

# Falling Leaves Adeline Yen Mah

## Chapter Summaries

Profiles the life and career of the professional ballerina, covering from when she began dance classes at age thirteen in an after-school community center through becoming the only African American soloist dancing with the American Ballet Theatre.

“Ann Mah’s *Kitchen Chinese* is a delicious debut novel, seasoned with just the right balance of humor and heart, and sprinkled with fascinating cultural tidbits.” —Claire Cook, bestselling author of *Must Love Dogs* *Kitchen Chinese*, Ann Mah’s funny and poignant first novel about a young Chinese-American woman who travels to Beijing to discover food, family, and herself is a delight—complete with mouth-watering descriptions of Asian culinary delicacies, from Peking duck and Mongolian hot pot to the colorful, lesser known *Ants in a Tree* that will delight foodies everywhere. Reminiscent of Elizabeth Gilbert’s runaway bestseller *Eat, Pray, Love*, Mah’s tale of clashing cultures, rival siblings, and fine dining is an unforgettable, unexpectedly sensual reading experience—the story of one woman’s search for identity and purpose in an exotic and faraway land.

Interweaving her personal reminiscences with meditations on traditional Chinese wisdom, philosophy, and faith, the author of *Falling Leaves* unites the disparate elements of Eastern and Western culture in an eloquent reflection on topics ranging from Buddhism and the *I Ching* to feng shui, medicine, food, and spiritual teachings. Reprint.

Two sisters grow up a world apart—one in war-torn Korea, the other in America—in this “finely wrought novel” by the author of *The Calligrapher’s Daughter* (Publishers Weekly). In 1948 Najin and Calvin Cho, with their young daughter Miran, travel

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from South Korea to the United States in search of new opportunities. Wary of the challenges they will face, Najin and Calvin leave their infant daughter, Inja, behind with their extended family; soon, they hope, they will return to her. But then war breaks out in Korea, and there is no end in sight to the separation. Miran grows up in prosperous American suburbia, under the shadow of the daughter left behind, as Inja grapples in her war-torn land with ties to a family she doesn't remember. Najin and Calvin desperately seek a reunion with Inja, but are the bonds of love strong enough to reconnect their family over distance, time, and war? And as deep family secrets are revealed, will everything they long for be upended? Told through the alternating perspectives of the distanced sisters, and inspired by a true story, *The Kinship of Secrets* explores the cruelty of war, the power of hope, and what it means to be a sister. "A gorgeous achievement." —Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko*

Adeline Yen Mah's childhood in China during the civil war was a time of fear, isolation and humiliation. This was not caused by the upheaval of war but by the cruelty she suffered at the hands of members of her own family. The moving true story of a young girl's determination to survive the pain of a lonely childhood.

In this poignant memoir the New York Times bestselling author of *Falling Leaves*, Adeline Yen Mah, provides a fascinating window into the history and cultural soul of China. Combining personal reflections, rich historical insights, and proverbs handed down to her by her grandfather, Yen Mah shares the wealth of Chinese civilization with Western readers. Exploring the history behind the proverbs, she delves into the lives of the first and second emperors and the two rebel warriors who changed the course of Chinese life, adding stories from her own life to beautifully illustrate their relevance and influence today.

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Glowing, full-color watercolor illustrations capture the essence of the ancient Chinese tale, which predates the familiar Western story of Cinderella.

More than 800,000 copies in print! From the author of critically acclaimed and bestselling memoir *Falling Leaves*, this is a poignant and moving true account of her childhood, growing up as an unloved daughter in 1940s China. A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In her own courageous voice, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled with gifts and attention. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. Like the classic Cinderella story, this powerful memoir is a moving story of resilience and hope. Includes an Author's Note, a 6-page photo insert, a historical note, and the Chinese text of the original Chinese Cinderella. A PW BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR  
AN ALA-YALSA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS  
"One of the most inspiring books I have ever read."  
–The Guardian

How many times have you said, the book was better? And how many times was that actually true? The cinema of the fantastic has benefitted from literary adaptations on a level unlike any other genre. With such brilliant

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authors as Mary Shelley, Robert Bloch, Pierre Boulle, Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert Louis Stevenson to choose from, it's no surprise that fantastic film shares its pedigree with literary fiction. But do films never live up to their literary inspirations? Or are some movies just ... better than the books that inspired them? Join genre critics Jim Nemeth and Bob Madison for a rule-busting examination of 21 classic - and not so classic - horror, fantasy and science fiction films, and the classic - and not so classic - books that inspired them. *It Came From...The Stories and Novels Behind Classic Horror, Fantasy and Science Fiction Films* will delight legions of movie buffs along with devoted readers of cherished fantastic fiction.

When she was a girl, Lisa See spent summers in the cool, dark recesses of her family's antiques store in Los Angeles' Chinatown. There, her grandmother and great-aunt told her intriguing, colourful stories about their family's past - stories of missionaries, concubines, tong wars, glamorous nightclubs, and the determined struggle to triumph over racist laws and discrimination. They spoke of how Lisa's great-great-grandfather emigrated from his Chinese village to the United States, and how his son followed him. As an adult, See spent five years collecting the details of her family's remarkable history. She interviewed nearly one hundred relatives and pored over documents at the National Archives, the immigration office, and in countless attics, basements, and closets for the intimate nuances of her ancestors' lives. The result is a vivid, sweeping family portrait that is at once particular and universal, telling the story not only

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of one family, but of the Chinese people in America - and of America itself, a country that both welcomes and reviles its immigrants like no other culture in the world. How far would you travel for love? In her sparkling memoir, journalist Alison Singh Gee learns that love, riches, and a place to call home can be found in the most unexpected places. Alison Singh Gee was a glamorous magazine writer with a serious Jimmy Choo habit, a weakness for five-star Balinese resorts, and a reputation for dating highborn British men. Then she met Ajay, a charming and unassuming Indian journalist, and her world turned upside down. Traveling from her shiny, rapid-fire life in Hong Kong to Ajay's native village, Alison learns that not all is as it seems. Turns out that Ajay is a landed prince (of sorts), but his family palace is falling to pieces. Replete with plumbing issues, strange noises, and intimidating relatives, her new love's ramshackle palace, Mokimpur, is a broken-down relic in desperate need of a makeover. And Alison wonders if she can soldier on for the sake of the man who just might be her soul mate. This modern-day fairytale, *WHERE THE PEACOCKS SING*, takes readers on a cross-cultural journey from the manicured gardens of Beverly Hills, to the bustling streets of Hong Kong and finally to the rural Indian countryside as Alison comes to terms with her complicated new family, leaves the modern world behind, and learns the true meaning of home.

CC suffers a bad fall and, in order to treat her injuries, she undergoes hypnotherapy that reveals her connection to an eleventh-century girl named Mei Lan, who defied convention to befriend a household servant who was a

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brilliant artist.

“Lisa See begins to do for Beijing what Sir Arthur Conan Doyle did for turn-of-the-century London or Dashiell Hammett did for 1920s San Francisco: She discerns the hidden city lurking beneath the public facade.” –The Washington Post Book World In the depths of a Beijing winter, during the waning days of Deng Xiaoping’s reign, the U.S. ambassador’s son is found dead—his body entombed in a frozen lake. Around the same time, aboard a ship adrift off the coast of Southern California, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Stark makes a startling discovery: the corpse of a Red Prince, a scion of China’s political elite. The Chinese and American governments suspect that the deaths are connected and, in an unprecedented move, they join forces to see justice done. In Beijing, David teams up with the unorthodox police detective Liu Hulan. In an investigation that brings them to every corner of China and sparks an intense attraction between the two, David and Hulan discover a web linking human trafficking to the drug trade to governmental treachery—a web reaching from the Forbidden City to the heart of Los Angeles and, like the wide flower net used by Chinese fishermen, threatening to ensnare all within its reach. “A graceful rendering of two different and complex cultures, within a highly intricate plot . . . The starkly beautiful landscapes of Beijing and its surrounding countryside are depicted with a lyrical precision.” –Los Angeles Times Book Review “Murder and intrigue splash across the canvas of modern Chinese life. . . . A vivid portrait of a vast Communist nation in the painful throes of a sea change.”

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–People “Fascinating . . . that rare thriller that enlightens as well as it entertains.” –San Diego Union-Tribune A Finalist for the Edgar Award for Best First Mystery A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK

Like a favorite passage from Scripture, these brand new stories offer hope, support and inspiration to Christians of all denominations. The themes of forgiveness, faith, hope, charity and love in *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2* will lift your spirits and warm your hearts.

### Falling Leaves Return to Their Roots

From the author of *Ophelia* and *the Marvelous Boy* comes the story of a friendship between two girls set in Victorian England, with magical machines, wizards, witches, a mysterious underworld, and a race against time. Annabel Grey is primed for a proper life as a young lady in Victorian England. But when her mother suddenly disappears, she's put in the care of two eccentric aunts who thrust her into a decidedly un-ladylike life, full of potions and flying broomsticks and wizards who eat nothing but crackers.

Magic, indeed! Who ever heard of such a thing? Before Annabel can assess the most ladylike way to respond to her current predicament, she is swept up in an urgent quest. Annabel is pitted against another young witch, Kitty, to rescue the sacred *Moreover Wand* from the dangerous underworld that exists beneath London. The two girls outsmart trolls, find passage through a wall of faerie bones, and narrowly escape a dragon, but it doesn't take long for Annabel to see that the most dangerous part of her journey is her decision to trust this wild, magical girl. Sparkling with Karen Foxlee's enchanting writing, this is a bewitching tale of one important wand and two most magical girls. "[Foxlee's] heroines have grit and heart, and they are willing to get dirty. And they do. Foxlee's nicely wry tone and moments of incongruous humor break up

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the tension, while Annabel's race against time in a harrowing journey deep under London keeps the pages turning. Deliciously complex and convincingly detailed."--Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review "Kids who enjoyed Foxlee's Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy and fans of Hardinge's Cuckoo Song will find similar otherworldly appeal in this enthralling adventure."--The Bulletin, Starred review "Memorable for its vivid imagery and stylish, thoughtful prose."--Horn Book Magazine

Third Sister in the Tao family, Ailin has watched her two older sisters go through the painful process of having their feet bound. In China in 1911, all the women of good families follow this ancient tradition. But Ailin loves to run away from her governess and play games with her male cousins.

Knowing she will never run again once her feet are bound, Ailin rebels and refuses to follow this torturous tradition. As a result, however, the family of her intended husband breaks their marriage agreement. And as she enters adolescence, Ailin finds that her family is no longer willing to support her. Chinese society leaves few options for a single woman of good family, but with a bold conviction and an indomitable spirit, Ailin is determined to forge her own destiny. Her story is a tribute to all those women whose courage created new options for the generations who came after them.

Adeline Yen Mah introduces us to the rich picture of the first century BC when, after long wars between states, China was finally united and the richness of its literature and art could flourish.

Most people cannot remember when their childhood ended. I, on the other hand, have a crystal-clear memory of that moment. It happened at night in the summer of 1966, when my elementary school headmaster hanged himself. In 1966 Moying, a student at a prestigious language school in Beijing, seems destined for a promising future. Everything changes

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when student Red Guards begin to orchestrate brutal assaults, violent public humiliations, and forced confessions. After watching her teachers and headmasters beaten in public, Moying flees school for the safety of home, only to witness her beloved grandmother denounced, her home ransacked, her father's precious books flung onto the back of a truck, and Baba himself taken away. From labor camp, Baba entrusts a friend to deliver a reading list of banned books to Moying so that she can continue to learn. Now, with so much of her life at risk, she finds sanctuary in the world of imagination and learning. This inspiring memoir follows Moying Li from age twelve to twenty-two, illuminating a complex, dark time in China's history as it tells the compelling story of one girl's difficult but determined coming-of-age during the Cultural Revolution. *Snow Falling in Spring* is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This collection of reflections and thoughts is especially dedicated to those who suffer spiritually, humanly, or socially, so they can react and rise from the ashes like the mythological Phoenix, as they move towards a new and happier existence, more experienced. I hope to help you become inwardly strong to the point that you are prepared to endure even the unbearable. If or when pain knocks on your door, may you be able to sublimate it in benefit of your Spirit and the Spirit of everyone else, because this is the fraternal, unselfish action of those who want to see a Solidary, Altruistic, and Ecumenical Society on Earth. The victory of human beings begins within themselves. The progress of humanity is a consequence of this: Social, Solidary, and Sustainable Development, Education, Culture, Art, and Sports—all this with the indispensable Ecumenical Spirituality—so there may be Socio-environmental Awareness, Food, Security, Health, and Work for all its components, as well as awakening in them the Planetary Citizenship. If we act

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like this, we shall be able to multiply contentment, security, and Peace in the Soul and in the pockets of citizens of any country that loves its people.

In this collection of charming personal essays, you'll find tales of her favorite book haunts - neighborhood book swaps, school libraries, city shops, and roads piled high with what else but books! - woven into book reviews of her most highly esteemed treasures.

SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 53-page guide for "Falling Leaves" by Adeline Yen Mah includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 32 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Strength Through Storytelling and Racism and Discrimination.

Selina Penaluna is a mermaid or so she believes . . . Ellen and Jack are evacuated from London to Cornwall during the Second World War. Ellen relishes the opportunity to better herself. Jack is different. He finds the attention from his new family stifling and seeks freedom in the arms of Selina, the mysterious local girl he sees at the shore. Selina, Ellen and Jack's lives are intertwined in a series of events that lead to tragedy.

Offers a series of monologues about the author's family and her mixed Chinese and German cultural background, told from the perspectives of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood

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After Adeline's mother died, her affluent father remarried a French-Chinese teenager, Niang, and the family moved to Shanghai where they lived in a large house in the middle of the French Concession. During this time, the 1930s, when everything western in treaty ports such as Shanghai was deemed superior to anything Chinese, Niang was the ultimate status symbol and Adeline's father was besotted.

Celebrating 100 years of the iconic character and Aussie legend Ginger Meggs, these four brand new and original stories are written by Tristan Bancks, the great-great nephew of creator Jimmy Bancks, and illustrated in full colour by the current Ginger Meggs comic-strip cartoonist, Jason Chatfield. Kids and grown-ups alike will revel in the rambunctious adventures and comical capers of the ginger kid who never gets old.

The national-bestselling memoir of a woman's resistance and struggles in Communist China—"an absorbing story of resourcefulness and courage" (The New York Times). A NEW YORK TIMES BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR In August 1966, a group of Red Guards ransacked the home of Nien Cheng. Her background made her an obvious target for the fanatics of the Cultural Revolution: educated in London, the widow of an official of Chiang Kai-shek's regime, and an employee of Shell Oil. When she refused to confess that any of this made her an enemy of the state, she was placed in solitary confinement, where she would remain for more than six years. *Life and Death in Shanghai* recounts the story of Nien Cheng's imprisonment—a time of extreme deprivation which she met with heroic resistance—as well as her quest for justice when she was released. It is also the story of a country torn apart by Mao Tse-tung's vicious campaign to topple party moderates. An incisive, personal account of a terrifying chapter in twentieth-century history, *Life and Death in Shanghai* is also an astounding portrait of one woman's

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courage.

The story of an unwanted Chinese daughter growing up during the Communist Revolution, blamed for her mother's death, ignored by her millionaire father and unwanted by her Eurasian step mother. A story of greed, hatred and jealousy; a domestic drama played against the extraordinary political events in China and Hong Kong. Written with the emotional force of a novel but with a vividness drawn from a personal and political background. **FALLING LEAVES** has become a surprise bestseller all over the world.

Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness.

The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England. A Puffin Modern Classic edition of this bestselling autobiography, celebrating ten years of publication.

The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the

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psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother

This book is the life story and family history of Adeline Yen Mah. Adeline was born in China at a time of great change and trouble. At the same time, she suffered terrible unkindness from the members of her own family. *Falling Leaves* is a story of pain and fear, but also of hope as Adeline fights for her independence

During her lonely childhood in Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah wrote adventure stories to escape from her terrible step-mother and cruel siblings. The characters she created often became more real to her than her own family. In *Chinese Cinderella* and *the Secret Dragon Society*, Adeline tells the story of Chinese Cinderella, a young girl who, after being thrown out of her home, has no choice but to go out and seek her own destiny. Soon she meets up with a group of children, all orphaned but each from a different background, who live with an old lady called Grandma Wu. Chinese Cinderella, or CC for short, decides her future after consulting an ancient book which helps to show her the way forward. And her choice takes her on a mission to save the lives of others. Based on a true-life incident during World War II. CC and the others bravely rescue a group of American pilots whose plane crashed after a bombing raid on Japan. Although her father is looking for her, CC knows that she can never go

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back to live with her cruel stepmother, and now there is no turning back.

Emi-Lou struggles to come of age in her middle school years in Hawaii.

Something weird is going on! Mrs. Yonkers, the computer teacher, is the nerdiest teacher in the history of the world. She can type with her feet! She buys foam cheeseheads off eBay! She even puts a Webcam on a turtle! Is she trying to take over the planet?

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