

ASIAN  
HERITAGE  
MONTH  
RESOURCE  
CATALOGUE



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## Books:

### [Chop Suey Nation](#) by Ann Hui

The Legion Cafe and Other Stories from Canada's Chinese Restaurants weaves together Hui's own family history—from her grandfather's decision to leave behind a wife and newborn son for a new life, to her father's path from cooking in rural China to running some of the largest "Western" kitchens in Vancouver, to the unravelling of a closely guarded family secret—with the stories of dozens of Chinese restaurant owners from coast to coast.

### [Do Not Say We Have Nothing](#) by Madeline Thien

Thien takes us inside an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations-- those who lived through Mao's Cultural Revolution in the mid-twentieth century; and the children of the survivors, who became the students protesting in Tiananmen Square in 1989, in one of the most important political moments of the past century.

### [The Disappearing Moon Cafe](#) by Sky Lee

Sometimes funny, sometimes scandalous, always compelling, this extraordinary first novel chronicles the women of the Wong family from frontier railroad camps to modern-day Vancouver.

### [The Jade Peony](#) by Wayson Choy

The Jade Peony is told through the eyes of three children in an immigrant family, living in Vancouver's Chinatown in the 30's and 40's.

### [All That Matters](#) by Wayson Choy

All That Matters, the eagerly anticipated sequel to Wayson Choy's bestselling first novel, The Jade Peony. The author takes us once again to the Vancouver of the 1930s and 1940s to follow the lives of the Chen family, this time through the experiences of First Son, Kiam-Kim, whose childhood and adolescence in a strict but caring Chinatown family is at once strange and familiar to us.

### [The Kitchen Gods Wife](#) by Amy Tan

Winnie and Helen have kept each other's worst secrets for more than fifty years. Now, because she believes she is dying, Helen wants to expose everything. And Winnie angrily determines that she must be the one to tell her daughter, Pearl, about the past—including the terrible truth even Helen does not know.

### [Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures](#) by Vincent Lam

Following the interlinked stories of a group of medical students and the unique challenges they face, from the med school to the intense world of emergency rooms, evac missions, and terrifying new viruses.

[We Have Always Been Here](#) by Samra Habib

This book is an exploration of faith, art, love, and queer sexuality, a journey that takes her to the far reaches of the globe to uncover a truth that was within her all along. A triumphant memoir of forgiveness and family, both chosen and not, *We Have Always Been Here* is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever felt out of place and a testament to the power of fearlessly inhabiting one's truest self.

[Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.](#) by Jenny Heijun Wills

Delving into gender, class, racial, and ethnic complexities, as well as into the complex relationships between Korean women--sisters, mothers and daughters, grandmothers and grandchildren, aunts and nieces--*Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.* describes in visceral, lyrical prose the painful ripple effects that follow a child's removal from a family, and the rewards that can flow from both struggle and forgiveness.

[A Good Wife](#) by Samra Zafar

*A Good Wife* tells the harrowing and inspiring story of a young girl who grows into a woman of courage and power in the face of oppression.

[The Amazing Absorbing Boy](#) by Maharaj, Rabindranath

Seventeen-year-old Samuel, naïve and inexperienced, leaves his home in Trinidad for Canada following the death of his mother. He hasn't seen his father since he was six years old and now, thrust into a new life together, Samuel soon realizes that he is considered a burden.

## **Films:**

[Iron Road](#)

The story begins as a humble, individual quest and opens into the immigrants' epic struggle for dignity and identity. The story of *Iron Road* presents an ideal opportunity to educate young people about the history of the Chinese community in Canada, the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the cultural diversity of our nation.

[Unwanted Soldiers](#)

This picture tells the personal story of filmmaker Jari Osborne's father, and other Chinese Canadian veterans who fought in the Second World. Osborne's father and his compatriots recall their training for top-secret missions behind enemy lines in Southeast Asia, as they proudly fought for a country that had discriminated against them.

### [Everything Will Be](#)

Everything Will Be is a documentary by Sundance award-winning director Julia Kwan. It captures the subtle changes in Vancouver's once-thriving Chinatown—in the midst of a transformation that plays out across many ethnic enclaves in Canada. This film shows how gentrification and new immigrants have transformed Vancouver's, once-homogenous, working-class Chinatown. The community's oldest and newest members offer their intimate perspectives on the shifting landscape as they reflect on change, memory, and legacy.

### [Tiger!](#)

This film traces the journey of "Tiger" Jeet Singh, a Punjabi-Canadian immigrant who became one of Japan's most popular professional wrestlers. It follows his life from being a newly-landed Canadian resident to frequent travel to fight in Japan to his current day life in small-town Ontario as a successful local businessman.

### [Scenes from a Corner Store](#)

An intimate portrayal of a Canadian-Korean family's struggle to understand each other. The documentary shows the common struggle between old-world Asian parents passing down their traditional values and their new-world kids' resistance despite their love for their father and mother.

### [Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story](#)

This documentary tells the story of the Asahi baseball team, champions of the Pacific Northwest, until they lost everything and were herded into internment camps after Pearl Harbor. Within the barbed wire, the Tigers' passion for the game remained contagious, as RCMP officials and local townspeople joined in, breaking down racial and cultural barriers.

### [Continuous Journey](#)

This film recounts the Komagata Maru Incident of 1914 through a mix of archival and contemporary footage. The ship carrying 376 immigrants from India to Canada became the battleground between those seeking immigration to Canada and the imperial forces that refused to allow them their right to a fair passage from India.

## **Mixed Media/Podcasts:**

[We Need to Talk about Anti-Asian Hate](#) by The Try Guys

[Vivre le racisme anti-chinois et anti-asiatique au Canada : avant et pendant la COVID-19 | Coexister](#) by Rad

[Kenji](#) by Fort Minor

[Asian Boss Girl](#) by Melody Cheng, Helen Wu, & Janet Wang

## Other Educational Resources:

[This Is the Anti-Asian Hate Crime Capital of North America](#) by Natalie Obiko Pearson

This article covers many aspects of the recent rise in anti-Asian racism with a focus on Vancouver, from the head tax to putting the blame on housing prices on Chinese immigrants.

[TIMELINE: This is Canada's history of anti-Asian racism that COVID-19 has amplified](#) by Veronica Appia

This article is a comprehensive read when it comes to the history of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia along side recent troubling increases.

[A Scholar's Garden](#)

Take a virtual tour of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. Located in Vancouver, it is the first full-scale classical Chinese Garden ever constructed outside of China.

[Chinese Canadian Women, 1923-1967](#)

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the online exhibit entitled Chinese Canadian Women, 1923-1967: Inspiration - Innovation – Ingenuity, explores a compelling chapter of Canadian history through the experiences of Canadian women of Chinese descent.

[Heroes Remember: Featured Chinese-Canadian Veterans](#)

Veteran Affairs Canada's Heroes Remember presents 21 veterans who speak candidly about their wartime efforts.

[Japanese Canadian National Museum – British Columbia](#)

The Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit artifacts and archives relating to the history of Canadians of Japanese descent from the 1870s to present, and to communicate the Japanese Canadian experience and contributions as an integral part of Canada's history and multicultural society.

[Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society](#)

The Society is an integrated component of the Chinese Museum within the Chinese Cultural Centre complex in Vancouver's Chinatown. Its goal is to collect, preserve, document, and commemorate the role of Chinese Canadian veterans in the service of Canada's military and its impact on Chinese Canadian history and civil rights.

[Historica Canada](#)

This website describes the Canada-Asia experience from earliest times to the present day. The website discusses the Asian experience in Canada, and the evolution of Canadian society, from exclusion to greater tolerance including the embracing of diversity.

[The Ties that Bind](#)

The Ties That Bind: Building the CPR, Building a Place in Canada examines the struggle of communities of Chinese descent in Canada, to establish their identity and roots in Canada. This online project was developed by The Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada.

### [The Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage](#)

This collaborative work focuses on showcasing Asian Canadian heritage, achievements, contributions, and stories. The website also features works by Canadian artists of Asian descent and encourages participation in the cultural life of Canada. It is also a valuable teaching resource for schools on Asian heritage and culture.