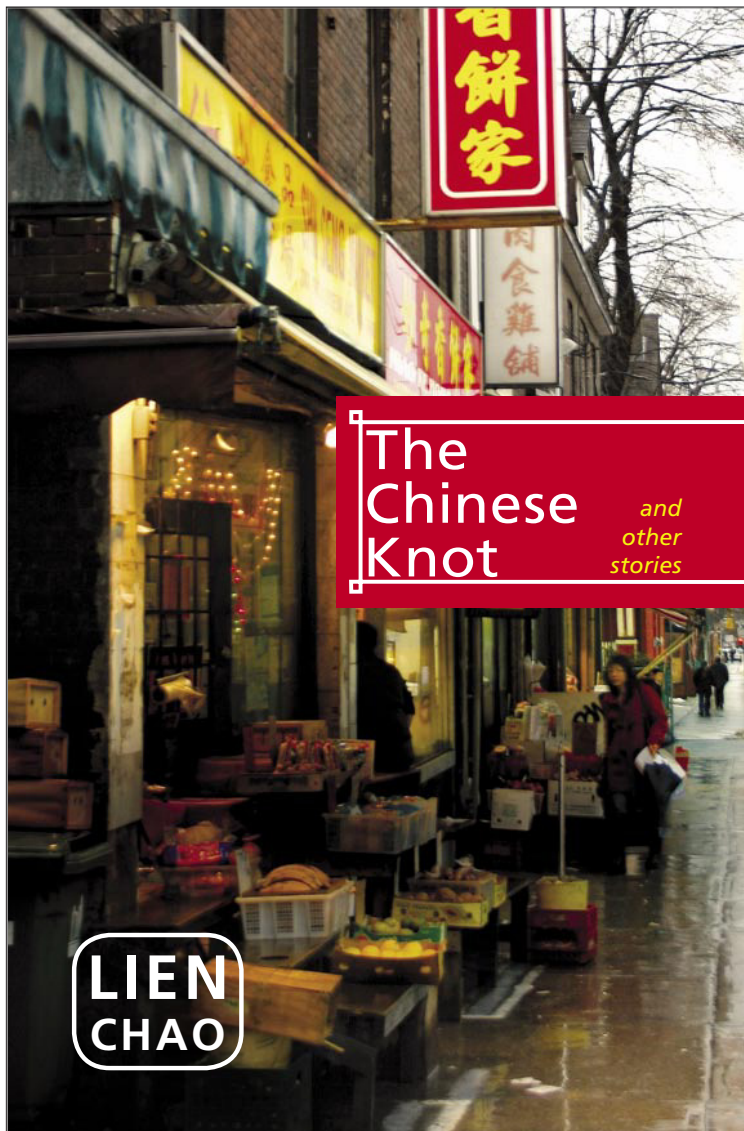
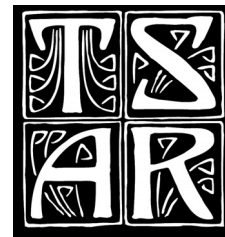


The Chinese Knot and other stories

LIEN CHAO



Award-winning author Lien Chao weaves together these emotionally charged short stories focusing on Chinese immigrants in Toronto's multiracial neighbourhoods.

In a public playground Wei Ming finds herself strangely alone, but she takes an unusual step when she observes the prejudices at work among the parents and children; middle-aged and divorced, Katherine mulls over the possibilities of spending a lonely life and marrying a stable and safe Chinese suitor whose food tastes are from a different region; making an impulsive phone call to China, Yi Mei discovers her love for "wanton woman" Ai Hua, whom she left behind more than a decade ago; Teacher Lu is an advisor, a refuge, and even a prospective bride to her various students . . . The female protagonists of these and other stories find love, face loneliness, confront crises, and overcome racial stereotypes as they evolve and grow in an ever-changing milieu.

LIEN CHAO has observed Chinese life through her work in the community as well as her interactions with Chinese immigrants in ESL classrooms. She came to Canada in 1984. Her first book, *Beyond Silence: Chinese Canadian Literature in English*, was published in 1997 and won the Gabrielle Roy Award for Canadian Criticism. Her works include *Maples and the Stream* and *More Than Skin Deep* (poetry), *Tiger Girl (Hu Nu)* (memoir), and *Strike the Wok: An Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Canadian Fiction*, which she co-edited.

Chao is a realist, perhaps as the result of what she has experienced, but we can only be thankful that she can still dream, and put the dreams on paper.

— The Danforth Review

FICTION / SHORT STORIES

ISBN: 978-1-894770-43-9

\$18.95; 136 pages; Paper

Pub Date: May 1, 2008

TSAR PUBLICATIONS PO Box 6996, Station A Toronto, ON M5W 1X7
Phone: 416-483-7191 Fax: 416-486-0706 Email: inquiries@tsarbooks.com

DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA by UTP Inc. 5201 Dufferin Street Toronto, ON, M3H 5T8
Phone: 1-800-565-9523 or 416-667-7791 Fax: 1-800-221-9985 or 416-667-7832
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DISTRIBUTED IN THE U.S. by SPD Inc. 1341 Seventh Street Berkeley, CA 94710
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