Book Review: The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo

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Abstract

A sweeping historical novel about a dancehall girl and an orphan boy whose fates entangle over an old Chinese superstition about men who turn into tigers. When 11-year-old Ren's master dies, he makes one last request of his Chinese houseboy: that Ren find his severed finger, lost years ago in an accident, and reunite it with his body. Ren has 49 days, or else his master's soul will roam the earth, unable to rest in peace. Ji Lin always wanted to be a doctor, but as a girl in 1930s Malaysia, apprentice dressmaker is a more suitable occupation. Secretly, though, Ji Lin also moonlights as a dancehall girl to help pay off her beloved mother's Mahjong debts. One night, Ji Lin's dance partner leaves her with a gruesome souvenir: a severed finger. Convinced the finger is bad luck, Ji Lin enlists the help of her erstwhile stepbrother to return it to its rightful owner. As the 49 days tick down, and a prowling tiger wreaks havoc on the town, Ji Lin and Ren's lives intertwine in ways they could never have imagined. Propulsive and lushly written, The Night Tiger explores colonialism and independence, ancient superstition and modern ambition, sibling rivalry and first love. Braided through with Chinese folklore and a tantalizing mystery, this novel is a page-turner of the highest order.

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Dimensions

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HOW TO CITE

The Night Tiger. Read 4,272 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. A sweeping historical novel about a dancehall girl and an orphan... Yangsze Choo writes an enthralling and exhilarating piece of well researched historical fiction set in the British colony of Malaya (Malaysia) of the 1930s. The fraught and upset British doctor is dying and worried about what will happen to his soul upon death. He had been gifted a 11 year old Chinese house boy, Ren, by a friend. Yangsze Choo. This Study Guide consists of approximately 56 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of The Night Tiger. Print Word PDF. This section contains 638 words (approx. 2 pages at 400 words per page). View a FREE sample. The Night Tiger Summary & Study Guide Description. The Night Tiger takes place in 1930s colonial Malaysia, between the towns of Falim, Ipoh, and Batu Gajah. It rotates between the perspectives of three characters: Ji Lin, whose name means wisdom and whose story is told in first person; Ren, whose name means humanity and whose story is told in third person; and William Acton, whose name means order and whose story is also told in third person. The Night Tiger. Notify me when the book's added. Impression. Add to shelf. Already read. Report an error in the book. Share. Facebook. —Kirkus (starred review) From New York Times bestselling author Yangsze Choo, an utterly transporting novel set in 1930s colonial Malaysia, perfect for fans of Isabel Allende and Min Jin Lee Quick-witted, ambitious Ji Lin is stuck as an apprentice dressmaker, moonlighting as a dancehall girl to help pay off her mother's Mahjong debts.