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White Mulberry

By Rosa Kwon Easton | December 1, 2024

Inspired by the life of Easton's grandmother, *White Mulberry* is a rich, deeply moving portrait of a young Korean woman in 1930s Japan who is torn between two worlds and must reclaim her true identity to provide a future for her family.

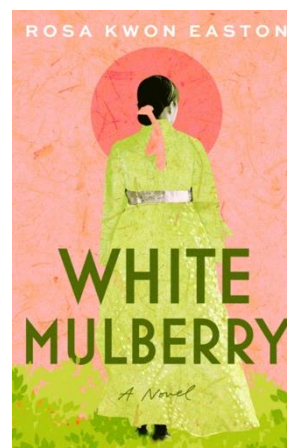
1928, Japan-occupied Korea. Eleven-year-old Miyoung has dreams too big for her tiny farming village near Pyongyang: to become a teacher, to avoid an arranged marriage, to write her own future. When she is offered the chance to live with her older sister in Japan and continue her education, she is elated, even though it means leaving her sick mother—and her very name—behind.

In Kyoto, anti-Korean sentiment is rising every day, and Miyoung quickly realizes she must pass as Japanese if she expects to survive. Her Japanese name, Miyoko, helps her find a new calling as a nurse, but as the years go by, she fears that her true self is slipping away. She seeks solace in a Korean church group and, within it, finds something she never expected: a romance with an activist that reignites her sense of purpose and gives her a cherished son.

As war looms on a new front and Miyoung feels the constraints of her adopted home tighten, she is faced with a choice that will change her life—and the lives of those she loves—forever.

About the Author

Rosa Kwon Easton was born in Seoul, Korea, and grew up with her extended family in Los Angeles. Easton holds a bachelor's degree in government from Smith College, a master's in international and public affairs from Columbia University, and a JD from Boston College Law School. She is a lawyer and an elected trustee of the Palos Verdes Library District. She is an Anaphora Writing Residency Fellow, and her work has been published in CRAFT Literary, StoryCenter.org, *Writer's Digest*, and elsewhere. She has two adult children and lives with her husband and Maltipoo in sunny Southern California. For more information, visit www.rosakwoneaston.com.



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by Rosa Kwon Easton

Lake Union | December 1, 2024 | 331 pages Trade Paperback Original | ISBN 9781662519697

\$4.99 Kindle e-Book | ASIN B0CZPK8L8J

\$19.99 Digital Audio | ISBN 9781511344159

Talking Points

- The journey of becoming a debut author over the age of 60
- The inspiration of Miyoung's story from Rosa's grandmother
- The research conducted to bring historical accuracy into Miyoung's journey
- Rosa's own immigrant story and the role it played in writing her debut novel
- The history of the Japanese occupation of Korea (& the impact it had on Korean culture)
- Using writing to empower all of us to explore, share and celebrate our authentic selves.
- The significance behind the title and cover of WHITE MULBERRY
- Rosa's mission to amplify voices & cultures that have been overlooked
- Rosa's role as a trustee of a library and the impact libraries play in her life and work

Praise for *White Mulberry*

"Rosa Kwon Easton has written a beautiful and deeply researched novel about life for a Korean woman under Japanese rule. How does a woman protect her family, honor her heritage, and save herself? Readers will want to follow Miyoung's journey as she answers these questions for herself. If you loved *Pachinko*, you'll love *White Mulberry*."

—Lisa See, NY Times bestselling author of *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* and *The Island of Sea Women*

"Easton eloquently reimagines her grandmother's past—a brave young woman caught between two worlds. A story inspired and inspirational, *White Mulberry* exposes the forgotten history of Koreans in Japan."

—Alka Joshi, Internationally bestselling author of *The Henna Artist* and the Jaipur Trilogy

"Easton weaves an unforgettable tale of resistance, resilience, and redemption... I can't remember the last time I was so captivated by a debut work."

—A.H. Kim, Author, *A Good Family* and *Relative Strangers*

"*White Mulberry* is a beautiful and poignant novel of a young Korean woman's coming of age amidst the turbulence of colonization and World War II. The resilience and self-determination of her heroine vividly mirrors the astonishing trajectory of her nation."

—Juhea Kim, author of *Beasts of a Little Land* and *City of Night Birds*

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