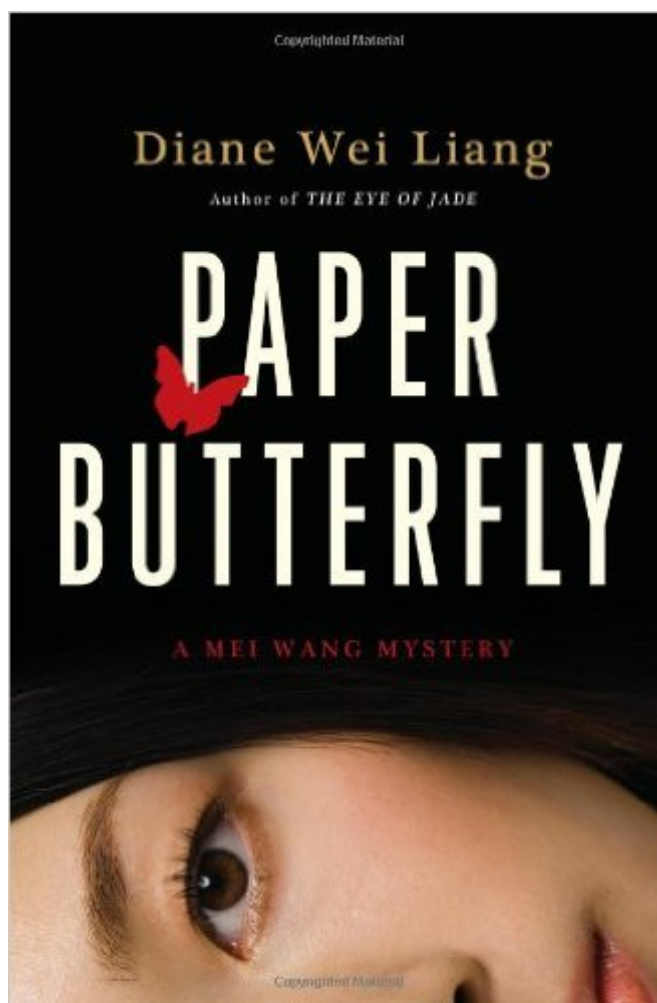


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Paper Butterfly: A Mei Wang Mystery (Mei Wang Mysteries)



Synopsis

Modern-Day Beijing. Mei Wang, 31, lives and works as a private detective in China's capital city. After her resignation from the Ministry for Public Security, Mei saw her status drop swiftly in the eyes of her former colleagues, her TV-star sister, and even her mother. But sharp, intuitive Mei has taken her valuable experience and her insider knowledge of the police and city politics and set herself up as a successful private investigator. Now, with her own car, her own business, even a male receptionist to reflect her well-to-do status, Mei Wang is ensconced in her own little corner of the biggest city in China. When Mei receives a call from the chief executive at Guanghai Record Company, she learns that one of Mr. Peng's top starlets -- the beautiful pop star Kaili -- has been missing for four days. Mei must find the starlet while keeping up the record company's façade that nothing is amiss. Though Kaili is a piece of Mr. Peng's moneymaking machine, Mei learns that she is also a troubled, mysterious young woman whom no one really knows. The discovery of a secret stash of letters in Kaili's apartment sets Mei on an investigation that will take her back to a troubled past that belongs not only to Kaili, but to the entire nation. Meanwhile, in Gansu Province, a work camp laborer named Lin is finally released from eight years of forced labor on the outskirts of civilization. He angrily remembers the betrayal that cost him his youth and his sweetheart, who was torn from his life when he was sent to the work camp. As Mei tries to retrace Kaili's steps, so does Lin retrace his own past...and he carries a secret to the case that no one would ever expect. Paper Butterfly, the second mystery featuring private detective Mei Wang, is as beautiful and lyrical as it is eye-opening. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My first read of Mei Wang's mysteries by Diane Wei Liang. I liked the book cover and since I have enjoyed stories that take place in China by other authors before this book, I decided to read "Paper Butterfly". I understand this book is one of a series of Mei Wang mysteries. Although I don't know Mei's history I gathered it by small snippets throughout the book. Mei's father was in a labor camp because of his rebellious actions against Communist China. The story is modern-day China (from 1989 to early 1990's) and tells of a different society and young people's wants and interest. Mei is a detective although hiding it behind a consulting company. The government has strict rules for detective businesses and although China has progressed, somewhere in the story I got a sense that women were still the second-class citizen (like so many countries.) The story begins with a man named Lin who is in Gansu Province work camp. He was sentenced at 20 years of age for his role in revolting against the government. It's brutally graphic about how he is treated and immediately my heart went out to him. After his eight year sentence he is free. But is he really? Lin has lost so much; his family, his love, education and friends. Next we meet Mei who is hired by a president of a record company to find one of his upcoming pop singer named Kaili. Kaili has disappeared and she is known to be moody, into drugs and a bit of a diva, but never missing this long - several days when Mei took the case. The police think Kaili's disappearance is related to robbery. Mei isn't sold on that idea and begins to search into the troubled singer's past.

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