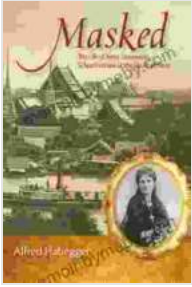


The Life of Anna Leonowens: Schoolmistress at the Court of Siam



Masked: The Life of Anna Leonowens, Schoolmistress at the Court of Siam (Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography) by Alfred Habegger

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 6590 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 543 pages



Anna Leonowens was a remarkable woman who lived an extraordinary life. Born in Wales in 1831, she traveled to the Kingdom of Siam (now Thailand) in 1862 to serve as a governess to the children of King Mongkut. Her experiences there would inspire the beloved musical and film 'The King and I.'

Leonowens was a strong-willed and independent woman, who was not afraid to speak her mind. She was also a talented teacher and writer, and her observations on Siamese culture and society are still valuable today.

In her book *The English Governess at the Siamese Court*, Leonowens describes her experiences in Siam. She writes about the challenges of teaching the king's children, the intrigues of the royal court, and the beauty of the Siamese people and their culture.

Leonowens' book was a huge success, and it helped to raise awareness of Siam in the West. It also inspired the musical and film 'The King and I,' which has been seen by millions of people around the world.

Anna Leonowens was a fascinating woman who lived an incredible life. Her book is a valuable historical document and a timeless story of courage,

adventure, and cultural exchange.

Early Life

Anna Leonowens was born in Caernarfon, Wales, in 1831. Her father was a captain in the British Army, and her mother was a Welsh poet.

Leonowens had a difficult childhood. Her father died when she was young, and her mother remarried a cruel and abusive man.

In 1849, Leonowens married Thomas Leon Owens, a young army officer. The couple moved to Singapore, where Owens worked as a civil servant. Leonowens gave birth to two children, but both died in infancy.

In 1862, Owens died of a sudden illness. Leonowens was left alone and penniless in a foreign country. She decided to return to England, but on her way home, she stopped in Siam.

Life in Siam

Leonowens arrived in Bangkok in 1862. She was hired as a governess to the children of King Mongkut. Leonowens quickly became a favorite of the king, who was impressed by her intelligence and her dedication to his children.

Leonowens spent six years in Siam. During that time, she taught the king's children English, mathematics, and science. She also learned to speak Thai and to appreciate Siamese culture.

Leonowens was a witness to many important events in Siamese history. She saw the king's efforts to modernize his country and to resist Western

imperialism. She also saw the rise of Anna, the king's favorite concubine, who would later become known as the Queen of Siam.

Return to England

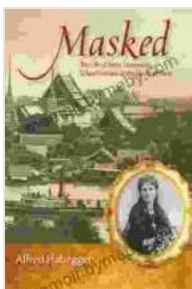
In 1868, Leonowens returned to England. She wrote a book about her experiences in Siam, entitled *The English Governess at the Siamese Court*. The book was a huge success, and it helped to raise awareness of Siam in the West.

Leonowens spent the rest of her life in England. She became a successful writer and lecturer. She also worked to promote education for women and to support the independence of Siam.

Legacy

Anna Leonowens was a remarkable woman who left behind a lasting legacy. Her book *The English Governess at the Siamese Court* is still a valuable historical document and a timeless story of courage, adventure, and cultural exchange.

Leonowens' experiences in Siam inspired the musical and film 'The King and I,' which has been seen by millions of people around the world. The musical and film have helped to spread the story of Anna Leonowens and her extraordinary life.



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