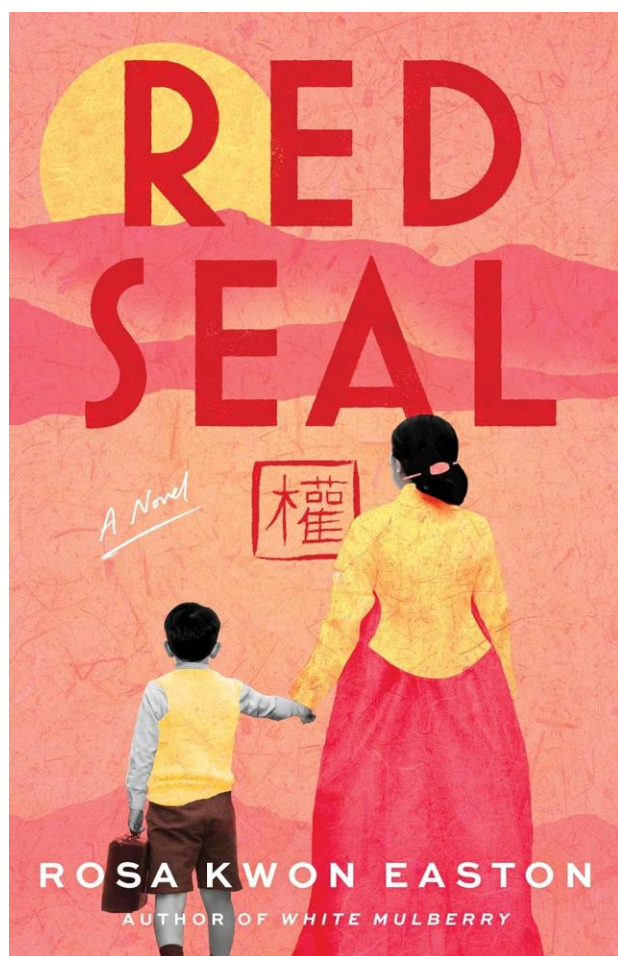


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LAKE UNION
PUBLISHING

Red Seal
By
Rosa Kwon Easton



A Korean mother and son navigate wars, displacement, and identity across decades and borders in a moving multigenerational saga by the author of *White Mulberry*.

In 1943 Japan, the Pacific War rages on. Miyoung, a Korean-born single mother and nurse, defies an order to serve in the Imperial Japanese Army and instead flees with her six-year-old son, Ko-chan, who is leaving everything familiar behind, including the grandparents he loves. Miyoung hopes Ko-chan will finally claim his heritage and that she can reclaim her own as well.

Miyoung promises her anxious son an adventure. Their life-changing trek to Miyoung's homeland takes them first to Japan-occupied Manchuria, where Miyoung's brother offers shelter and Ko-chan, coming of age, begins to question where his future lies. When Japan's defeat in World War II forces them to escape again, it triggers a decades-long odyssey of survival, sacrifice, and—for the generations to follow—a search for identity across three nations.

A powerful tribute to the endurance of family bonds, *Red Seal* explores the struggle to define oneself when torn between multiple worlds and by cultural upheaval, and the resilience it takes to find a place to call home.

RED SEAL

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About the Author

Rosa Kwon Easton is a Korean American lawyer, a library trustee, and the author of *White Mulberry*, a #1 bestseller in historical fiction. Named a "Best Book" by, among others, *Parade* magazine, BookBub, and Book Riot, *White Mulberry* has been translated into multiple languages. Easton is an Anaphora Writing Residency Fellow, and her work has appeared in *CRAFT Literary*, *Electric Literature*, *Writer's Digest*, and elsewhere. A graduate of Smith College, Columbia University, and Boston College Law School, she resides with her husband and Maltipoo in sunny Southern California.

To learn more, visit her online at www.rosakwoneaston.com

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Instagram: @rosakwoneaston



Talking Points

- Eliciting family stories and turning them into compelling fiction
- The inspiration of Miyoung and Soonho's stories from Rosa's grandmother and father
- Researching and writing about war, displacement, and identity during turbulent times in Asia
- Rosa's own immigrant story and the role it played in writing *Red Seal*
- The little-known history of forced name changes in Asia during WWII
- The history of the Japanese Occupation of Korea and Manchuria
- Rosa's choice to focus on themes of motherhood and family in this multigenerational saga
- The significance behind the title *Red Seal*
- How Rosa's background as a lawyer and library trustee shapes her writing
- Rosa's journey as an author who debuted at 60

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Praise for Rosa Kwon Easton

"Rosa Kwon Easton's *Red Seal* depicts the fraught, inspiring journey of a Korean mother and son as they navigate war, displacement, and identity during the aftermath of World War II. It is a heartfelt tribute to the endurance of family bonds and the hardiness it takes to find a new place to call home." —**Mark Sullivan, bestselling author of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* and *All the Glimmering Stars***

"A gorgeous and moving historical narrative that is epic and intimate at the same time. At the heart of this riveting story is a mother's love for her son as they navigate their way through the tumultuous history of Korea in modern times. A revelatory novel of history, family, and love." —**Minsoo Kang, author of *The Melancholy of Untold History***

"Rosa Kwon Easton masterfully sweeps the reader along on a journey through countries and decades as mother and son each search for their true identities. *Red Seal* will touch you with the struggles they face and provide a valuable glimpse into the Asian countries torn apart by war." —**Lyn Liao Butler, bestselling author of *The Fourth Daughter***

"I could not put this book down. Engrossing, suspenseful, and searing, *Red Seal* is a tale of reclamation and resilience in a turbulent time in Korean and Japanese history. In direct and powerful language, Rosa Kwon Easton has crafted an epic story of the lengths a mother will go to ensure the survival of her children as well as the identities we claim—privately and publicly—through sustained losses. You will be swept up by the twists of history and human fate and stay for Miyoung and Soonho—a story of how we become the people we always hoped." —**Hyeseung Song, author of *Docile: Memoirs of a Not-So-Perfect Asian Girl***

"A powerful exploration of the resilience of families—especially in times when identity, culture, and history are challenged. Poignant and immersive, *Red Seal* was hard to put down." —**Jennifer Coburn, USA Today bestselling author of *The Girls of the Glimmer Factory* and *Cradles of the Reich***

"Profoundly compelling, wrenching, and illuminating, *Red Seal* brings to life the experience of displacement and the search for identity in war-torn Korea and Manchuria. Miyoung and Ko-chan are an uneasy family whose struggles and journey are enormously inspiring. With insight into cultural differences and world-changing forces, Rosa Kwon Easton shows how hope can stay alive even during times of alarming instability and danger, and how it can be possible to resist the need to conform in order to chart one's own way." —**Bonnie Friedman, bestselling author of *Writing Past Dark* and *Don't Stop***

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