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## Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

by Lisa See

### Source: NovelList

#### **Ruthanne Lum McCunn, *The Moon Pearl* (2000)**

In China's Pearl River Delta in the 1830s, three young women decide to flout tradition and refuse their arranged marriages, proposing to work and remain spinsters instead. The story is based in the little-known spinster movement in nineteenth-century China, and, like *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, gives us a glimpse into nearly-forgotten female history.

#### **Justin Hill, *Passing Under Heaven* (2004)**

This novel is based on the story of China's greatest woman poet, Yu Xuanji, who began life as the daughter of a concubine and lived a life of both high art and deep passions during the Tang dynasty. This well-written novel won the 2005 Somerset Maugham Award.

#### **Lan Samantha Chang, *Inheritance* (2004)**

In 1931 in China, sisters Junan and Yinan are drawn even closer together by their mother's suicide, but Junan's subsequent marriage and the love both sisters develop for Junan's husband eventually shatters the bond between them and causes a rift in their family that spans generations and continents.

#### **Lilian Nattel, *The Singing Fire* (2004)**

Two Jewish runaways find life on the streets in turn-of-the-century London a lot tougher than they had bargained for, but even after the two girls have hidden their pasts and found new lives, they are haunted by secrets. As in all immigrant stories, conflicting feelings about assimilation and the tantalizing possibility of self-reinvention feature prominently, and here, as in *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, two women face limits placed upon them by gender, social status, and convention.

#### **Anchee Min, *Wild Ginger: A Novel* (2002)**

*Wild Ginger* tells the story of two girls in Shanghai caught between their personal desires and party politics during China's Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Min crafts a tale of coming-of-age and thwarted passion while exploring the pain and psychological damage inflicted during Mao's regime.

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