Decadence Mandchoue Memoirs Trelawny Backhouse

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in 1898 a young englishman walked into a homosexual brothel in peking and began a journey that he claims took him all the way to the bedchamber of imperial china s last great ruler the empress dowager tz u hsi published now for the first time the controversial memoirs of sinologist sir edmund backhouse provide a unique and shocking glimpse into the hidden world of china s imperial palace with its rampant corruption grand conspiracies and uninhibited sexuality backhouse was made notorious by hugh trevor roper s 1976 bestseller hermit of peking which accused backhouse of

fraudulence and forgery this work written shortly before backhouse s death in 1943 lay for decades forgotten and unpublished in the bodleian library at oxford university dismissed by trevor roper as nothing more than a pornographic novelette but décadence mandchoue is much more than that alternately shocking and lyrical it is the masterwork of a linguistic genius a tremendous literary achievement and a sensational account of the inner workings of the manchu dynasty in the years before its collapse in 1911 if true backhouse s chronicle completely reshapes contemporary historians understanding of the era and provides an account of the empress dowager and her inner circle that can only be described as intimate

is the world of george r r martin s a song of ice and fire and hbo s game of thrones really medieval how accurately does it reflect the real middle ages historians have been addressing these questions since the book and television series exploded into a cultural phenomenon for scholars of medieval and early modern women they offer a unique vantage point from which to study the intersections of elite women and popular understandings of the premodern world this volume is a wide ranging study of those intersections focusing on female agency and the role of advice it finds a wealth of continuities and contrasts between the many powerful female characters of martin s fantasy world and the strategies that historical women used to exert influence reading characters such as daenerys targaryen cersei lannister and brienne of tarth with a creative deeply scholarly eye queenship and the women of westeros makes cutting edge developments in queenship studies accessible to everyday readers and fans

in 1898 a young englishman walked into a homosexual brothel in peking and began a journey that he claims took him all the way to the bedchamber of imperial china s last great ruler the empress dowager tz u hsi the man was sir edmund backhouse and his controversial memoirs décadence mandchoue were published for the first time by earnshaw books in 2011 this edition renamed manchu decadence is abridged and unexpurgated meaning that it focuses on the most extraordinary and valuable elements of backhouse s narrative backhouse was a talented sinologist and his book provides a unique and shocking glimpse into the hidden world of china s imperial palace with its

rampant corruption grand conspiracies and uninhibited sexuality this book written shortly before the author's death lay for decades forgotten and unpublished in the bodleian library at oxford university shocking lyrical and highly controversial it is the masterwork of a linguistic genius a tremendous literary achievement as well as a sensational account of the inner workings of the manchu court in the years before its collapse in 1911

in the twentieth century china underwent a monumental dynastic change and was transformed from an outmoded monarchy into a modern communist state this century of revolutionary change was marked by political upheaval and social chaos it was a period in which chinese began to go abroad to study and conduct business while foreigners came to china for economic opportunity and adventure in the process chinese and foreigners began to meet and form romantic relationships these love affairs fengliu yunshi are notable because they coincided with the last phase of western imperialism including its lingering racial prejudices and even laws against interracial sexual relationships conversely in china there were periodic outbreaks of hostility and violence against foreigners this book explores the interracial relationships of twenty two people who transcended these obstacles to cross color lines and fall in love

mapping modern beijing investigates the five methods of representing beijing a warped hometown a city of snapshots and manners an aesthetic city an imperial capital in comparative and cross cultural perspective and a displaced city on the sinophone and diasporic postmemory by authors travelling across mainland china taiwan hong kong and overseas sinophone and non chinese communities the metamorphosis of beijing s everyday spaces and the structural transformation of private and public emotions unfold manchu writer lao she s beijing complex about a warped native city zhang henshui s popular snapshots of fleeting shocks and everlasting sorrows illustrate his affective mapping of urban transition and human manners in republican beijing female poet and architect lin huiyin captures an aesthetic and picturesque city vis vis the political and ideological urban planning the imagined imperial capital constructed in bilingual transcultural and comparative works by lin yutang princess der ling and victor segalen

highlights the pleasures and pitfalls of collecting local knowledge and presenting orientalist and cosmopolitan visions in the shadow of world wars and cold war a multilayered displaced beijing appears in the sinophone postmemory by diasporic beijing native liang shiqiu taiwan sojourners zhong lihe and lin haiyin and migr martial arts novelist jin yong in hong kong weijie song situates beijing in a larger context of modern chinese language urban imaginations and charts the emotional topography of the city against the backdrop of the downfall of the manchu empire the rise of modern nation state the 1949 great divide and the formation of cold war and globalizing world drawing from literary canons to exotic narratives from modernist poetry to chivalric fantasy from popular culture to urban planning song explores the complex nexus of urban spaces archives of emotions and literary topography of beijing in its long journey from imperial capital to republican city and to socialist metropolis

the last empress of china dowager empress tzu hsi 1835 1908 is remembered as one of history s monsters an iron willed concubine who after usurping power in 1861 ruled from the dragon throne for half a century her reign in the aftermath of the opium wars and through the boxer rebellion until the collapse of the 2 000 year old empire has traditionally been seen as one of murder poison and intrigue but the wicked image is false in 1974 to the dismay of scholars sir edmund backhouse the biographer most responsible for the widespread vision of tzu hsi as monster was revealed to be a con man and now the author of the celebrated best seller the soong dynasty has undertaken the first complete reappraisal of the empress exposing backhouse s writings about her as a major hoax and forgery and establishing that the most important western correspondent in peking during her reign dr george morrison of the london times kept a secret diary contradicting his own dispatches about tzu hsi drawing on many unpublished or long overlooked contemporary sources sterling seagrave shows us tzu hsi as a complex woman whose desperate though often misguided efforts to hold her country together take on a different coloration in the context of unrelenting foreign attempts to colonize and tear it apart far from being all powerful she was actually a hostage of vengeful manchu princes who were using her in a power struggle against both chinese reformers and foreign interference here at last is an authentic portrait of this fascinating historical figure

as well as insight into the western craving to believe in a sinister dragon haunted orient dragon lady is at once a compelling biography and the equally compelling story of how a myth was contrived how it endured and how ultimately the truth has emerged book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

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many of the marks attached to the phonetic rendering of the chinese words in this volume differ from those assigned to them in the dictionaries these apparent discrepencies are intentional the tones being given as they are applied or appear to the ear of the compiler to be applied by the natives of peking

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