

BOOK CLUB in a bag

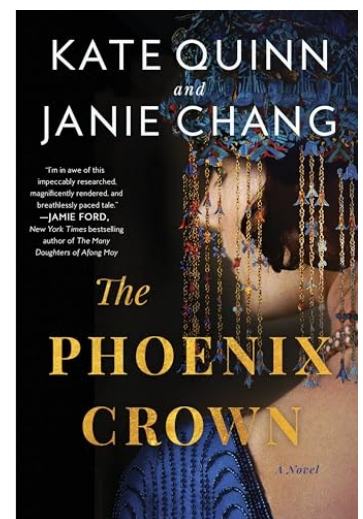


The Phoenix Crown

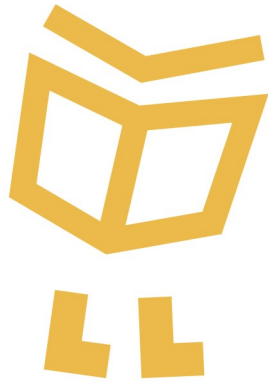
Kate Quinn & Janie Chang

Discussion Questions

1. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake is one of the deadliest disasters in American history. How much did you know about it, going into the book? Have you read any other novels or non-fiction about the San Francisco earthquake?
2. Gemma Garland is determined to build a career while handicapped by health issues and bad luck, and resolves to be hard-nosed in protecting her own interests. What did she learn in the course of events? Did your opinion of her change?
3. Suling belonged to the first generation of American-born Chinese; in many ways people like her faced more challenges of identity than their parents did. Discuss those challenges and compare them to what immigrants today face when settling into a new country.
4. What hints did you get that Suling was not typical of a Chinese girl of that era, and what influences in her life made those characteristics credible to you?
5. Alice Eastwood is a friend and mentor to all the other women at various points in the novel—an independent woman with a career and a strong sense of self. What do the others learn from Alice, and what does she learn from them?
6. Did you suspect the connection between Gemma's friend Nelly and Suling's suitor Reggie?
7. Historical fiction frequently sparks an interest in learning more from the historical record. What storylines, tidbits, or trivia from this novel inspire you to go down the research rabbit hole?



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About the Authors

Kate Quinn is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of historical fiction. A native of Southern California, she attended Boston University, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in classical voice. A lifelong history buff, she has written four novels in the *Empress of Rome Saga* and two books set in the Italian Renaissance before turning to the 20th century with *THE ALICE NETWORK*, *THE HUNTRESS*, *THE ROSE CODE* and *THE DIAMOND EYE*. All have been translated into multiple languages. She is also the co-author (with Janie Chang) of *THE PHOENIX CROWN*. She and her husband now live in California with three black rescue dogs.

Born in Taiwan, Janie Chang has lived in the Philippines, Iran, Thailand, New Zealand and Canada. She writes historical fiction with a personal connection, drawing from family history and ancestral stories. Chang has a degree in computer science and is a graduate of the Writer's Studio Program at Simon Fraser University. She is the author of *THREE SOULS*, *DRAGON SPRINGS ROAD*, *THE LIBRARY OF LEGENDS* and *THE PORCELAIN MOON*, and the co-author (with Kate Quinn) of *THE PHOENIX CROWN*.

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