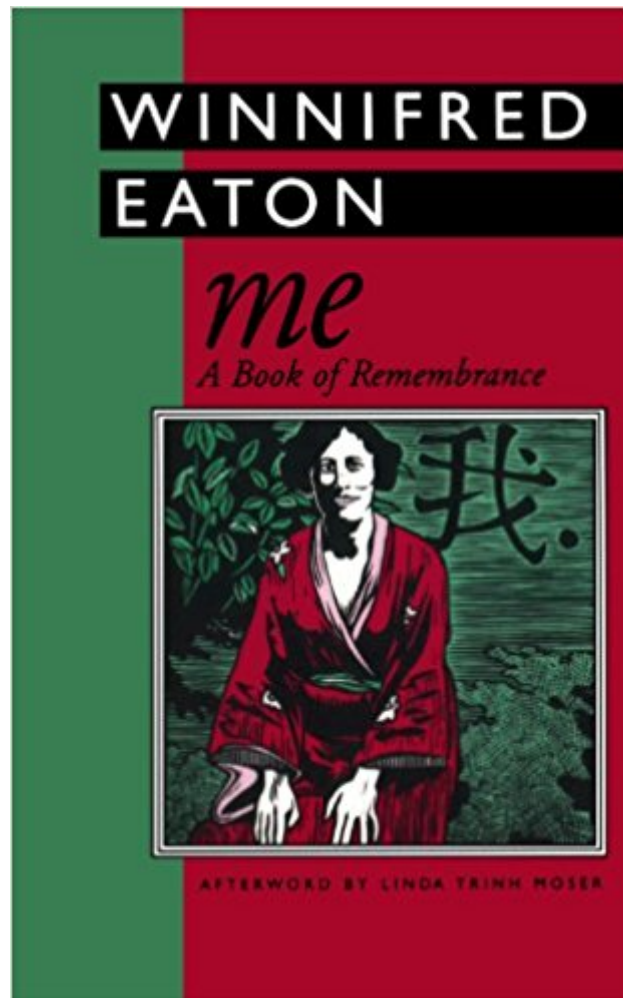




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Me: A Book Of Remembrance (A Banner Book)



Synopsis

Ironically, Winnifred Eaton published most of her works under a Japanese-sounding name, Onoto Watanna, but she was of Chinese ancestry. In *Me: Book of Remembrance* her narrator is called Nora Ascouth, but in the plot, as Nora journeys from her birthplace in Canada to the West Indies and to the United States, Eaton recounts her own early life and writing career. One of sixteen children, Nora leaves her destitute family in Quebec to earn a living. Only seventeen and with ten dollars in her pocket she sets sail for Jamaica and the chance to do newspaper work. Nora ends up in Chicago, moving from job to job, trying all along to sell stories she writes in her spare time. When she discovers that the man with whom she is in love is married, she moves to New York and gains achievement as a novelist. Against this nineteenth-century sensibility of Nora's search for success and love, Eaton conveys the powerlessness of the typical young woman of the working class. Her autobiographical plotline discloses a remarkable secret, Eaton's reticence about her own half-Chinese ancestry. Despite the silence of the text, *Me: A Book of Remembrance* reveals turn-of-the-century views on race, gender, and class. In Jamaica Nora describes the racial inequities and disparities. Moreover, when she says, "I myself was dark and foreign-looking, but the blond type I adored," she reveals the extent of her own internalized oppression. Although the author believes her own mixed ancestry precludes prejudice on her part, the text proves otherwise. Like other ethnic immigrants, Nora is indoctrinated into America's Anglo preference.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a wonderful reference for someone who wants to study asian american woman writers. Although Winnifred Eaton, originally called Onoto Wantanna, published this book anonymously, it was widely acclaimed. It discusses her adventure and troubles as she travels out of Canada at age 13 and travels to Jamaica and then America. It is simply written, easily to understand and quick reading book.

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