

# 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 the 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.

### **MARKETING NOTES:**

- April 2026: Cherry Blossom Tour in CA encompassing Cherry Blossom festivals in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles with events in bookstores, Japantowns, and historical and Japanese Societies.
- Launch event and poetry exhibit at Edge Hill Mansion at Dominican University of California in San Rafael
- Author essays on Japanese translation and feminism
- Featured daily Instagram posts with author translations of Japanese poems and slices of Japan
- Featured author at Winter Institute, appearances at spring book trade events, book festivals, and AWP
- **7,500 copy print run**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

A former CIA officer and Silicon Valley geopolitical analyst, **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 Vice President of the California Writers Club Marin Chapter.



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