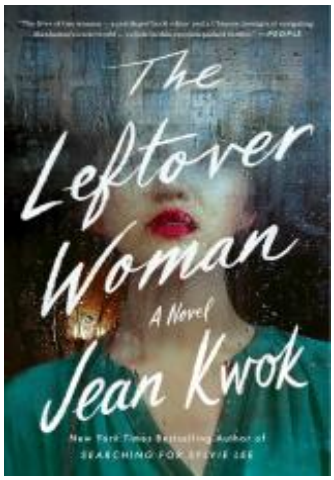
The Leftover Woman

by Jean Kwok



About the Book

An evocative family drama and a riveting mystery about the ferocious pull of motherhood for two very different women --- from the *New York Times* bestselling author of SEARCHING FOR SYLVIE LEE and GIRL IN TRANSLATION.

Jasmine Yang arrives in New York City from her rural Chinese village without money or family support, fleeing a controlling husband, on a desperate search for the daughter who was taken from her at birth --- another female casualty of China?s controversial One Child Policy. But with her husband on her trail, the clock is ticking, and she?s forced to make increasingly risky decisions if she ever hopes to be reunited with her daughter.

Meanwhile, publishing executive Rebecca Whitney seems to have it all: a prestigious family name and the wealth that comes with it, a high-powered career, a beautiful home, a handsome husband, and an adopted Chinese daughter she adores. She?s even hired a nanny to help her balance the demands of being a working wife and mother. But when an industry scandal threatens to jeopardize not only Rebecca?s job but also her marriage, this perfect world begins to crumble and her role in her own family is called into question.

THE LEFTOVER WOMAN finds these two unforgettable women on a shocking collision course. Twisting and suspenseful and surprisingly poignant, it's a profound exploration of identity and belonging, motherhood and family. It is a story of two women in a divided city --- separated by severe economic and cultural differences yet bound by a deep emotional connection to a child.

Discussion Guide

1. What was your first impression of Jasmine? How did your sense of her character change throughout the story? At what point did you root for her most?

2. How would you describe the differences in these characters? attitudes toward motherhood?

3. Think about the title: THE LEFTOVER WOMAN. This is a Chinese phrase referring to women who are unmarried by their late 20s. How does the title inform your reading? Who is ?leftover?? Are there multiple meanings?

4. Discuss the relationship between Rebecca and Brandon. Would you consider them a strong couple? Why do you think Lucy comes between them?

5. Think about Jasmine?s experiences as an undocumented worker in New York City. How does this impact her relationships with different classes and her employers, even as she rubs shoulders with them?

6. How would you describe Kwok?s prose style? What are the distinct elements of each woman?s chapters?

7. Consider the novel?s structure beyond the two perspectives. What effect did the brief Prologue have on your reading of this story? What expectations did it establish? How would the novel read differently without it?

8. Consider what Wen did to Jasmine. Why did he feel he could do this? What does he think Jasmine owes him?

9. Did Jasmine?s time working at Opium surprise you in any way? How does Kwok explore the complexities of sex work and particularly fetishism of minorities?

10. Are Rebecca and Brandon good parents for Fifi? Why or why not?

11. How did you react to the ?twist? about Lucy?s character? Why do you think Kwok chose to shape the narrative in this way?

Author Bio

Jean Kwok is the *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of DOMINION, THE LEFTOVER WOMAN, SEARCHING FOR SYLVIE LEE, GIRL IN TRANSLATION and MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. Her books have been chosen by th

In between her bachelor?s degree from Harvard and her MFA from Columbia, Kwok worked as a professional ballroom dancer. He

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