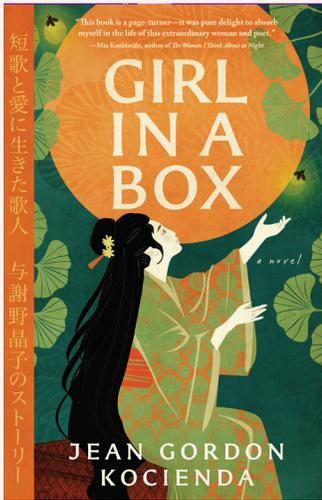


Girl in a Box: A Novel



Girl in a Box

A Novel

BY JEAN GORDON KOCIENDA

HISTORICAL FICTION

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The tangled life of Japanese poet Yosano Akiko

In early twentieth century, Japan, women have few rights. Yet one precocious poet—a brooding daughter, locked in her room at night by protective parents—runs away from home to live a life of her choosing. She falls in love with a fellow poet and follows him across Siberia to Paris, where they witness the last days of the *Belle Époque*. She perseveres through poverty, back-to-back pregnancies, infidelity, earthquake, and fire, to become a name every Japanese schoolchild knows today as a pioneering feminist poet and the first person to translate the classical *Tale of Genji* into modern Japanese. In her single-minded dedication to her art, she inflicts wounds on a daughter that echo from her own childhood. She sets out to make amends, knowing it may be too late. Based on the life of poet Yosano Akiko (1878-1942) and filled with original translations of her poetry, *Girl in a Box* will ignite the discussion about the female artist's challenge to create while juggling family, career, and personal freedom. Historical fiction at its best.

“...a magical tale of a life lived in and for poetry”

—James Dorsey, Associate Professor of Japanese and Comparative Literature, Dartmouth College

“Kocienda—with her deep knowledge and poetic sensibility—brings this prickly, stubborn, passionate poet to life.”

—Katherine Govier, author of *The Printmaker's Daughter*

“Jean Gordon Kocienda gives us Yosano Akiko whole: girl, woman, writer, wife, mother, widow. Fully imagined and emotionally true. A convincing and compulsively readable portrait.”

—Gaye Rowley, author of *Yosano Akiko* and *The Tale of Genji*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A former Silicon Valley geopolitical analyst and intelligence officer, Jean Gordon Kocienda is now focused on writing and volunteering with refugee families in the Bay Area. Jean holds a B.A. in English Literature (Colgate University) and M.A. in International Affairs (George Washington University). Currently nestled in the redwoods of Marin County with her husband and cats, she has lived in Japan and speaks Japanese. She is President of the California Writers Club Marin Chapter.



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