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# Ruan Lingyu: Her Life and Career



Patrick Galvan

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At the time of her young death in 1935, Shanghai film star Ruan Lingyu was one of the most famous women in China, having played a broad spectrum of characters—peasants, aristocrats, femme fatales, revolutionaries—in groundbreaking classics from visionary directors such as Sun Yu, Fei Mu, and Cai Chusheng. Her films and the roles she played in them reflected topical issues in a nation undergoing cultural and political upheaval. She had fame, wealth, supportive colleagues, and a dedicated audience. And yet her life away from the studio was constantly ridden with heartbreak and betrayal that ultimately pushed her to self-destruction.

Patrick Galvan's biography on Ruan Lingyu tells the story of a daughter born to poor Cantonese parents and her rise to stardom during China's tumultuous early twentieth-century history. As her personal tale unfolds, major events shape her nation as well as the Shanghai film industry. The book also charts the making of Ruan's thirty films—including the twenty-one believed to be lost—and the circumstances that pushed her to end her life at the age of 24.

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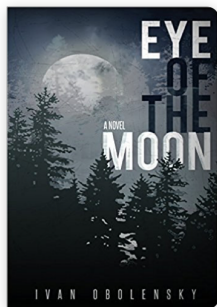
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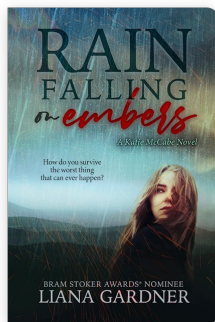
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