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Empress Orchid (2004) is a novel by
Anchee Min which was first published

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in Great Britain in 2004. It is written in first person and is a sympathetic account of the life of Empress Dowager Cixi - from her humble beginnings to her rise as the Empress Dowager.

[Empress Orchid - Wikipedia](#)

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Anchee Min, a Chinese author, has penned an enlightening tale about the last empress of China in her book called, Empress Orchid that revolves around a young concubine of the last emperor of the forbidden city where the young lady is caught in the race against an heir to the king in order to

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rise above her mistress status, but once she becomes the empress, she gets tangled up in the war of jealousy, rage, ugly politics,

Empress Orchid (Empress Orchid, #1)
by Anchee Min

So far, Orchid has been chosen as a

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concubine and has spent her first night with the Emperor and it's taken over 100 pages to get that far. Named Orchid in the book, history knows her as the Dowager Cixi. The detail is overwhelming but it doesn't actually say much.

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Empress Orchid: Amazon.co.uk: Min, Anchee: 9780747568339 ...

About Empress Orchid To rescue her family from poverty and avoid marrying her slope-shouldered cousin, seventeen-year-old Orchid competes to be one of the Emperor's wives. When she is chosen as a lower-

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ranking concubine she enters the erotically charged and ritualised Forbidden City.

Empress Orchid: Anchee Min:
Bloomsbury Publishing

Empress Orchid is a historical novel by Anchee Min, published in 2004. Min

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relies on deep research to recreate the final years of the Ch'ing Dynasty in China, exploring one of the more complex and under-studied personalities in world history in the process. The book begins with Tsu Hsi ruminating on the decayed status of the Ch'ing Dynasty, and her

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suffocating role as the regent to her son ...

Empress Orchid Summary |
SuperSummary
Empress Orchid. Anchee Min.
Bloomsbury Publishing, Apr 4, 2006 -
Fiction - 352 pages. 4 Reviews. To

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rescue her family from poverty and avoid marrying her slope-shouldered cousin, seventeen-year-old Orchid competes to be one of the Emperor's wives. When she is chosen as a lower-ranking concubine she enters the erotically charged and ritualised Forbidden City. But beneath its

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immaculate façade ...

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Min introduces the beautiful Tzu Hsi, known as Orchid (based on the real-life Empress Dowager Cixi), and "weaves an epic of a country girl who seized power through seduction, murder, and endless intrigue. When China is threatened by enemies, she alone seems capable of holding the

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Orchid has the great good fortune to bear him a son. Elevated to the rank of Empress, she still must struggle to maintain her position and the right to raise her own child. With the death of the Emperor comes a palace coup that

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ultimately thrusts Orchid into power, although only as regent until her son's maturity. Now she must rule China as its ...

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A fictional portrait of the last empress
of China follows Orchid, a beautiful
teenager from an aristocratic family,

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who is chosen to become a low-ranking concubine of the emperor and rises to a position of power in the Chinese court.

□A fascinating novel, similar to Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* . . . A revisionist portrait of a beautiful and

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strong-willed woman (Houston Chronicle). A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year From Anchee Min, a master of the historical novel, Empress Orchid sweeps readers into the heart of the Forbidden City to tell the fascinating story of a young concubine who becomes China's last

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empress. Min introduces the beautiful Tzu Hsi, known as Orchid, and weaves an epic of a country girl who seized power through seduction, murder, and endless intrigue. When China is threatened by enemies, she alone seems capable of holding the country together. In this [absorbing](#)

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companion piece to her novel *Becoming Madame Mao*, readers and reading groups will once again be transported by Min's lavish evocation of the Forbidden City in its last days of imperial glory and by her brilliant portrait of a flawed yet utterly compelling woman who survived, and

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ultimately dominated, a male world (The New York Times). "Superb . . . [an] unforgettable heroine." "People "A sexually charged, eye-opening portrayal of the Chinese empire . . . with heart-wrenching scenes of desperate failure and a sensuality that rises off its heated pages." "Elle

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To rescue her family from poverty and avoid marrying her slope-shouldered cousin, seventeen-year-old Orchid competes to be one of the Emperor's wives. When she is chosen as a lower-ranking concubine she enters the erotically charged and ritualised

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Forbidden City. But beneath its immaculate façade lie whispers of murders and ghosts, and the thousands of concubines will stoop to any lengths to bear the Emperor's son. Orchid trains herself in the art of pleasuring a man, bribes her way into the royal bed, and seduces the

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monarch, drawing the attention of dangerous foes. Little does she know that China will collapse around her, and that she will be its last Empress.

At the end of the nineteenth century China is rocked by foreign attacks and local rebellions. The only constant is

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the power wielded by one woman, Tzu Hsi, also known as Empress Orchid, who must face the perilous condition of her empire and devastating personal losses. In this sequel to the bestselling Empress Orchid, Anchee Min brings to life one of the most important figures in Chinese history, a

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very human leader who sacrifices all she has to protect both those she loves and her doomed empire.

From the national bestselling author of *Red Azalea*: "Extraordinary . . . Min lets [Madame Mao] be seen as never before. Bottom line: riveting" (People).

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In a sweeping, erotically charged story, Anchee Min creates a finely nuanced portrait of one of the most fascinating, and vilified, women of the twentieth century. Madame Mao is almost universally known as the "white-boned demon"—ambitious, vindictive, and cruel—whose bid to succeed her

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husband led to the death of millions. But Anchee Min's story begins with a young girl named Yunhe, the unwanted daughter of a concubine who ignored her mother's pleas and refused to have her feet bound. It was the first act of rebellion for this headstrong, beautiful, and charismatic

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girl, who would find fame as an actress in Shanghai, and later fall in love and marry Mao Zedong. The great revolutionary leader proved to be an inattentive husband with a voracious appetite for infidelity, but the couple stayed together through the Communist victory, the disastrous

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Great Leap Forward, and the chaos of the Cultural Revolution. Min uses historical facts and her lush, penetrating psychological imagination to take us beyond the myth of the person who so greatly influenced an entire generation of Chinese. The result is a complex portrait of a woman

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who railed against the confines of her culture, whose deep-seated insecurities propelled her to reinvent herself constantly, and whose ambition was matched only by her ferocious, never-to-be-fulfilled need to be loved.

▫Sheer poetry.▫ ▫The Wall Street Journal ▫A magnificent book:

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consequential, significant, beautiful . . .
The true heroine is writer Anchee
Min. □ □ San Diego Union-Tribune

Two girls come of age during the
horrors of China's Cultural Revolution
in this novel by the national bestselling
author of Empress Orchid. The young

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and beautiful Wild Ginger is only in elementary school, but has already survived hell through her sheer iron will. Singled out by the Red Guards for her "foreign-colored eyes," she has seen her deceased father branded a traitor and her mother commit suicide under the oppressive weight of

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persecution. But the young Wild Ginger will not allow herself to be taken down. Nor will she turn her back on other martyrs—like sweet Maple, daughter of a teacher of Chinese history, survivor of a labor camp, and victim of daily brutal beatings by a gang girl called Hot Pepper. While the

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two become fast friends over their shared ostracism, it is Wild Ginger who will take her Maoist principles to the extreme, becoming no less than a national model for the revolutionary Communist doctrine. But when both self-possessed young girls begin to feel a prohibited romantic love for the

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same boy, all three of them will face mortal danger. In this novel, the author of Pearl of China and the New York Times Notable Book Red Azalea continues her extraordinarily acute inquiry into the wounded psyches of martyrs and survivors of China's horrific Cultural Revolution. As in all

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her unsparing, compelling, and transcendent books, Min discerns both the vulnerability and strength of individuals and, more disturbingly, unveils the eroticism of pain. Given our own times, Min's taut and compassionate tale of oppressed teenagers kept in ignorance of the

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wider world, children brainwashed into performing acts of violence and self-destruction, is especially urgent. [Booklist](#)

A New York Times Notable Book
Empress Dowager Cixi (1835–1908) is
the most important woman in Chinese

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history. She ruled China for decades and brought a medieval empire into the modern age. At the age of sixteen, in a nationwide selection for royal consorts, Cixi was chosen as one of the emperor's numerous concubines. When he died in 1861, their five-year-old son succeeded to the throne. Cixi

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at once launched a palace coup against the regents appointed by her husband and made herself the real ruler of China—behind the throne, literally, with a silk screen separating her from her officials who were all male. In this groundbreaking biography, Jung Chang vividly

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describes how Cixi fought against monumental obstacles to change China. Under her the ancient country attained virtually all the attributes of a modern state: industries, railways, electricity, the telegraph and an army and navy with up-to-date weaponry. It was she who abolished gruesome

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punishments like "death by a thousand cuts" and put an end to foot-binding. She inaugurated women's liberation and embarked on the path to introduce parliamentary elections to China. Chang comprehensively overturns the conventional view of Cixi as a diehard conservative and cruel despot. Cixi

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reigned during extraordinary times and had to deal with a host of major national crises: the Taiping and Boxer rebellions, wars with France and Japan—and an invasion by eight allied powers including Britain, Germany, Russia and the United States. Jung Chang not only records the Empress

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Dowager's conduct of domestic and foreign affairs, but also takes the reader into the depths of her splendid Summer Palace and the harem of Beijing's Forbidden City, where she lived surrounded by eunuchs—one of whom she fell in love, with tragic consequences. The world Chang

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describes here, in fascinating detail, seems almost unbelievable in its extraordinary mixture of the very old and the very new. Based on newly available, mostly Chinese, historical documents such as court records, official and private correspondence, diaries and eyewitness accounts, this

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biography will revolutionize historical thinking about a crucial period in China's and the world's history. Packed with drama, fast paced and gripping, it is both a panoramic depiction of the birth of modern China and an intimate portrait of a woman: as the concubine to a monarch, as the

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absolute ruler of a third of the world's population, and as a unique stateswoman.

In the small southern town of Chinkiang, two young girls from very different worlds collide and become inseparable companions. Willow is

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hardened by poverty and fearful for her future; Pearl is the daughter of a Christian missionary who desperately wishes she was Chinese too. Neither could have foreseen the transformation of the little American girl embarrassed by her blonde hair into the Nobel Prize-winning writer and

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one of China's modern heroines, Pearl S. Buck. When the country erupts in civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists, Pearl and Willow are brutally reminded of their differences. Pearl's family is forced to flee the country and Willow is punished for her loyalty to her 'cultural imperialist'

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friend. And yet, in the face of everything that threatens to tear them apart, the paths of these two women remain intimately entwined.

Born into a devoutly Maoist family in 1950s Shanghai and forced to work on a communal farm from the age of

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seventeen, Anchee Min found herself in an alienating and hostile political climate, where her only friendships were perilous and intense. Both candid and touching, this compelling memoir documents her isolation and illicit love against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution. From her coming

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of age in the Red Guard to her recruitment into Madame Mao's burgeoning industry of propaganda movies, Red Azalea explores the secret sensuality of a repressive society with elegance and honesty.

Such is the voice of Shan Sa's

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unforgettable heroine in her latest literary masterpiece, Empress. Empress Wu, one of China's most controversial figures, was its first and only female emperor, who emerged in the seventh century during the great Tang Dynasty and ushered in a golden age. Throughout history, her name has

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been defamed and her story distorted by those taking vengeance on a woman who dared to become emperor. But now, for the first time in thirteen centuries, Empress Wu (or Heavenlight, as we come to know her) flings open the gates of the Forbidden City and tells her own astonishing

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tale—revealing a fascinating, complex figure who in many ways remains modern to this day. Writing with epic assurance, poetry, and vivid historic detail, Shan Sa plumbs the psychological and philosophical depths of what it means to be a striving mortal in a tumultuous, power-

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hungry world. Empress is a great literary feat and a revelation for the ages.

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