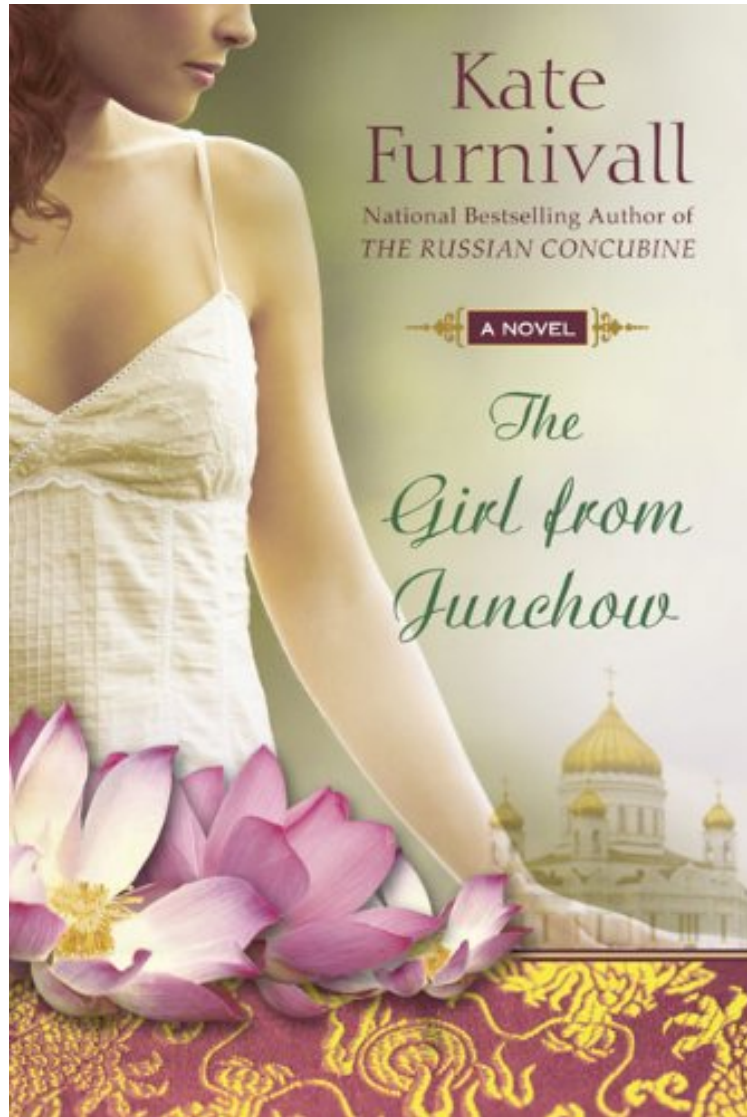


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## The Girl from Junchow

*Kate Furnivall*

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**Kate Furnivall : The Girl from Junchow** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Girl from Junchow:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stalin's Russia: Love and Betrayal By Author Erin Moore The reason we read historical fiction is not for the history. It's for the fiction. We fall in love with a character, and whether she lives in Mongolia or Austin, ancient Rome or modern India, we want to know what it's like to be her, to know her, and to fall in love, just as she does. Luckily, historical fiction fans, we have Kate Furnivall. Because Ms. Furnivall's writing is not just about the less-travelled destinations, the war-torn settings, the criminal underbellies of foreign cities: it's

about the people. And in Lydia Ivanova, we get the chance to fall in love, all over again. We first met Lydia in *The Russian Concubine*, and it is in China that Lydia first meets Chang An Lo. That was the novel that sealed it for me: I had found a writer to follow across times and places that normally are of no interest to me (namely: Mao's China and Stalin's Russia – including prison camps in Siberia.) But she writes with such grace, such depth, and such well-researched detail, that I forget that I don't like those time periods. Unlike some historical fiction, though, she never lets the history or the research overwhelm the story. And the story here (I was getting to it!) is that Lydia has left China in search of her father, who she had once believed dead. Knowing he's alive but in a Soviet prison camp, she sets off with her half-brother Dmitri to find him, and leaves Chang behind. The harshness of Siberia and then, later, of Moscow's seedy world of back-stabbing, selling of secrets, and incredible sadness are the backdrop for what is still, essentially, a love story. When Chang is sent to China at the request of Mao, he finds Lydia, but there are many around them who do not want them together, not the least of whom is the Russian officer who seems to know all of Lydia's secret. Including, most importantly, where her father is being held. Ms. Furnivall manages to tie many (many!) separate story lines together, weaving them between the narrative like the intertwining threads of fate. Dmitri's story, especially, almost deserved its own book. I did think that Chang and Lydia's story was not quite as strong as in *The Russian Concubine*, not quite as urgent, as if we already knew the ending, but in the end, we didn't. *The Girl From Junchow* will tether you to its pages like a secret Soviet blimp to its mooring, and it is only with the closing that you will be allowed loose. If you have not already managed to lose yourself between the pages of one of her novels, do so now.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a really good novel By B. Jenn I read for entertainment and like a good novel best if it is based on reality. I have been to Russia in real life and enjoyed returning in this novel. it is very well written, very entertaining. it is one of three or more with the same story line. I read them out of order because I picked the first one up from a friend . *The Russian Concubine* was Kate Furnivall's debut novel but I would recommend reading *The Jewel of St. Petersburg* first, then *The Russian Concubine* , then *The Girl from Junchow*. I am going to order another of her books. She is that good.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful sequel By Jennifer Rothwell After finishing 'The Russian Concubine' two years ago I hoped and hoped that a sequel would be released. I was so excited when I heard that 'The Girl from Junchow' had been released and snatched it up immediately. I was not disappointed. We return to the world of Lydia Ivanova and find her journeying to Russia to find her father- just as she said she would at the end of 'The Russian Concubine'. I was relieved to find that we are also kept aware of the activities of Chang An Lo, for I had found him to be an intriguing character. The plot of this novel has been expertly woven into the context of Stalinist Russia- the way Furnivall portrays the time period is magnificent (which isn't surprising, seeing as the author dealt with aspects of Stalinist Russia in her brilliant novel 'The Red Scarf'). The story is gripping, and has not lost the thrill that was present in the first novel. Lydia's character has been developed even further, and now, after two novels, I am becoming strangely attached to this courageous protagonist. All in all, a wonderful book.

An epic journey of love and discovery from the national bestselling author of *The Russian Concubine* and *The Red Scarf*. China, 1929. For years Lydia Ivanova believed her father was killed by the Bolsheviks. But when she learns he is imprisoned in Stalin-controlled Russia, the fiery girl is willing to leave everything behind- even her Chinese lover, Chang An Lo. Lydia begins a dangerous search, journeying to Moscow with her half-brother Alexei. But when Alexei abruptly disappears, Lydia is left alone, penniless in Soviet Russia. All seems lost, but Chang An Lo has not forgotten Lydia. He knows things about her father that she does not. And while he races to protect her, she is prepared to risk treacherous consequences to discover the truth.

From Publishers Weekly In her third novel, Furnivall returns to the story of Lydia Ivanova from *The Russian Concubine*, a Russian girl who fled the Bolsheviks and settled in Junchow, China, with her mother, who was then killed. Alone in a strange culture, Lydia learns that her father, whom she believed to be dead, is imprisoned in a labor camp. She flees China with her stepbrother, Alexei, to search for her father, leaving behind her lover, Chang An Lo, a Communist rebel. When Alexei later abandons Lydia, Lo comes to the rescue, but not before Lydia learns the terrible truth about the only family she has left. Furnivall deftly evokes the details of a bygone era, though these often take too much of a front seat and distract from Lydia's quest to find her father. Fans of Furnivall's earlier works will enjoy the chance to see what has become of Lydia. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author Kate Furnivall was born in Wales and currently lives in Devon, England. Married and the mother of two sons, she has working in publishing and television advertising. She drew inspiration for *The Russian Concubine* from her mother's experiences as a White Russian refugee in China.