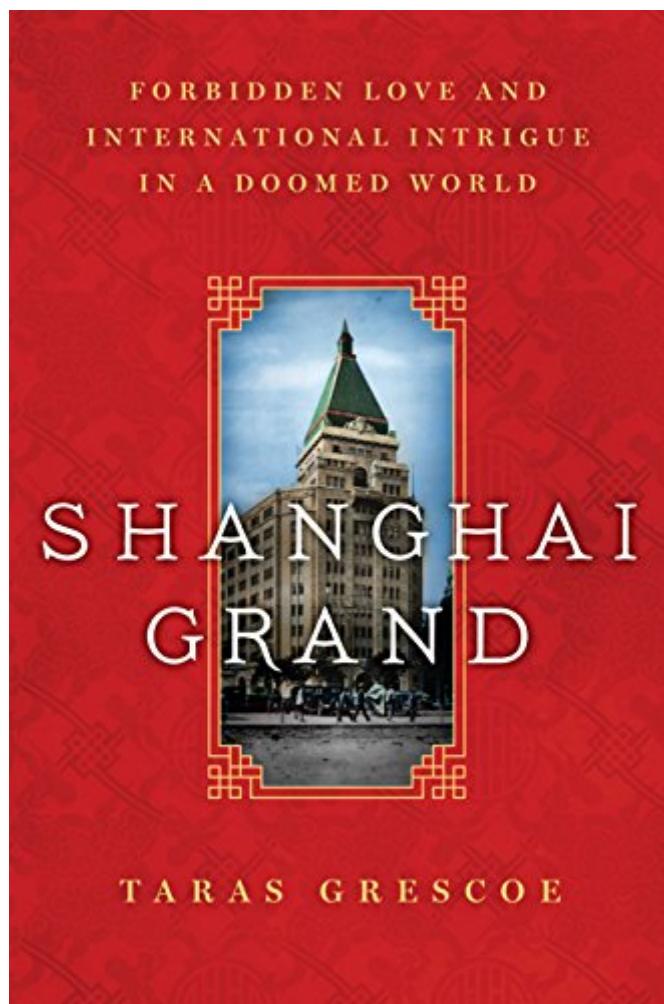


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Shanghai Grand: Forbidden Love And International Intrigue In A Doomed World



Synopsis

On the eve of WWII, the foreign-controlled port of Shanghai was the rendezvous for the twentieth century's most outlandish adventurers, all under the watchful eye of the fabulously wealthy Sir Victor Sassoon. ??Emily Hahn was a legendary New Yorker writer who would cover China for nearly fifty years, and play an integral part in opening Asia up to the West. But at the height of the Depression, "Mickey" Hahn, had just arrived in Shanghai nursing a broken heart after a disappointing affair with an alcoholic Hollywood screenwriter, convinced she would never love again. After entering Sassoon's glamorous Cathay Hotel, Hahn is absorbed into the social swirl of the expats drawn to pre-war China, among them Ernest Hemingway, Martha Gellhorn, Harold Acton, and the colourful gangster named Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen. But when she meets Zau Sinmay, a Chinese poet from an illustrious family, she discovers the real Shanghai through his eyes: the city of rich colonials, triple agents, opium-smokers, displaced Chinese peasants, and increasingly desperate White Russian and Jewish refugeesÃ¢â'¬â" a place her innate curiosity will lead her to discover first hand. But danger lurks on the horizon and Mickey barely makes it out alive as the brutal Japanese occupation destroys the seductive world of pre-war Shanghai and Mao Tse-tung's Communists come to power in China.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A tour de force of Shanghai during its romantic and intriguing early/mid nineteenth century period when it became a magnet for the world's elite and a haven for the displaced from Europe. A frequent visitor to the now Peace Hotel, née Cathay, I can attest to its magnificence. Yet one would be remiss without a visit to Shanghai's iconic synagogue founded by the refugees from Nazi persecution.

I wonder if it is still possible for adventurous expats to live so large in today's world -- anywhere? Very entertaining -- until, of course, WWII turns the story quite dark.

Exceedingly well constructed history of Shanghai organized around the very interesting lives of three major players there in the period between the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

A wonderful exciting book

Fascinating biography and history lesson in one.

Well written and very informative.

Yes. It did. Historically and vivid.

wonderfulLove Israel

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