



Perpetually Cool: The Many Lives of Anna May Wong (1905-1961) (The Scarecrow Filmmakers Series)

Anthony B. Chan

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Anna May Wong was an extraordinary Asian American woman who became the country's most famous film actress of Chinese descent. From small parts in silent films to starring roles in Hollywood and across the Atlantic, Wong made an impression on audiences of all persuasions. In *Perpetually Cool*, Anthony Chan takes the reader on a compelling journey through Wong's early years in Los Angeles and her first Hollywood pictures. Chan also examines the scope and nature of race, gender, and power and their impact on Wong's personal growth as a Chinese American.

Perpetually Cool is not only the captivating story of a cinematic career, but also of roots and identity, as it recounts Wong's desire to connect with her heritage in the United States and in China. Chan provides extensive textual analyses of Wong's signature films, especially *The Toll of the Sea* (1922), *The Thief of Bagdad* (1924) with Douglas Fairbanks, and her most famous role as Hui Fei in *Shanghai Express* (1932), opposite Marlene Dietrich. *Perpetually Cool* is a fitting tribute to the influence of this Chinese American icon.

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