



Geisha: A Unique World of Tradition, Elegance and Art

John Gallagher , Wayne Reynolds (Illustrator)

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"Rises above many of its competitors, thanks to its ambitious scope...The book's photos and illustrations are frequently stunning....Gallagher's writing style is straightforward and articulate, with so much intelligence and grace, it's difficult not to be charmed."--Publishers Weekly

Take a fascinating peek into the geisha's world of tradition and ritual with the help of a most unique book. Four see-through vellum sections, of four layers each, begin with a "naked" geisha; they show, stage by stage, how her distinctive costume and make-up are assembled. You'll view the subtle changes of appearance through the round of seasonal events, and the elaborate array of equipment in the geisha's wardrobe, as well as everything she needs to do her demanding jobs. Equally revealing is the incredibly detailed information about the women's training, lives, and history.

Geisha: A Unique World of Tradition, Elegance and Art Details

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From Reader Review Geisha: A Unique World of Tradition, Elegance and Art for online ebook

Melissa says

Lovely photos, but some of them are mis-identified as maiko or geisha when they're actually Western tourists dressed up.

Patricia says

I found this to be a superb book. A wealth of information about Maiko, Geiko and all things related. Very detailed about customs, games, clothing and so much more plus absolutely loaded with photos. Not just for those interested in the flower and willow world it will enlighten all those who love and are interested in Japan. A pleasure to read.

Lynda says

Probably the best book that I read on this subject.

C.C. says

Love this book, the history and the layered photography pictures in it.

Krystal says

My life was forever bettered by learning about Geisha culture over 10 years ago. So I gravitate towards any and everything that has to do with Geisha life. This book did not disappoint.

Anna Tatelman says

Read this to help with my research paper on geisha. Very informative and lots of beautiful photos.

Jean-sylvain Brochu says

The author shows us thoroughly the universe of the ultimate ambassadors of the traditional Japanese arts, that is, calligraphy, dance, flowers arrangement, tea ceremony, music and, games. He also describes their

daily routine, how the maiko/geiko dress, and where they live. This book put in perspective the emergence of geishas around 1750, and also their continuing shrinking role in modern Japan.

Sharon says

Great book, loved how the inserts layers of clothing for a geisha...wow, no wonder they needed dressers!

Covered history of geisha, will be purchasing this book.

Tish Grier says

First, this is a visually beautiful book. The photographs of geisha and maiko (geishas-in-training,) both past and present, of prostitutes in the 20th century, and the historical illustrations are clear and beautifully reproduced on high quality stock. The text is accessible and well-researched, which is a rare combination in scholarly works. Gallagher is careful to note that the focus of his work is primarily the city of Kyoto, and he explains Kyoto's special place in Japanese culture and history as the primary city for pursuits of pleasure for several hundred years. The book is also a great primer for understanding Japanese culture and history. Since it is currently available at Barnes & Noble for around \$11, it is a great addition to anyone's library, and makes a wonderful gift for a young woman--someone in her mid-teens, which is the same age as many girls who make the choice to become geisha--who has a keen interest in Japanese culture.

I know I am definitely more curious about Japanese history, and how different it is from our "Western" Culture. Given the amount of overlap between our cultures, it makes sense to know more than just the perfunctory education we get about Japan in connection to American history.
