

Ancestors The Story Of China Told Through The Lives Of An Extraordinary Family 900 Years In The Life Of A Chinese Family

While official Chinese history has always been written from a centrist viewpoint, *Ancestors* describes the intersection of imperial administration and chieftain-dominated local culture in the culturally diverse southwestern region of China. Contemplating the rhetorical question of how one can begin to rewrite the story of a conquered people whose past was never transcribed in the first place, the authors combine anthropological fieldwork with historical textual analysis to build a new regional history – one that recognizes the ethnic, religious, and gendered transformations that took place in China's nation-building process.

What is there of Jewish interest to see in Bombay? In Casablanca? Where are the kosher restaurants in Seattle? How did the Jewish community in Hong Kong originate? *The Jewish Traveler: Hadassah Magazine's Guide to the World's Jewish Communities and Sights* provides this information and much more.

The complete book of Chinese characters that covers every aspect of, and therefore answers all the questions one might have for, these fascinating ancient language symbols from script evolution to colour-illustrated biographies including proper Stroke sequences and from the complete Compound anatomy to the trinity of Sounds, Semantics, and Synopses. This series of books is the ultimate guide and reference for first-time learners as well as masters of the language. It is for

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both the teachers and self-motivated students. This is the 1st volume of the series, covering the 1st 100 most frequently used Chinese characters as presented with their full colour illustrations and arranged in columns from right to left on the front cover. For its extensive colour illustrations throughout, this book is best read with a colour screen reader.

An extraordinary exploration of the ancestry of Britain through seven burial sites. By using new advances in genetics and taking us through important archaeological discoveries, Professor Alice Roberts helps us better understand life today.

'This is a terrific, timely and transporting book - taking us heart, body and mind beyond history, to the fascinating truth of the prehistoric past and the present' Bettany Hughes We often think of Britain springing from nowhere with the arrival of the Romans. But in *Ancestors*, pre-eminent archaeologist, broadcaster and academic Professor Alice Roberts explores what we can learn about the very earliest Britons, from burial sites and by using new technology to analyse ancient DNA. Told through seven fascinating burial sites, this groundbreaking prehistory of Britain teaches us more about ourselves and our history: how people came and went and how we came to be on this island. It explores forgotten journeys and memories of migrations long ago, written into genes and preserved in the ground for thousands of years. This is a book about belonging: about walking in ancient places, in the footsteps of the ancestors. It explores our interconnected global ancestry, and the human experience that binds us all together. It's about reaching back in time, to find ourselves, and our place in the world.

'A learned, wise, wonderfully written single volume history of a civilisation that I knew I should know more about' Tom Holland 'Masterful and engrossing...well-paced, eminently readable and well-timed. A must-read for those who want - and need - to know about the China of yesterday, today and

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tomorrow' Peter Frankopan China's story is extraordinarily rich and dramatic. Now Michael Wood, one of the UK's pre-eminent historians, brings it all together in a major new one-volume history of China that is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand its burgeoning role in our world today. China is the oldest living civilisation on earth, but its history is still surprisingly little known in the wider world. Michael Wood's sparkling narrative, which mingles the grand sweep with local and personal stories, woven together with the author's own travel journals, is an enthralling account of China's 4000-year-old tradition, taking in life stationed on the Great Wall or inside the Forbidden City. The story is enriched with the latest archaeological and documentary discoveries; correspondence and court cases going back to the Qin and Han dynasties; family letters from soldiers in the real-life Terracotta Army; stories from Silk Road merchants and Buddhist travellers, along with memoirs and diaries of emperors, poets and peasants. In the modern era, the book is full of new insights, with the electrifying manifestos of the feminist revolutionaries Qiu Jin and He Zhen, extraordinary eye-witness accounts of the Japanese invasion, the Great Famine and the Cultural Revolution under Chairman Mao, and fascinating newly published sources for the great turning points in China's modern history, including the Tiananmen Square crisis of 1989, and the new order of President Xi Jinping. A compelling portrait of a single civilisation over an immense period of time, the book is full of intimate detail and colourful voices, taking us from the desolate Mongolian steppes to the ultra-modern world of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. It also asks what were the forces that have kept China together for so long? Why was China overtaken by the west after the 18th century? What lies behind China's extraordinary rise today? The Story of China tells a thrilling story of intense drama, fabulous creativity and deep

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humanity; a portrait of a country that will be of the greatest importance to the world in the twenty-first century.

Addressing the explosive growth in ancestral travel, this compelling narrative combines intriguing tales of discovery with tips on how to begin your own explorations. Actor and award-winning travel writer Andrew McCarthy's featured story recounts his recent quest to uncover his family's Irish history, while twenty-five other prominent writers tell their own heartfelt stories of connection. Spanning the globe, these stories offer personal takes on journeying home, whether the authors are actively seeking long-lost relatives, meeting up with seldom-seen family members, or perhaps just visiting the old country to get a feel for their roots. Sidebars and a hefty resource section provide tips and recommendations on how to go about your own research, and a foreword by the Genographic Project's Spencer Wells sets the scene. Stunning images, along with family heirlooms, old photos, recipes, and more, round out this unique take on the genealogical research craze.

A work on Chinese concepts of the afterlife. It explores how Chinese authors, including Daoists and non-Buddhists, received and deployed ideas about rebirth from the third to the sixth centuries CE. In tracing the antecedents of these scriptures, it presents non-Buddhist accounts that provide detail on the realms of the dead.

Glowing, full-color watercolor illustrations capture the essence of the ancient Chinese tale, which predates the familiar Western story of Cinderella.

My ancestors once own a "Kingdom" in ancient China.

This 'kingdom' has its founding amid embers of destruction at the dawn of a new dynastic civilization.

The only warrior Ancestor of my direct lineage is also the founding Ancestor. His descendants go on to procreate

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many lineages throughout China over three millennia. Along the journey, someone loses the “Kingdom”. Of course, there are collateral great Ancestors but this book’s narration is on stories of my direct Ancestors along my direct lineage. And not just about every Ancestors, or any. Only the LOH legends are told. Their stories are narrated against their days’ historical background. It commences from China’s pre-historic tribal nomadic migration through Ancient and Imperial China, and subsequently to the Hakka Diaspora. Drawing on the sun, moon, dragon, phoenix, Nuwa, Yandi, Huangdi and other widely circulated cultural elements as examples, this book addresses the development and evolution of the most representative Chinese creation myths regarding nature, totems, ancestors and saints. The book not only interprets key creation myths, but also elaborates on the connection between the myths and some of the core values and concepts in Chinese civilization. For example, the long and jade culture is rooted in the Yellow Emperor’s revered jade weapon. Further, the book reveals the kernels of truth in the myths by presenting new research findings and research methods.

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"An indispensable reference. Ferguson has given us an impeccable and very readable translation."---John Daido Loori --

From the ninth century on, there was an indigenous Jewish community in the city of Kaifeng in northeastern China. Separated by thousands of miles from the rest of

the world, and largely cut off from contact with the main centers of Jewish life, the Kaifeng Jews developed a distinctive culture that was unquestionably Jewish, but progressively absorbed Chinese elements. Their greatest problem was not separation from other Jews so much as the openness and tolerance of Chinese society. Intermarriages occurred frequently, and Jews were fully accepted as merchants, government officials, and neighbors. Over time, they were so completely assimilated that few of their descendants carry any memory of Jewish ancestry and physically look much like other Chinese. The story of the Kaifeng Jews is dramatic and colorful, and offers many profound lessons. It will be indispensable to anyone interested in Jewish or Chinese history.

In this tale of ancient China, Persimmon, daughter of a Jewish mold-maker and a Chinese woman, becomes a famous panda painter. Living in the forest of Chengdu Province, she adopts Bampo an orphaned panda bear, but what she has done is illegal, as only members of the royal family can own panda bears. But she has treated Prince Ting Ling with a secret potion when he was gored by a wild boar in the forest of Chengdu. The prince recovered in his palace. His soldiers are sent far and wide to find the girl who saved his life but to no avail. The poacher Che Tu Wa knows that she is living in a little cottage in the forest with her amah and alerts the authorities that the girl has a pet panda bear. Persimmon is arrested and her sentence is to be beheaded. Just then Prince Ting Ling arrives at the court house. He recognizes Persimmon as the young lady who saved his

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life with the secret potion. He requests a reprieve for the forest girl and offers to marry her. She agrees, providing she can keep Bampo and the story ends happily. A charming fairy tale set in ancient China with a Jewish twist. Gathered amid other children, Ping Ling listens as her grandmother tells the story of their famous ancestor Persimmon. It's a genuinely charming opening, and as Ping Ling's grandmother narrates, the authors make the reader aware of the importance of the very act of storytelling. Persimmon was the daughter of a Jewish mold-maker and a Han Chinese woman in the third century B.C. She inherits her father's aesthetic prowess and becomes an excellent panda portraitist. She lives in the forest for inspiration and takes care of a panda named Bampo—a pet reserved only for royalty.

Persimmon, no royal herself, happens to save Prince Tin Ling's life one day in the forest, and after he recovers in his palace he searches for the girl that came to his rescue. Meanwhile, Persimmon is in dire legal straits for having taken a panda as her pet and must stand trial for her crime, facing a possible death sentence. The resolution is fairy tale perfect, and Ping Ling and her playmates are gratified by the tale; the reader will be too, as the prose and Kanowick's simple, black-and-white illustrations are equally charming. But for readers unaware of Judaism's surprisingly long (if limited) history in China, some integrated background or a simple preface would have enhanced the book's broader appeal. A brief sketch of a famous example such as the Kaifeng community or a relevant history of the Silk Road would've sufficed. There is a playful historical reference

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when Persimmon's father is commissioned by the emperor to build his terra cotta army, and these touches enhance the historical reality while still engaging in the story's allegorical elements that promote love and loyalty. There's not a word too many in this slim, enjoyable volume, which is great for children not afraid of a little history. A pleasing children's story featuring characters with a unique, intriguing cultural background.

- Kirkus Discoveries Review

Frank Ching brings to life 900 years of Chinese history through his own fascinating family tree. Beginning with his search for the grave of his first recorded ancestor, the 11th century poet Qin Guan, and ending with a moving account of his relationship with his father, a victim of China's historic upheaval, Frank Ching introduces a colourful cast of characters. His unbroken family line includes - among many others - a lovelorn concubine, a traitor, a military hero, an imperial ghost-writer, a minister of punishments and a woman noted for her skills in both verse and martial arts. There is scarcely an aspect of Chinese life, from shamanism to violent rebellion, that Ching doesn't touch upon in this fascinating work. Through his vivid and personal portraits of his ancestors the history of China itself unfolds: from the days of the ancient empire to its radical transformation today.

A single volume history of China, offering a look into the past of the global superpower and its significance today. Michael Wood has travelled the length and breadth of China, the world's oldest civilization and longest lasting state, to tell a thrilling story of intense drama, fabulous creativity, and deep humanity that stretches back thousands of years. After a century and a half of foreign invasion, civil war, and revolution, China has once again returned to center stage as a global superpower and the world's second largest

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economy. But how did it become so dominant? Wood argues that in order to comprehend the great significance of China today, we must begin with its history. The Story of China takes a fresh look at the Middle Kingdom in the light of the recent massive changes inside the country. Taking into account exciting new archeological discoveries, the book begins with China's prehistory—the early dynasties, the origins of the Chinese state, and the roots of Chinese culture in the age of Confucius. Wood looks at particular periods and themes that are now being reevaluated by historians, such as the renaissance of the Song with its brilliant scientific discoveries. He paints a vibrant picture of the Qing Empire in the 18th century, just before the European impact, a time when China's rich and diverse culture was at its height. Then, Wood explores the encounter with the West, the Opium Wars, the clashes with the British, and the extraordinarily rich debates in the late 19th century that pushed China along the path to modernity. Finally, he provides a clear up-to-date account of post-1949 China, including revelations about the 1989 crisis based on newly leaked inside documents, and fresh insights into the new order of President Xi Jinping. All woven together with landscape history and the author's own travel journals, The Story of China is the indispensable book about the most intriguing and powerful country on the world stage today.

While official Chinese history has always been written from a centrist viewpoint, *Ancestors* describes the intersection of imperial administration and chieftain-dominated local culture in the culturally diverse southwestern region of China. Contemplating the rhetorical question of how one can begin to rewrite the story of a conquered people whose past was never transcribed in the first place, the authors combine anthropological fieldwork with historical textual analysis to build a new regional history one that

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recognizes the ethnic, religious, and gendered transformations that took place in China's nation-building process.

As the world continues to evolve in unpredictable directions, but the Portuguese economy remains predictably in permanent decline, as it has been for centuries since the fall from world first place, there is a search for explanations, solutions and answers that seem apparently nonexistent. An analysis of the past reveals numerous causes for the fall of a nation, but this study shows equally or more relevant as the observation of new emerging nations. Against this backdrop, China now presents itself as an example of good economy and society to the Portuguese, even though also in this attitude they are behind many others, which have already passed this stage and start looking for a new possibility in the future post China. The Portuguese investments in the east have been increasing in the same way as before the trade settled in the Lusophone countries like Brazil, Angola and Mozambique. But is this Chinese reality so promising? Many studies conducted in China have overlooked extremely important details that dictate the real scenario of this country. It is based on this hidden truth that this book seeks to portray what really is going on in this new world number one.

Although comparing two distinct situations, of two countries also very different in dimensions, there is here further study, such as what two large empires may enable understanding. From the fall of the world longest empire, as is the case of Portugal, to the emergence of a new empire risen from the ashes and poverty, as it's China's situation, much there is to compare in order to achieve better predictions about markets and economies in the world scenario. Thus, this book shows itself highly relevant and necessary for businessmen and politicians of any country, seeking to establish trade and investment with China, but also for those who want to live and work in this country. This work does not hide many of the

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most perverse situations of this modern nation and the Chinese way of thinking towards the West, to evidence what the Chinese actually plan for the entire planet. It's an opportunity to get to know this country deeply and what it represents for the future of humanity. This work is based on a study of more than six years, held in various cities from north to south, and consists of numerous interviews with citizens of both countries. But, still presents comparisons relative to other European and Asian countries, mainly in the area of business. This work reveals the truth hidden by the media and fantasy films about the east, beyond the legends, Chinese stories and philosophies, which represent a false image of China, which today exists hidden behind the shadow of the past.

A Chinese-American journalist traces his family roots back nine hundred years, from the twelfth century to the present, in a personal genealogical quest that parallels the political and social history of the Chinese civilization

From the Preface: 'Buddhism is a religion which must be viewed from many angles. Its original form, as preached by Gautama in India and developed in the early years succeeding, and as embodied in the sacred literature of early Buddhism, is not representative of the actual Buddhism of any land today. The faithful student of Buddhist literature would be as far removed from understanding the working activities of a busy center of Buddhism in Burmah, Tibet or China today as a student of patristic literature would be from appreciating the Christian life of London or New York City.'

"Gripping . . . Chang has accomplished the seemingly impossible . . . He has written a remarkably rich, human, and compelling story of the railroad Chinese." — Peter Cozzens, Wall Street Journal

A groundbreaking, breathtaking history of the Chinese workers who built the Transcontinental Railroad, helping to forge modern America only to disappear into the

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shadows of history until now From across the sea, they came by the thousands, escaping war and poverty in southern China to seek their fortunes in America. Converging on the enormous western worksite of the Transcontinental Railroad, the migrants spent years dynamiting tunnels through the snow-packed cliffs of the Sierra Nevada and laying tracks across the burning Utah desert. Their sweat and blood fueled the ascent of an interlinked, industrial United States. But those of them who survived this perilous effort would suffer a different kind of death: a historical one, as they were pushed first to the margins of American life and then to the fringes of public memory. In this groundbreaking account, award-winning scholar Gordon H. Chang draws on unprecedented research to recover the Chinese railroad workers' stories and celebrate their role in remaking America. An invaluable correction of a great historical injustice, *The Ghosts of Gold Mountain* returns these "silent spikes" to their rightful place in our national saga. "The lived experience of the Railroad Chinese has long been elusive . . . Chang's book is a moving effort to recover their stories and honor their indispensable contribution to the building of modern America." — *New York Times*

First published in 1937. *The Book of Songs* is a collection of ancient Chinese songs, dating from 800 to 600 B.C. Until this was published in 1937 it had not been translated into English since the middle of nineteenth century, when sinology was still in its infancy. For the first time the original meaning of 290 out of the 305 songs is given, use being made of the advances in the study of old Chinese. The result is not merely a clear picture of early Chinese life, but also the restoration to its proper place in world literature of one of the finest collection of traditional songs.

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In this volume, Mu-chou Poo offers a new overview of daily life in ancient China. Synthesizing a range of textual and archaeological materials, he brings a thematic approach to the topic that enables a multi-faceted understanding of the ideological, economical, legal, social, and emotional aspects of life in ancient China. The volume focuses on the Han period and examines key topics such as government organization and elite ideology, urban and country life, practical technology, leisure and festivity, and death and burial customs. Written in clear and engaging prose, this volume serves as a useful introduction to the culture and society of ancient China. It also enables students to better understand the construction of history and to reflect critically on the nature of historical writing.

In recent years, China has produced a wealth of hominid fossils that shed new light on the course of human evolution. This book--the first comprehensive treatment of these fossil finds--offers a brief description of Chinese paleoanthropology and documents all major Chinese sites. Original translations of Chinese-language materials and new analyses of numerous fossils are included. Each fossil description includes the fossil name and location of site; how, when, and by whom it was found; a detailed description; archaeological remains at the site; and floral and faunal content of the site. Students and researchers in human evolution, evolutionary biology, evolutionary anatomy, and archaeology will welcome this much-needed guide to a remarkable treasure trove of fossil remains.

Li Li Wang is enjoying Chinese New Year with her family

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when her grandparents ask her to sit with them. Before giving Li Li her holiday gift, they tell her the story of Ting Ting Wang, Li Li's ancestor, and how she became a Chinese hero. Li Li carefully listens as her grandparents tell her about Ting Ting, the monster Nian, and the origin of the Chinese New Year celebration. Ting Ting, the Girl Who Saved China provides insight into China's biggest holiday, gives a sense of its culture, and shows that girls are just as strong and brave as boys.

This study deals primarily with Ch'inan, a village in northern Taiwan whose residents belong to one ethnic group: Hokkien-speaking Chinese whose ancestors made the journey from the southeast coast of mainland China over 200 years ago. It deals almost exclusively with the complex of institutions associated with the care and management of the dead. The book covers the history of Ch'inan, and how the village is organized today, making use of historical records, such as lineage genealogies. Sociological correlates of ancestor worship in ancestral halls and before domestic altars are examined. The darker side of ancestor worship is also explored, in which the dead stand out as dangerous creatures capable of harming or frightening the living. Perspective is then expanded to other parts of Taiwan, to consider how the form of the community affects the cult of the ancestors, how different reciprocal obligations between the living the dead affect ancestor worship, and in what ways people react to the obligations of ancestor worship.

'A learned, wise, wonderfully written single volume history of a civilisation that I knew I should know more

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about' Tom Holland 'Masterful and engrossing...well-paced, eminently readable and well-timed. A must-read for those who want – and need – to know about the China of yesterday, today and tomorrow' Peter Frankopan China's story is extraordinarily rich and dramatic. Now Michael Wood, one of the UK's pre-eminent historians, brings it all together in a major new one-volume history of China that is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand its burgeoning role in our world today. China is the oldest living civilisation on earth, but its history is still surprisingly little known in the wider world. Michael Wood's sparkling narrative, which mingles the grand sweep with local and personal stories, woven together with the author's own travel journals, is an enthralling account of China's 4000-year-old tradition, taking in life stationed on the Great Wall or inside the Forbidden City. The story is enriched with the latest archaeological and documentary discoveries; correspondence and court cases going back to the Qin and Han dynasties; family letters from soldiers in the real-life Terracotta Army; stories from Silk Road merchants and Buddhist travellers, along with memoirs and diaries of emperors, poets and peasants. In the modern era, the book is full of new insights, with the electrifying manifestos of the feminist revolutionaries Qiu Jin and He Zhen, extraordinary eye-witness accounts of the Japanese invasion, the Great Famine and the Cultural Revolution under Chairman Mao, and fascinating newly published sources for the great turning points in China's modern history, including the Tiananmen Square crisis of 1989, and the new order of President Xi Jinping. A

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compelling portrait of a single civilisation over an immense period of time, the book is full of intimate detail and colourful voices, taking us from the desolate Mongolian steppes to the ultra-modern world of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. It also asks what were the forces that have kept China together for so long? Why was China overtaken by the west after the 18th century? What lies behind China's extraordinary rise today? The Story of China tells a thrilling story of intense drama, fabulous creativity and deep humanity; a portrait of a country that will be of the greatest importance to the world in the twenty-first century.

Christianity is often praised as an agent of Chinese modernization or damned as a form of cultural and religious imperialism. In both cases, Christianity's foreignness and the social isolation of converts have dominated this debate. Eugenio Menegon uncovers another story. In the sixteenth century, European missionaries brought a foreign and global religion to China. Converts then transformed this new religion into a local one over the course of the next three centuries. Focusing on the still-active Catholic communities of Fuan county in northeast Fujian, this project addresses three main questions. Why did people convert? How did converts and missionaries transform a global and foreign religion into a local religion? What does Christianity's localization in Fuan tell us about the relationship between late imperial Chinese society and religion? Based on an impressive array of sources from Asia and Europe, this pathbreaking book reframes our understanding of Christian missions in Chinese-Western

relations. The study's implications extend beyond the issue of Christianity in China to the wider fields of religious and social history and the early modern history of global intercultural relations. The book suggests that Christianity became part of a preexisting pluralistic, local religious space, and argues that we have so far underestimated late imperial society's tolerance for "heterodoxy." The view from Fuan offers an original account of how a locality created its own religious culture in Ming-Qing China within a context both global and local, and illuminates the historical dynamics contributing to the remarkable growth of Christian communities in present-day China.

The renowned biologist and thinker Richard Dawkins presents his most expansive work yet: a comprehensive look at evolution, ranging from the latest developments in the field to his own provocative views. Loosely based on the form of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Dawkins's *Tale* takes us modern humans back through four billion years of life on our planet. As the pilgrimage progresses, we join with other organisms at the forty "rendezvous points" where we find a common ancestor. The band of pilgrims swells into a vast crowd as we join first with other primates, then with other mammals, and so on back to the first primordial organism. Dawkins's brilliant, inventive approach allows us to view the connections between ourselves and all other life in a bracingly novel way. It also lets him shed bright new light on the most compelling aspects of evolutionary history and theory: sexual selection, speciation, convergent evolution, extinction, genetics, plate tectonics, geographical

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dispersal, and more. The Ancestor's Tale is at once a far-reaching survey of the latest, best thinking on biology and a fascinating history of life on Earth. Here Dawkins shows us how remarkable we are, how astonishing our history, and how intimate our relationship with the rest of the living world.

“A rich, sensual, bewitching adventure of good vs. evil with love as the prize.” ~Publisher's Weekly on ETERNITY 300 years ago, Raven St. James was hanged for witchcraft. But she revives among the dead to find herself alive. She is an Immortal High Witch, one of the light. A note from her mother warns that there are others, those of the Dark, who preserve their own lives by taking the hearts of those like her. Duncan Wallace's forbidden love for the secretive lass costs him his life. 300 years later, he loves her again, tormented by hazy memories of a past that can't be real. She tells him of another lifetime, claims to be immortal. Though he knows she's deluded, he can't stay away. And the Dark Witch after her heart is far closer than either of them know. If you liked the TV Series HIGHLANDER, you will LOVE this series. Don't miss Book 2, INFINITY. “A hauntingly beautiful story of a love that endures through time itself.” ~New York Times Bestselling Author, Kay Hooper “This captivating story of a love that reaches across the centuries, becomes as immortal as the lover's themselves, resonates with timeless passion, powerful magic, and haunting heartbreak.” ~BN.com's official review

A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother who came to the United

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States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the transcontinental railroad.

It is 350 years after the events of *The Five Ancestors*. Phoenix Collins lives in Indiana with his grandfather who is teaching him kung fu. But Phoenix's real love is mountain bike racing. When unsettling events reveal that his grandfather is not only one of the legendary five Cangzhen monks, but also almost 400 years old, Phoenix must race the clock if he is going to keep his beloved ancestor alive. Traveling to China, he meets an intriguing young woman who is a talented biker and a terrific mechanic. She offers to help him, but can she be trusted?

In the second book of the *Jannah Jewels Series*, the girls are caught and thrown aboard the ship of Zheng He, the famous Chinese Muslim Admiral. Caught in a lightning thunderstorm, they must sail in raging waters to retrieve a rare medicine plant. Can the *Jannah Jewels* escape the fiery arrows of pirates and make it safely back home?

¶ If my present reader happens to be a Boy Scout or a scout-master who wants the scouts to build a tower for exhibition purposes, he can do so by following the directions here given, but if there is real necessity for haste in the erection of this tower, of course we cannot build one as tall as we might where we have more time. With a small tower all the joints may be quickly lashed together with strong, heavy twine, rope, or even wire; and in the wilderness it will probably be necessary to bind the joints with pliable roots, or cordage made of bark or withes; but as this is not a book on woodcraft we will suppose that the reader has secured the proper

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material for fastening the joints of the frame of this signal-tower and he must now shoulder his axe and go to the woods in order to secure the necessary timber. First let him cut eight straight poles—that is, as straight as he can find them. These poles should be about four and one half inches in diameter at their base and sixteen and one half feet long. After all the branches are trimmed off the poles, cut four more sticks each nine feet long and two and a half or three inches in diameter at the base; when these are trimmed into shape one will need twenty six or seven more stout sticks each four and one half feet long for braces and for flooring for the platform.

Frank Ching brings to life 900 years of Chinese history through his own fascinating family tree. Beginning with his search for the grave of his first recorded ancestor, the 11th century poet Qin Quan, and ending with a moving account of his relationship with his father, a victim of China's historic upheaval, Frank Ching introduces a colourful cast of characters. His unbroken family line includes - among many others - a lovelorn concubine, a traitor, a military hero, an imperial ghost-writer, a minister of punishments and a woman noted for her skills in both verse and martial arts. There is scarcely an aspect of Chinese life, from shamanism to violent rebellion, that Ching doesn't touch upon in this fascinating work.

Through his vivid and personal portraits of his ancestors the history of China itself unfolds- from the days of the ancient empire to its radical transformation today.

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