



# Under the Maple Leaves

---- A Study on the Chinese Canadian Women Writers

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## The Canadian-born writers



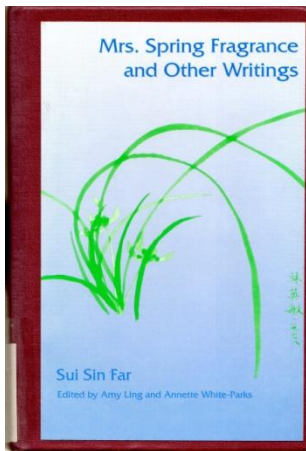
- Most of them are the second or the third generations of the Chinese Canadian immigrants who were the head-tax payers;
- Their major themes are family history, community history and identity issues;

## The writers born outside Canada



- Most of them were born and educated in China.  
Most of them immigrated to Canada in 1980s or 90s.
- They mainly deal with their experience both in China and Canada, especially their process of integrating into the Canadian society.

Sui Sin Far (Eaton, Edith Maude ), 1865 -1914

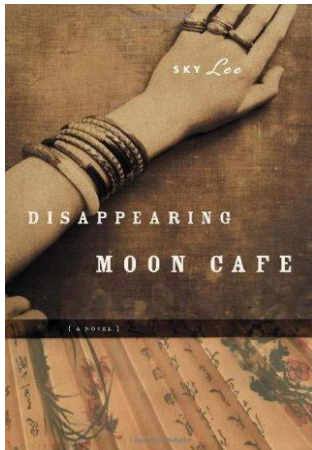


Sui Sin Far is actually the first published Asian North American fiction writer. Her book ***Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Writing*** (1912) portrays sympathetically both the early Chinese Canadians and the Chinese Americans' life. The early Chinese immigrants were inheritors of traditional Chinese values and caught between two worlds. They had suffered harsh racial discrimination.





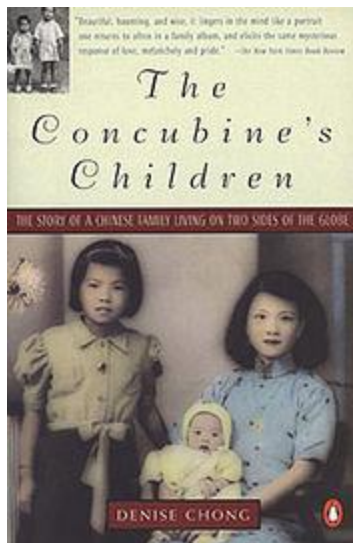
Lee, Sky, 1952-



***Disappearing Moon Café*** (1990) deals with the unique experiences of four female generations to reflect the awakening process of the Chinese Canadian women. It was nominated for the Governor General's Award and won the City of Vancouver Book Award.

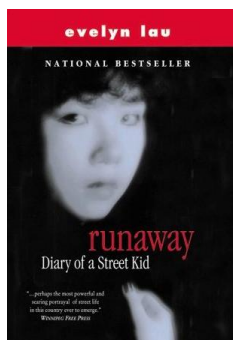


Chong, Denise, 1953-



***The Concubine's Children: Portrait of a Family Divided*** (1994) is a non-fiction book which narrates her grandmother's miserable life story via a personal memoir. This book has won several awards and was on the bestseller list of *The Globe and Mail* for 93 weeks, and shortlisted for the "Governor-General's Literary Award. It has been translated into more than 10 languages.





Lau, Evelyn, 1971-

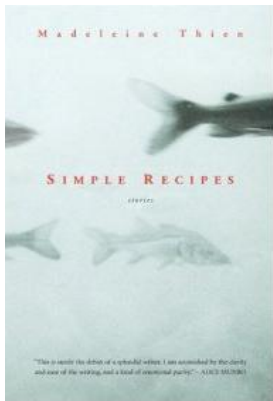


Her first book ***Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*** (1989) was published when Lau was still a teenager and still involved in the sex trade, made her famous and infamous, both because of the explicit sexual and highly emotional nature of the writing and because of the precociousness of her observations. The book was a bestseller, and eventually was adapted as a television movie. Since *Runaway*, Lau has published poetry, fiction and non-fiction.





Thien, Madeleine, 1974-

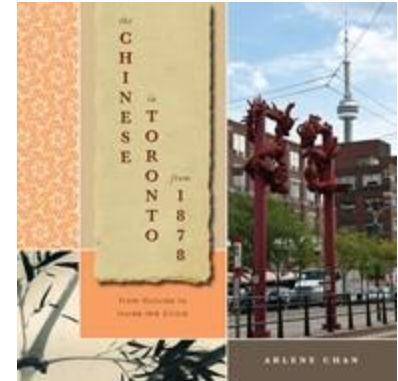


Thien's first book, ***Simple Recipes*** (2001), a collection of short stories, has received the City of Vancouver Book award and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. prizes. With delicate language and wisdom, Madeleine Thien explores the longing of families pulled apart by conflicts between generations, cultures, and values. In 2001, she was awarded the Canadian Authors Association Award for “The most promising Canadian writer under age 30”.





Chan, Arlene, 1950-



***The Chinese in Toronto from 1878: From Outside to Inside the Circle*** (2011) is about the development of the Chinese community in Toronto as told through historical accounts, archival and present-day photographs, newspaper and magazine reports, and narratives from old-timers and newcomers. She has written two books on Chinese traditional cultures: *The Moon Festival: a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival* and *Awakening the Dragon: the Dragon Boat Festival*. She has published a book about her mother Jean Lumb who was the first Chinese Canadian to receive the Order of Canada, the highest civilian honor, for her community activism.

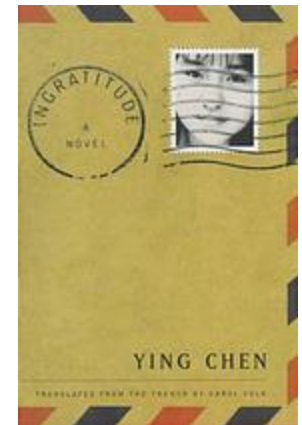






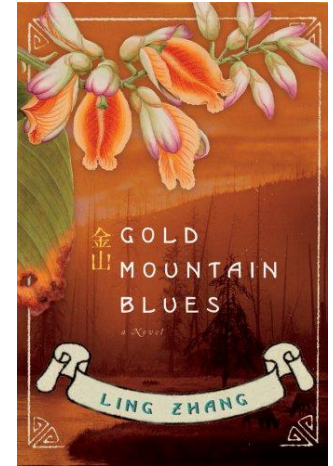
Chen, Ying, 1961-

Ying Chen has been writing in her adopted language French. Her books have been published both in Canada and France. Several of her books have been translated into other languages, including English and Chinese. Her novel ***L'ingratitude*** (1995) attracted considerable and highly critical attention and was nominated for Governor General's Award. Because of her literary achievement, Ying Chen had been appointed as the jury member of Governor General's Award in French works.





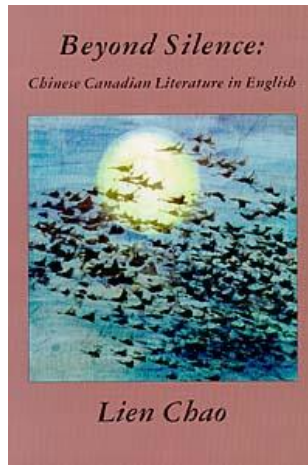
Lin, Zhang, 1957-



After **Gold Mountain Blues** (2009) was published in China, the author won the 2010 Novelist of the Year award at the Chinese Literature Media Awards. Penguin Canada published the English translation earlier in 2011. The publisher describes the book as "a rich saga chronicling the lives of five generations of a Chinese family from Guangdong Province transformed by the promise of a better life in Gold Mountain, the Chinese name for Canada's majestic West Coast." She also writes about the contemporary life of the Chinese Canadians and stories that happen in China.



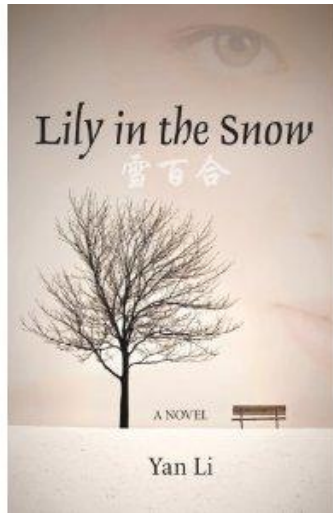
Chao, Lien, 1950-



Her first book ***Beyond Silence: Chinese Canadian Literature in English*** (1997) by TSAR Publications won 1997 Gabrielle Roy Award for Canadian Criticism. Being the first book-length study of Chinese Canadian writers, *Beyond Silence* broke new ground, challenging the existing Canadian literature. It systematically introduces Chinese Canadian writers into Canadian mainstream. She also writes bilingually about the Chinese Canadians' experiences and has published several books.



Li, Yan, 1954-



Yan Li is the Director of the Confucius Institute and Adjunct Associate Professor at Renison University College. Her English novel, *Daughters of the Red Land*, was shortlisted for Books in Canada's First Novel Award in 1996. She has received many awards and recognition for her novels. Her most recent book is ***Lily in the Snow*** (2010) which deals with a contemporary Chinese Canadian female intellectual's life in Canada.





These brilliant female writers have written actively to reveal the history of the Chinese Canadians, especially the experiences of the Chinese Canadian women who have contributed a lot for the development and the stability of the Chinese community in Canada. The efforts made by these Chinese Canadian women writers should be highly approved.





**Thanks a lot for your attention!**

