman. The Chairman greatly impresses her. After her encounter with the Chairman, Chiyo makes a promise that one day she will become a geisha. She hopes that by becoming a geisha, she can meet the Chairman again.

Mameha, the most famous geisha at that time, sees the bright future of Chiyo as a geisha. She takes Chiyo as her apprentice and changes her name into Sayuri. They struggle to fight against Hatsumomo. Mameha helps Sayuri to sell her virginity at an outstanding price at that time. Sayuri is finally adopted as a daughter and defeats Hatsumomo.

During World War II, Sayuri moves out from Gion. After the war has ended, she comes back to Gion and works as a geisha again. Later on, she finds out that it is

the Chairman that has encouraged Mameha to take her as a sister and help her to become a geisha. The Chairman becomes Sayuri's danna and takes her out from the okiya. Sayuri does not become the Chairman's wife; she is only the Chairman's mistress. Therefore, it will be troublesome for Sayuri if she has a child from the Chairman. She decides to move to America as the Chairman often makes a business trip to America.

Biography of the Author

Arthur Golden was born in December 6, 1956 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Arthur Golden struck out on his own after graduating from Harvard College with a degree in art history in 1978. He went on to earn a master's degree in Japanese history from Columbia University and then spent fourteen months in Japan before returning to the U.S. and getting a master's in English from Boston University. He started his literary career when he was twenty-six years old.

After fifteen years of hard work, Arthur Golden finally manages to finish his first novel, *Memoirs of a Geisha*. He rewrote the *Memoirs of a Geisha* for several times before finally he used first person point of view, Sayuri's point of view. He made this novel based on his interview with Mineko Iwasaki, who was once a geisha. He was sued by Iwasaki because he broke the agreement to keep the source of his novel anonymous as Iwasaki is not supposed to tell anybody her story when she was a geisha. Sayuri and her story is Golden's invention, mixed by historical facts of a geisha's life between 1930 and 1940. *Memoirs of a Geisha* is Golden's first novel. Another book that he has written together with some other

writers is *Leaves of Grass: A Textual Variorum of the Printed Poems (Volumes 1-3)*.

Golden now lives with his wife and two children in Brookline, Massachusetts. He is still writing his new novel about a boy in Amsterdam who comes to the U.S. after the death of his father and ends up, after considerable struggle, as a successful businessman.