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# China Men

*Maxine Hong Kingston*

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The author chronicles the lives of three generations of Chinese men in America, woven from memory, myth and fact. Here's a storyteller's tale of what they endured in a strange new land.

From the Inside FlapThe author chronicles the lives of three generations of Chinese men in America, woven from memory, myth and fact. Here's a storyteller's tale of what they endured in a strange new land.About the AuthorMaxine Hong Kingston is the daughter of Chinese immigrants who operated a gambling house in the 1940s, when Maxine was born, and then a laundry where Kingston and her brothers and sisters toiled long hours. Kingston graduated with a bachelors degree in 1962 from the University of California at Berkeley, and, in the same year, married actor Earl Kingston, whom she had met in an English course. The couple has one son, Joseph, who was born in 1963. They were

active in antiwar activities in Berkeley, but in 1967 the Kingstons headed for Japan to escape the increasing violence and drugs of the antiwar movement. They settled instead in Hawaii, where Kingston took various teaching posts. They returned to California seventeen years later, and Kingston resumed teaching writing at the University of California, Berkeley. While in Hawaii, Kingston wrote her first two books. *The Woman Warrior*, her first book, was published in 1976 and won the National Book Critics Circle Award, making her a literary celebrity at age thirty-six. Her second book, *China Men*, earned the National Book Award. Still today, both books are widely taught in literature and other classes. Kingston has earned additional awards, including the PEN West Award for Fiction for *Tripmaster Monkey*, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, and the National Humanities Medal, which was conferred by President Clinton, as well as the title Living Treasure of Hawaii bestowed by a Honolulu Buddhist church. Her most recent books include a collection of essays, *Hawaii One Summer*, and latest novel, *The Fifth Book of Peace*. Kingston is currently Senior Lecturer Emerita at the University of California, Berkeley.