



The Tea House on Mulberry Street

By Sharon Owens

Muldoon's Tea Rooms on Mulberry Street in Belfast is the crossroads for a vibrant cast of characters, each of whom is at a crossroads in his or her own life. From the proprietors, Daniel and Penny Stanley, to the winsome florist across the street, the starving artist next door, the philandering businessman across town, his plump little doormat wife, the spinster sisters down the road, and the pretentious society matron, everyone who enters the tearoom for a scone and some Earl Grey leaves a bit more resolved to make changes in his or her life. Must be the ingredients they use, for the tea shop itself hasn't changed a whit since the Stanleys inherited it from Penny's parents. But when a tragic accident nearly destroys the restaurant, the Stanleys undertake the most drastic changes of all.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and on Audio-CD

A Year in the Merde

By Stephen Clarke

Recounts the life and times of a young British man brought to Paris by a French company to open a chain of British tea rooms, detailing his dealings with lazy French employees, a scheming boss, lusty girlfriends, and French culture.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & on Audio-CD



Harlequin Tea Set and Other Stories

By Agatha Christie

These nine short stories offer a variety of mysterious doings, intriguing characters, and odd circumstances. Christie's complex plots, her historical and moral perspectives, and her strong interest in human psychology are the major factors setting the tone of these selections. "The Harlequin Tea Set" weaves psychological drama with a ghost story, creating a surreal atmosphere and an extraordinary ending. Christie captures cultural and period details in a way that readers can easily assimilate, making these stories time-capsule views of life during the first third of this century. This collection continues to substantiate the author's ability to create imaginative plots and characters, proving that really good writing remains readable for countless years.

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A Cup of Tea and a Good Book...

"You can't get a cup of tea big enough or a book long enough to suit me."

~ C.S. Lewis



"A book reads better which is our own, and has been so long known to us, that we know the topography of its blots, and dog's ears, and can trace the dirt in it to having read it at tea with buttered muffins."

*~ Charles Lamb
(1775 - 1834)*

"Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea."

~ Henry Fielding



A Cup of Tea
By Amy Ephron

The setting is New York during the first year of U.S. involvement in World War I. Rosemary Fell is a pampered and protected young lady, engaged to marry the ever-so-suitable Philip Alsop. One day, Rosemary comes upon a young woman who has obviously fallen on hard times. Out of a sense of noblesse oblige, Rosemary invites this person—Eleanor Smith—home for a cup of tea. Philip happens to drop by, and a shared glance between him and Eleanor sparks what later flames into an affair. Philip enlists, and his orders to embark for overseas mean that his marriage to Rosemary has to be moved up, but his departure for Europe leaves behind a pregnant Eleanor. Despite being thought killed in battlefield skirmishes, Philip returns home to New York, but no happy ending is to be had.

Available at Preakness in Fiction



Gunpowder Green
By Laura Childs

When a member of the Charleston elite turns up dead during the annual yacht race and the simultaneous launching of the latest tea flavor, Gunpowder Green, from her Indigo Tea Shop, proprietor Theodosia Browning must draw on her sleuthing skills to find a killer.

Available at Wayne in Large-Type

Memoirs of a Geisha
By Arthur Golden

The life of a famous Kyoto geisha—from her painful apprenticeship in the early 1930s through the years of her prime and her later career in Manhattan—is rendered with stunning clarity in this fully imagined first novel. Golden effortlessly spins the tale as the dictated autobiography of quick-witted Chiyo Sakamoto, the daughter of a poor fisherman, who attains the pinnacle of geisha success. Sold as a child by her financially desperate father, Chiyo is placed in a house for geisha as the personal maid to Hatsumomo, one of Kyoto's most sought-after geisha. There she is trained in the arts of dance, singing and the tea ceremony. Hatsumomo, however, threatened by Chiyo's beauty, treats her with unrestrained cruelty. Chiyo's position is one of indentured servitude: she may not leave until she has repaid all of her living expenses and even her original purchase cost. After many vicissitudes, Chiyo is transformed into a celebrated geisha called Sayuri; many men offer to be her danna (high-paying boyfriend), an honor that—defying Western expectations—does not include sex unless the geisha chooses so. Counter to everything geisha are taught, Chiyo learns that her own feelings do matter, and honoring them results in a well-earned, intelligent and satisfyingly happy ending.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and on Audio-CD



Thousand Cranes
By Yasunari Kawabata

With a restraint that barely conceals the ferocity of his characters' passions, one of Japan's great postwar novelists tells the luminous story of Kikuji and the tea party he attends with Mrs. Ota, the rival of his dead father's mistress. A tale of desire, regret, and sensual nostalgia, every gesture has a meaning, and even the most fleeting touch or casual utterance has the power to illuminate entire lives—sometimes in the same moment that it destroys them.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



Kissed a Sad Good-bye
By Deborah Crombie

The murder of a beautiful business-woman in London's Isle of Dogs neighborhood calls both local police and Scotland Yard into play. The Yard's Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James create a psychological profile of the victim and thoroughly investigate the thriving family tea concern. Her long-time friend and (estranged) fiancé, a local land developer, and a pan-handling (but well-born) clarinetist are high on the list of suspects.

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Tea Rose
By Jennifer Donnelly

Her family and dreams shattered by her father's untimely death at the hands of a ruthless tea baron, Fiona Finnegan flees East London and eventually establishes herself at the head of the tea trade in New York.

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