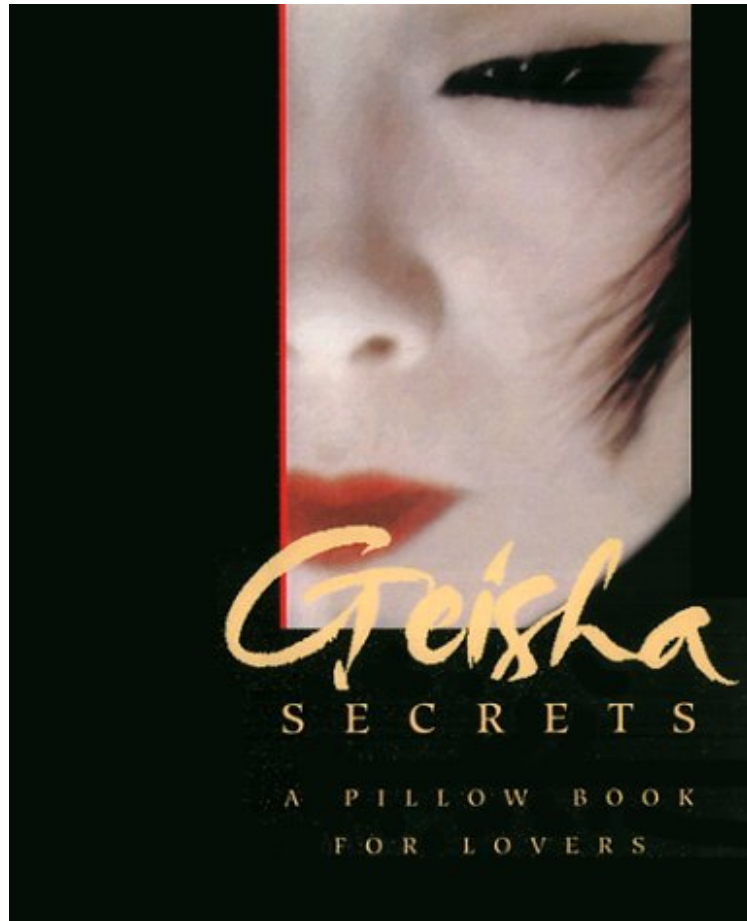


(Download pdf) Geisha Secrets: A Pillow Book for Lovers

Geisha Secrets: A Pillow Book for Lovers

Miranda Reigns, Anonymous

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Miranda Reigns, Anonymous : Geisha Secrets: A Pillow Book for Lovers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Geisha Secrets: A Pillow Book for Lovers:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Pretty, Misleading and NOT for the PrudishBy N. DiazI received this book as a present and sits within my collection of geisha books...but unfortunately - unlike my other books, I was quite disapointed with it. The layout and cover of this book though, is quite unique - a refreshing change...and the artwork in it is beautiful, that is of course - if you can appreciate erotic prints!The book itself, is divided into two sections. The 'Public Face' of the geisha and the 'Private Face' of the geisha. The information you will find in the 'Public Face' is nothing new to those whom are familiar with other geisha books - namely 'Geisha' by Liza Dalby - but for those who are new to the world of geisha...it provides decent information.It was the "Private Face" of the geisha that I found myself angry about. I am by no means a prude and I appreciate shunga prints...but the use of shunga prints in this book I felt was VERY misleading. These shunga prints are NOT of geisha - but rather, they are of courtesans of the pleasure quarters- tayu, yujo or oiran.After reading this book, I felt that it only fed even more to the misconception that the western world have of geishas - that they are just mere prostitutes catering to the every whim of men - rather

than them being accomplished and serious artisans. I really do think that more thought and researching should have been put in this book rather than a quick throw together to cash in on the "geisha wave". 25 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Great as Fiction, not as Fact...By AxeTopher I bought this book under the assumption that it was non-fiction. From the other reviews I figured there wouldn't be a whole lot of new information, but any tidbit of new information was worth it for me. I am sorry to say that though the book is laid out in a very artistic and imaginative manner, that's about it. Upon opening the book, I noticed that there aren't any photographs that's okay, but the watercolors were blatantly incorrect. The geisha are wearing the kimonos wrong (its right side under left side for the living). Only dead people wear them in the way depicted on pages 6, 10, and 16. It isn't that the images were accidentally reversed either. In the same picture, the artist depicts both the correct and incorrect way of wearing the kimono, both on live people. This made me suspicious of the book. I think rightly so. The author makes sweeping generalizations, All Japanese artists are aware of the traditions (This is on page 12. All is not a word you want to use in non-fiction, unless you mean it. I realize this is trivial, but as I say I was suspicious, so this bothered me.) Next they say, obi are tied in front by geisha, in the back by maiko (This on page 13). Hmm, all the other literature on geisha state that geisha NEVER tie their obi in the front but you know, courtesans, oiran do. Page 15 states that kanzashi were INTENDED for self-protection. I do not know for a fact that they weren't, but if this is so, then why were kanzashi made of fragile materials like tortoise shell, or malleable metals like gold and silver? I don't know much about shunga (erotic prints), but as none of them were credited to any Japanese artists maybe they aren't Japanese at all like the watercolors in the first section? I don't know, but based on the strangeness of part one, maybe they aren't. In summation, this is a great book if someone is looking to be titillated and doesn't really care about the veracity of the facts. I was really disappointed, but then again, this is only my opinion. I bought the book expecting one thing when it was another. I suppose if I had bought it for the layout or for some other reason other than the desire for factual information, it might have been great. I apologize if I am wrong, and the book is entirely factually correct. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full of embarrassing inaccuracies...By Rufina Clow It should be noted 'pillow book' refers most specifically to a work by Sei Shonagon, a court lady of the Heian Era. The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon (Makura no soshi) was written sometime in the late 900s-early 1000s and is a collection of notes and personal thoughts about Heian court life, a diary. To my knowledge 'pillow book' is not commonly used as a general term and does not typically describe an erotic work. This glaring error as well as the others previous reviewers have mentioned should call into question the veracity of this book. If one simply wants to look at Japanese erotic (of questionable authenticity) then this book will suffice. If one is looking for accurate depictions of geisha or true antique Japanese erotica one would be advised to look elsewhere.

The world of Japanese geisha culture has long commanded worldwide interest and fascination. A document of this culture, as well as an exercise in erotic tradition, the "pillow book," was first used during Japan's Kamakura period (1192-1333). It then developed into a wider range of boudoir literature. Others became illustrated portfolios, or shunga, traditional Japanese erotic art that recalls great eighteenth-century masters such as Hokusai and Utamaro, as well as today's popular Manga comics. These pillow books were used by courtesans and geishas to aid sexual exploration, and throughout history also became a cultural guide to the world of the geisha, describing training, dress, makeup, and style, both public and private. This book brings the world of the geisha to us in glorious vibrancy through its topics of the history of the geisha tradition, the rigors of the geisha apprenticeship, the significance of the kimono, and the meticulous care of the daily routine and cosmetics; the perfection of skills of ceremony, dance, and music, and the significance of misuage, loss of virginity and the role of the danna, or patron. Filled with the facts of formal tradition and ritual along with erotic symbolism makes *Geisha Secrets* a must for aficionados of classic erotica and for anyone else who wishes to preserve the rapidly vanishing world of the geisha.