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Geisha

Kyoko Aihara

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Kyoko Aihara : Geisha before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Geisha:

This book takes the reader into the enigmatic world of Kyoto's geisha. These elaborately dressed, heavily made-up Japanese women have held a fascination for the Western world for many years. Many have misconstrued their role as purely sexual when, in fact, the life of a maiko (apprentice) or geiko (geisha) is far more complex. The book covers the diverse artistic skills they develop; the distinctive "look" they adopt, and how it is achieved through make up, dress and hair styling; the rituals and traditions they observe and their relationships with other sections of Japanese society. The last section looks at the role of the geisha in modern society and how their position has been affected by economic crises, war and occupation and the impact of Western perceptions of geisha. Written by a Japanese writer who has had unprecedented access to Kyoto's geisha community, this is a unique study of these enigmatic women.

About the Author Kyoko Aihara was born in Yokohama in Japan. As a freelance journalist she has had articles published in many Japanese and European newspapers and magazines. Kyoko's contacts among the geisha in Kyoto made her uniquely placed to write this stunning book.