



## The China Bride

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Award-winning author Mary Jo Putney captivated the hearts of readers everywhere with her breathtaking hardcover debut, *The Wild Child*. Now, in her spectacular new novel *The China Bride*, she has created another brilliantly moving love story, and a very special heroine--a rare beauty torn between two cultures who valiantly struggles to discover the woman she is destined to be.

Born to a Scottish father and now living in China, Troth Montgomery grew up speaking several languages and thinking of faraway England as home. Enduring life as a concubine, she never imagined that one day she would leave the Orient, arriving in bitter winter at the estate of a stranger--the brother of the man who had briefly been her husband. Kyle Renbourne, Viscount of Maxwell, had taken Troth as his bride shortly before his apparent execution in a Chinese prison. Now, as his widow, she is entitled to the home she always dreamed of but remains haunted by the memory of a dashing husband and the brief, forbidden love they shared.

Then Kyle seemingly returns from the dead. Though he has survived, his mind and body are badly wounded. He needs time to heal and retreats from the exotic wife he barely knows. Bitterly aware that she will never be a fitting English wife, Troth defiantly embraces her foreign traditions, hoping that the ancient arts of her ancestors will restore Kyle's spirit and her own battered heart. Together they embark on a miraculous journey of hope and faith as Kyle becomes enchanted with the intimate tranquillity he shares with his bewitching Troth. But before he can win back his China bride, Kyle must first face a deadly menace that has followed them halfway across the world. . . .

Written with exquisite elegance and gentle passion, *The China Bride* is a stirring tale of everlasting love and the power of forgiveness, by a master storyteller.

## The China Bride Details

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## From Reader Review The China Bride for online ebook

### Sombra says

A diferencia del libro de su hermano gemelo, Dominic; y anterior a éste, debo decir que no me ha calado tanto la pareja protagonista.

De nuevo tenemos una Mary Jo Putney con una ambientación impecable; la primera parte del libro que trata sobre cuando nuestros protagonistas se encuentran en China en una época bastante difícil para la ciudad y donde no se permitían extranjeros ni siquiera para el comercio me ha dejado impactada y casi como si yo misma estuviera conviviendo con Kyle, Gavin y Throt a lo largo de sus periplos.

Y en esta primera parte debo reconocer que, aunque me costó, logré meterme de lleno en la historia y disfrutar de la química de ambos.

Throt es una mujer que está a caballo entre dos culturas; la Occidental por parte de padre y la Oriental por parte de madre. Y se nota en la forma de pensar y de actuar en la mayor parte del libro.

Kyle, a quien ya conocí en el libro anterior, es un hombre que tras varios años viajando, a madurado de manera espiritual y emocional y sólo busca en China el poder acceder a esa paz interior que tanta falta le hace.

El camino de ambos se cruza y durante semanas estarán ellos solos ante un viaje incierto y una química que dará lugar a un romance.

La autora ha sabido jugar bastante bien es esta primera parte con el presente y el pasado. Ya que durante el viaje ocurren cosas que repercuten en el presente y que la autora nos va mostrando a través de pequeños "flashbacks" que hacen que nos situemos mejor en el cómo y por qué.

El pero se le pongo a raíz de la segunda parte; es como si tanto Kyle como Throt cambiaran de ideales de un momento a otro. En parte entiendo que lo hicieran, porque él llega bastante tocado física y emocionalmente y ella vuelve a ser de nuevo una mestiza, pero esa química y esa confianza entre ellos es que como si se hubiera desvanecido en el aire.

Así como también un suceso concreto con el malvado de la historia, que acaba en menos de un capítulo para directamente pasar a la reconciliación de los personajes sin regalarnos ni siquiera un epílogo donde se viera algo más.

En definitiva, me ha gustado, me ha parecido interesante y la ambientación ha hecho que disfrutara mucho más; los personajes no tanto a medida que avanzaba la lectura.

De momento me sigo quedando con el de Dominic, el hermano gemelo.

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### Belinda Kroll says

As always, an entertaining read from Mary Jo Putney. This book was so informative! I learned so much about Chinese culture from the 1830s that corresponded with what I knew already. I've never read a book that explained the core of tai chi so well, and I loved that the heroine, because of her dual upbringing in both Chinese tradition and Scottish, had no problem with pre-marital sex so I didn't have to slog through the usual "Oh no, I shouldn't be doing this, but it feels so good!" that we usually get in romance novels.

I felt the hero/heroine were a great match. I loved that they got to know each other via traveling together. Rather than falling for the typical hero and heroine hating each other and then growing to love each other,

they were two people brought together by circumstance and finding a connection.

Read this book if you're looking for a story that is entertaining, informative, exciting, and yes, even a little thrilling in bed.

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### **penelopewanders says**

Read this pre-goodreads days.. Here's what I wrote at the time:

After over a year of trading by post, I met Oriana78 when I was in Paris and we did a trade over the table in a cafe.... with a lovely nice long chat about books, life etc!

Actually read this a while ago and forgot to journal it. I really enjoyed it and it's more or less a keeper, although almost all of my keepers are available for rings or loans (hence the available setting).

Just thought I'd add the book description from Amazon. I guess I liked it more than the reviewer did. Nineteenth-century China, England and Scotland are the settings for Putney's continuing saga of the Renbourne twins, Dominic and Kyle, begun in *The Wild Child*. There, Kyle handed over his unwanted betrothed, Meriel (a match arranged at birth), to his twin brother, Dominic, and escaped to Spain with his terminally ill mistress, Constanca. Ever since his true love's death, Kyle has been exploring the world. In 1832, he is in Macao. His father's health is failing, however, and Kyle plans to fulfill his lifelong dream of seeing the Temple of Hoshan, "an image of peace and unearthly beauty," then return to England to resume his duties as Lord Maxwell. Unfortunately, China is closed to all Fan-qui (foreigners) and Kyle must stay within the confines of the Canton Settlement, a narrow strip of warehouses serving as shipping point for all European and American trade companies. In order to sneak into the Chinese countryside, Kyle enlists the aid of Jin Kang, who he thinks is a young male Chinese interpreter. Jin is actually Troth Mei-Lian Montgomery, feisty daughter of a Scottish trader and Chinese concubine, who is forced to make her living by spying on "foreign devils." Kyle's rash escapade is predictably unsuccessful, as he is discovered and sentenced to death. He marries Troth (symbolically) and dispatches her to England to tell his family of his fate. Which, of course, turns out to be different from what she imagines. In chapters alternating between Troth's experiences in England and flashbacks to her adventures with Kyle in China, Putney contrives an awkward tale, dependant for its drama on Kyle's belief that he can never love again, and on Troth's fear of rejection by Kyle's family. Though the conflict rarely grips, the sex scenes are adequately steamy, and Putney provides plenty of atmospheric details. (Aug.)

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### **MashJ says**

I'm hovering between a 3 and a 4 stars on this one. I may have read too many MJP books recently, however I think this one only rates a 3 star. I liked it but didn't love it. Loved the location though- fascinating look at China where the author has some links. The heroine was an extremely appealing character forced to live as a boy following the death of her parents. I liked her martial arts skills- I always prefer the type of heroine who saves the hero from the bad guys to the type that weeps in a corner whilst the fight goes on.

The "baddy" in the plot was very cardboard cutout and I felt that parts of the story were not properly resolved- was her Chinese guardian involved with the baddy's plots for instance? I also struggled with the hero's character. Whilst I could sort of see his point of view and understand his actions I found that he was too much the prevaricator to really carry the plot forward. I will happily rate a book highly when I don't like

the main characters but understand their actions and if I felt that the story worked well. Unfortunately in this case I found that this book dragged a little and the final section felt bolted on.

So 4 stars for the female character and the location writing but 2 stars for the clunky plot and irritating male character.

However- don't stop here because the final book in the trilogy made up for all the lacks in this one and was absolutely wonderful!

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## etherealfire says

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## Dana Burda says

Romanul binecunoscutei scriitoare de romance Mary Jo Putney a fost tradus în limba română cu titlul "Mireasa din China" și a apărut la editura Litera în colecția "Cărți romantice" în anul 2014. Traducerea a fost făcută de către Nicoleta Mitrofan / Graal Soft. Mi-a plăcut foarte mult romanul pe care îl consider unul dintre cele mai reușite ale acestei autoare care de altfel scrie foarte bine. Părerea mea este puțin subiectivă poate și pentru că îmi place foarte mult tot ce ține de istoria și cultura extremului orient.

Personajul principal este Troth Mei-Lian Montgomery o tânără pe jumătate chinezoaică. Tatăl ei era negustorul scoțian Hugh Montgomery iar mama frumoasa chinezoaică Li-Yin. Se căsătoriseră în Canton, zonă rezervată negustorilor străini de statul chinez care practica politica porților închise. În Canton se adunaseră negustori europeni și americani care se îmbogățeau din comerțul cu ceai dar și cu opiu cu toate că acest din urmă era interzis. Suntem ca timp înainte de războiul opiumului, într-o perioadă în care toți se gândeau doar la sumele uriașe de bani care puteau fi câștigate și mai puțin în consecințele pe termen lung. Prezența străinilor dincolo de zona clar delimitată era strict interzisă și pedepsită cu moartea. Troth Mei-Lian rămâne orfană de ambii părinți la numai 12 ani după ce tatăl ei moare într-un naufragiu provocat de un taifun. Averele adunate sunt luate de creditori iar Troth este luată în grijă de emarele negustor chinez Chenqua care își dă repede seama că o poate folosi în interesul lui, punând-o să spioneze negustorii străini pentru că tia la perfecție și engleză și chineză. O îmbracă în haine bătătești și Mei-Lian poate merge împreună cu protectorul ei în toate locurile în care se întâlnesc cu negustorii străini. Toți o știu drept traducătorul lui Chenqua, Jin-Kang. Era prea înalt pentru o femeie chineză, prea deosebită cu trăsăturile ei amestecate așa că acest aranjament a funcționat fără probleme ani buni și Mei-Lian se trezește că are deja 27 de ani. Dar iată că Chenqua îi cere să spioneze un englez nou venit, tovarșul negustorului american Gavin Elliot. Este vorba de Kyle Renbourne, al zecelea viconte Maxwell care investește și el de mult în comerțul cu ceai și este împotriva comerțului cu droguri. Acest nobil englez dorește să cunoască bine Cantonul dar ar vrea să ajungă și în zona interzisă pentru a-și împlini un vis din copilărie și anume să vadă templul budist Hoshan aflat la 160 km de Canton. Între Mei-Lian și Kyle Renbourne se leagă repede o prietenie specială datorată mai ales faptului că Troth i-a salvat viața lui Kyle când acesta fusese atacat de șase asasini plătiti. Așa află Kyle că tânărul și eficientul Jin Kang era de fapt o fată pe jumătate scoțiană. Se decide să plece împreună în marea aventură și ajung la templul Hoshun. Recompensa pentru Troth era plata călătoriei până în Anglia. De-a lungul periculoasei călătorii cei doi nu numai că se cunosc mai bine dar se și îndrăgostesc unul de altul și așa începe de fapt marea și adevărata lor aventură pentru că după aventurile din China vor urma cele din Anglia și din Scoția și tot acest drum sinuos este de fapt un drum al iubirii.

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### **Naty Levin says**

Mejor que el anterior en el sentido de que la pareja es un poco más creíble. Ella no es tan extravagante y (por momentos) fría como Meriel. Bien Troth. Kyle es más flojo que Dominic pero pasa. El final se estiró un poco para mí gusto pero buh ! Tres estrellas para Troth y Kyle

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### **Aeron Trahaearn says**

review to come...

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### **Janetlorraine says**

I enjoyed this book so much! I believe it would be a mistake to categorize this as "historical romance" but that comes the closest. The main characters are very well developed and very interesting. The heroine is multi-racial, having a Chinese mother and a Scottish father. It begins in China and I found the circumstances surrounding her upbringing and the way it impacted her personality fascinating! I also found the character development very interesting, as Mary Jo Putney doesn't always take the easy or more expected path. Many things in this book remind me of how far we still have to go when it comes to acceptance. It could also be classed as a mystery because there is mystery threading through the story.

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### **Serban Georgiana says**

Mary Jo Putney este tot timpul pe radarul meu,si rar se intampla ca cartile scrise de ea sa ma dezamageasca. Pe langa povestile de dragoste furtunoase pe care le regasim in cartile ei,tot timpul povestile sunt pline de suspans si actiune.

The China Bride ,este o calatorie palpitanta prin tinuturile Chinei.A fost interesant sa aflu toate detaliile despre cultura chineza,si cum era privita aceasta tara la nivel mondial.Inca de prin 1800 era o adevarata putere culturala ,dar si comerciala.

Protagonisti sunt Kyle Renbourne si Troth Montgomery,si in ciuda faptului ca au trait in lumi si culturi diferite,atractia dintre ei este instantanee.

Pe Kyle l-am cunoscut in primul volum al seriei(schimbul de identitati dintre gemeni,daca mai tineti minte).Indurerat de pierderea iubitei lui,se hotareste sa faca o calatorie in tinuturile Asiei,si astfel ajunge in China.

Troth este pe jumătate scoțianca si pe jumătate chinezoaica,dar in urma unei tragedii ,ramane orfana si-si traieste viata in minciuna sub numele de Jin Kang.Traieste in casa unui comerciant chinez ,spionand pentru acesta comerciantii straini.

Aventura lor este interesanta,drumul spre templul Hoshan are un final tragic,pentru ca el este intemnitat si condamnat la moarte,dar totodata semnifica si inceputul unei minunate povesti de dragoste.

Poate ca a-si fi acordat un punctaj mai mare,dar nu ar fi fost corect,pentru ca autoarea a scris carti si mai bune decat cea in cauza.

Cartea merita citita,este plina de actiune si suspans,si mi-a placut .

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## Marline says

My first 5 star waiting for a book on goodreads belongs to the China Bride. I've been working my way through Ms. Putney's back catalog after devouring her Lost Lords series. This book had all the parts of romance that I love a will they or won't they, an almost thwarted HEA, jumping around with the timeline. I loved the China setting and wish more historicals could leave Britain and head elsewhere. The characters were fully developed and even though I'm reading in the middle of a series, I was not lost. This a wonderful stand alone book that I devoured on a single rainy morning. This book was beautiful, sweet and tender. Happy reading!

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## Alexa Whitewolf says

Mary Jo really knows how to blend in history, romance and enough drama to make your head spin. Her heroines are fierce, the heroes wonderfully male, and it all makes for a splendid tale that takes you on a roller coaster ride all over!

The China Bride was elegantly written, full of tidbits - both real and fictional - of China. I thoroughly enjoyed the explanations of tai chi and feng chui, and the intricacies of wing shun. Wonderful blend of information and storytelling.

The love story ??? Kyle and Troth had me guessing up to the last minute, as to whether they would truly end up together or not. Having read The Wild Child, I really expected to see parts of Dominic in Kyle since they're twins, but they truly are 100% different. That difference made the storyline even better, with Kyle acting in ways that more often than not made me want to smack him - or hug him.

With Troth being Eurasian, I found the entire story took on a deeper tone that is still very resonant with our today world where interracial relationships - and the people in them - struggle for acceptance. Troth's journey and eventual devil-may-care attitude had me rooting for her all along!

Wonderfully adorable characters, a love story that touches you, all told in a spellbinding narrative. What more can you wish for?

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## LJ says

The China Bride - VG+  
Putney, Mary Jo

Born to a Scottish father, Troth Montgomery, betrothed to her life as a concubine, never imagined she would one day leave the Orient to arrive at the English estate of a stranger -- the brother of the man who had briefly been her husband. Kyle Renbourne, Viscount of Maxwell, had taken Troth as his bride shortly before his apparent execution in a Chinese prison. Now, as his widow, she is entitled to the home she always dreamed of but remains haunted by the memory of a dashing husband and the brief, forbidden love they shared. But then Kyle Renbourne is seemingly reborn, though his mind and body are badly wounded. Together, Troth and Kyle embark on a miraculous journey of hope, faith, and struggle against a deadly menace that has followed them halfway across the world.

This was a wonderful read. Recommended

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### ♥?elody says

Very enchanting wonderful story filled with suspense, adventure and emotional angst-filled trials. Surprised the hell out of me how much I enjoyed it. This was a 5 star read from the beginning. If it wasn't for the 2nd half of the book I would have given this a 5 star without hesitation. I thought both the hero and heroine were unique fully fleshed out real original characters who I really loved and enjoyed reading about. Troth is a half-Scottish half-Chinese woman who's been forced to live her life as a man (Jin Kang) in order to be 'accepted' in the Chinese society she was brought into. Lord Maxwell, Kyle crosses paths with Troth during his trip across seas. It was really interesting and quite enthralling to see these two interact. Kyle is suspicious and weary of his mysterious draw and attraction to the quiet unassuming laborer assistant 'Jin Kang'. I loved seeing these two slowly be drawn to each other and spend time together on their trek to Canton to sneak into the Hoshan temple.

And this may be only my second book I've read by Putney but I have to say her depth and skill of writing such vivid scenery, setting, descriptive detail to every single thing was a complete draw in for me. I could not put this book down because of it. She paid so much attention to the history, culture, time setting and way of life for all the characters in this book that I got completely lost in it. I loved it. Everything felt so real. The characters completely stood out from the pages they were so real and I felt so intuned with them. I was really impressed with how Putney handled writing the characters and setting up the story with such vivid detail. Kudos to her! I found myself learning so much right along with Klyle about the Chinese culture and their traditions. There was nothing fake or contrived about this story. When you get so completely sucked into a story you know it's a good one.

The sexual tension and playful interaction between Klyle and Troth was really addictive to read about. The chemistry and sexual tension between the two was enthralling and explosive to read about. There was nothing forced about it. The scenes in the jail cell in particular just melted me. Troth having to say goodbye to Kyle like that had me on the verge of tears & broke my heart. It just made me want to read the book faster to see what happens next. Those were some major stand out scenes from the entire book for me. The story actually begins in the 'middle' where we see a heartbroken Troth arriving at Kyle's family's residence about to tell them about his death. The story jumps from present to past in the first half where we see the story unfold and how the characters end up where they are in the beginning of the book. The 2nd half of the story picks up from present day where we see the couple 'reunite' and deal with their circumstance.

The thing I struggled with a little and made the story wain a little was the second half once Kyle returns from his release in prison. I was expecting a lot of angst, tension and misunderstandings like any typical romance drama. But here....I think Putney let it drag out a little *too long* . It just made the conclusion not as wonderful as I was hoping it would be. It didn't have the emotional impact I was hoping for. I think the fact that it took the couple *forever* to realize they loved each other and to voice their feelings just got drawn out too long. I just hated that the final 'climactic' HEA ending wasn't as climactic as I wanted it to be, it was underwhelming when it finally came to a conclusion.

Also the much anticipated reunion between Kyle and Troth when he returns from jail I was anxiously waiting for through the entire story was underwhelming and disappointing. We see them drift apart and Troth's continuous resentment towards him and brittle anger and rebellious attitude against him and his English family I think was a little unfair and unfounded considering everything he did for her and way he

treated her through most of the book. I thought she was lashing out at the wrong people for her understandable misgivings and frustrations. Her shift in personality and frame of mind was little bit out of character too. Troth always was in the mindset and grew up thinking she didn't belong anywhere, was ugly and not worthy of marriage to someone like Kyle. I understood her hesitant regard towards being a permanent fixture in his life and thinking of herself as just an obligation. But the constant misunderstandings, miscommunication, misconstruing each other's words got to a point of redundant and really tiresome. They had a whole bunch of unspoken feelings and miscommunication going on between them thinking the other was just an obligation who didn't want to be married. Good grief. Cut it out! I really think the back and forth game and dragging it out till eternity just watered down the story. It started to muddle everything wonderful that happened previously. It went from beautiful heartbreaking story about two people discovering each other and finding love to a silly 'yes, no' tired old misgivings game we see play out dozens of times in HR books. I understood the tension and the whys in the first half but in the second half it was dragged out and milked for all it's worth that it became silly and tiresome and really unnecessary. I lost count how many times those two repeated the same start/stop conversation of 'do you want to continue to be married to me?'. Just come out and SAY what you feel and stop with the cat and mouse game.

Also I didn't much care for Kyle's first love Constancia that he kept comparing his time and what he felt for her with how he feels for Troth. The man was clearly confused and unsure but the constant questioning and talking in circles about 'should they?' or 'shouldn't they?' give their marriage a real shot drove me up the wall. Constancia was his only other love in his life before meeting Troth, so it was understandable why she had such a significance in his life. But seeing as how he met the much older courtesan when he was 18 and made her his mistress for the next ten years I wasn't a big fan of. But that's more of personal taste so \*shrugs\*....

Another thing I didn't really care for and thought was completely out of character for Troth was that silly 'suicide' attempt she pulled after hearing the scathing things Kyle's father said about her being unfit as his wife. Total WTF? jumped the shark moment for me. She came off so desperate and manipulative in that scene considering she pulled the stunt only to 'get a reaction' out of him. I really didn't like that. It was so out of character for someone like her to do. Troth is a very level-headed honest forthright person. She doesn't do sneaky desperate stunts like that. No matter how shattered.

Overall great story, great first half.... that alone was 5 star. The second half: 3.5/4 star.

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## Christy says

4 stars

Loved the exotic location. She really gave a sense of how profoundly different Chinese and European cultures were at that time, as well as how adamant China was in remaining separate from the west.

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