

The Dancing Girl and the Turtle

Karen Kao

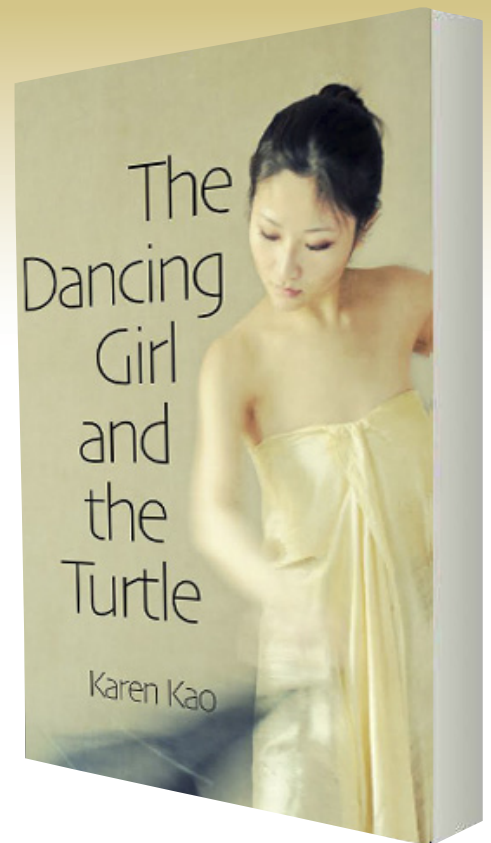
A rape. A war. A society where women are bought and sold but no one can speak of shame. Shanghai 1937. Violence throbs at the heart of *The Dancing Girl and the Turtle*.

Song Anyi is on the road to Shanghai and freedom when she is raped and left for dead. The silence and shame that mark her courageous survival drive her to escalating self-harm and prostitution. From opium dens to high-class brothels, Anyi dances on the edge of destruction while China prepares for war with Japan. Hers is the voice of every woman who fights for independence against overwhelming odds.

The Dancing Girl and the Turtle is one of four interlocking novels set in Shanghai from 1929 to 1954. Through the eyes of the dancer, Song Anyi, and her brother Kang, the *Shanghai Quartet* spans a tumultuous time in Chinese history: war with the Japanese, the influx of stateless Jews into Shanghai, civil war and revolution. How does the love of a sister destroy her brother and all those around him?

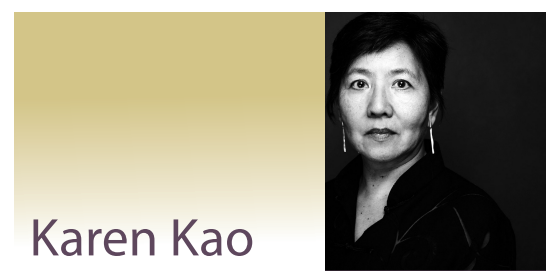
The Author

Karen Kao is the child of Chinese immigrants who settled in the United States in the 1950s. After a long, fulfilling career as a corporate lawyer in the United States and the Netherlands, Karen returned to her first love of writing and the stories she heard as a child of Old Shanghai. *The Dancing Girl and the Turtle* is the result. Karen is a poet, short story writer and essayist whose work can be found in *Jabberwock Review*, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal* and her blog at www.inkstonepress.com.



Linen Press

FINE WRITING FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN



Karen Kao

Publication date: April 2017

Format: Paperback

Price: £9.99

Pages: 224pp

ISBN (paperback): 9780993599705; (digital): 9780993599712

Cover photo: Archangel

Cover design: Louise Santa Ana/Zebedee Design, Edinburgh

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