

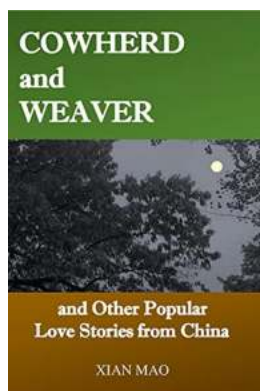
And Other Popular Love Stories From China: Experience the Magic of the East

Love is a universal language that transcends borders and cultures. It has the power to captivate hearts and define destinies. When it comes to love stories, China is a treasure trove of enchanting tales that have been passed down through generations. In this article, we will explore some of the most popular love stories from China and unravel the mystique of the Oriental romance.

1. The Butterfly Lovers: A Love That Transcends Time

The Butterfly Lovers, also known as Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, is one of the most beloved love stories in Chinese culture. It tells the tale of two young lovers who are destined to be together but are torn apart by societal conventions and family expectations. Their story is infused with themes of sacrifice, loyalty, and the belief that true love can conquer all.

The legend tells of Zhu Yingtai, a young woman who disguises herself as a man to pursue an education. Along the way, she meets Liang Shanbo, and they become close friends. Unbeknownst to Liang, Zhu falls deeply in love with him. However, their love remains unfulfilled as societal norms prevent them from marrying.



Cowherd and Weaver: and Other Popular Love Stories from China by Audrey Sauble (Kindle Edition)

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Tragedy strikes when Liang falls ill and Zhu is called back home. Upon hearing the news of Liang's imminent death, Zhu rushes back to him but arrives too late. Overcome by grief, she throws herself onto Liang's grave, where two butterflies emerge, representing the eternal love between the two.

This bittersweet love story has inspired countless adaptations in Chinese literature, music, and theater, capturing the hearts of audiences across the nation.

2. The Legend of the White Snake: A Tale of Forbidden Love

The Legend of the White Snake, or Bai She Zhuan, is a classic Chinese folk tale that dates back to the Tang Dynasty. It revolves around a white snake spirit named Bai Suzhen, who falls in love with a human man named Xu Xian. Their forbidden love challenges the boundaries between the mortal and immortal realms, leading to a captivating narrative filled with trials and tribulations.

The story begins when Bai Suzhen takes on human form and meets Xu Xian, a scholar. They fall in love and get married, but their happiness is short-lived when a Buddhist monk named Fa Hai discovers Bai Suzhen's true identity. Fa Hai sets out to separate the couple and banish Bai Suzhen back to her serpent form.

Despite facing numerous obstacles, including a flood and imprisonment, Bai Suzhen remains determined to reunite with Xu Xian. With the help of her loyal sister, she fights against the forces that seek to keep them apart, ultimately proving the power of love and loyalty.

3. Lady Meng Jiang: A Tale of Love and Tragedy

Lady Meng Jiang, or Meng Jiang Nü, is a poignant love story that is deeply rooted in Chinese folklore. It follows the journey of a young woman named Meng Jiang, who embarks on a mission to find her husband after he is conscripted to build the Great Wall of China. Their love story evokes themes of perseverance, devotion, and the strength of the human spirit.

Legend has it that Meng Jiang's husband, Fan Qi Liang, was forced to join the labor force constructing the Great Wall. Distraught and yearning for her husband, Meng Jiang sets out on a treacherous journey to find him. Along the way, she endures harsh weather conditions, encounters dangerous obstacles, and withstands heart-wrenching hardships. However, her unwavering love drives her forward.

When Meng Jiang finally reaches the Great Wall, she discovers that her husband has tragically died while working on its construction. Overwhelmed by grief, she unleashes her sorrow, causing a section of the wall to collapse and revealing her husband's burial site. Meng Jiang's tears are said to have symbolized her profound love for her husband and the injustice of his untimely death.

The story of Lady Meng Jiang has become a symbol of eternal love and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless women throughout history.

4. The Legend of the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl: A Celestial Love Story

The Legend of the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl, also known as Niu Lang and Zhi Nu, is a mesmerizing love story that has captivated Chinese audiences for centuries. It revolves around the star-crossed love between a mortal cowherd and a celestial weaver, emphasizing the power of true love to overcome all obstacles.

According to legend, Niu Lang and Zhi Nu meet by chance and fall in love.

However, their union is forbidden by the celestial realm, which separates them by the Milky Way. They are only allowed to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, when magpies form a bridge for them to cross the river of stars.

The timeless story of the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl embodies the longing for eternal love and the belief that true love transcends boundaries. It symbolizes the universal desire to be united with one's soulmate, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

5. The Legend of the Red Thread: Destiny's Unbreakable Bond

The Legend of the Red Thread, or Yue Lao and the Red Thread, is a widely recognized Chinese folk tale that celebrates the power of fate and the unbreakable bonds between soulmates. It depicts the concept of the "red thread of fate," which connects two individuals destined to be together.

According to the legend, the Chinese god of marriage, Yue Lao, ties a red thread around the ankles or wrists of two people who are destined to be together, regardless of time, place, or circumstances. This red thread, also known as the thread of fate, ensures that their paths will cross and their love will be realized.

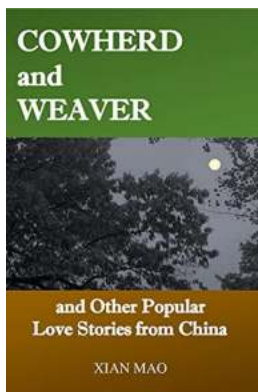
The tale tells stories of individuals separated by vast distances, social classes, or even lifetimes who eventually find each other due to the red thread. It represents the belief that true love cannot be extinguished and that fate will ultimately bring soulmates together, no matter the challenges they face.

Savor the Magic of Chinese Love Stories

Love knows no boundaries, and Chinese love stories beautifully showcase the universal themes of love, sacrifice, and perseverance. These enchanting tales have been embraced by people worldwide, captivating hearts with their timeless messages and rich cultural heritage.

Whether it's the bittersweet romance of *The Butterfly Lovers*, the epic trials of *The Legend of the White Snake*, the heart-wrenching journey of *Lady Meng Jiang*, the celestial love of *The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl*, or the red thread that binds soulmates together, Chinese love stories spark our imagination and remind us of the power of love.

Through the tapestry of these extraordinary love stories, we come to understand that love has the ability to transcend time, conquer all obstacles, and leave an indelible mark on the human soul. So immerse yourself in the magic of Chinese love stories and let their warmth and depth touch your heart.



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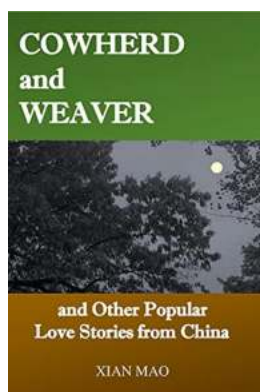
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China has rich oral literature containing numerous legends, among which, *Cowherd and Weaver*, *Fairy Descending to Human World*, *Liang Shanbo and Zhu*

Yingtai, and Madame White Snake are the top four most-told love stories. These beautiful stories have been repeatedly told, generation by generation, in families regardless rich or poor, educated or illiterate, traditional or modern. Some of the stories began to be documented in books some 1600 years ago. Later on they appeared on stage. In the past century, they have been adapted into movies and TV shows. A folksong based on the legend Fairy Descending to Human World has become one of the most popular songs in China, and a violin concerto based on the legend Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai has become the representative masterpiece of Chinese music. In this book, the four legends are formatted into poetic form, so that they would be more interesting.

The legends are popular not only in China, but also in Asian countries. All lovers in the legends ended up in a tragedy. In "Cowherd and Weaver", the lovers were separated by the Milky Way; in "Fairy Descending to Human World", the wife was forced to stay in Heaven while the husband lived on Earth; in "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai", the lovers were not allowed to marry alive but they were buried in the same tomb; and in "Madame White Snake", the wife was restrained under a seven-story stone tower. These stories usually bring the readers to tears. However, they were so beautiful that one would find it hard to stop reading.



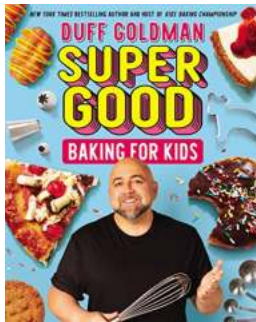
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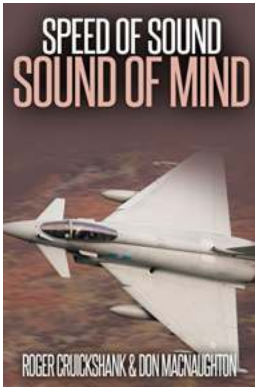
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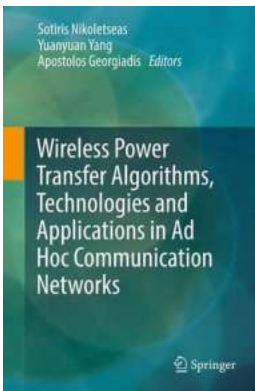
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