

The Peony Pavilion, a renowned 16th-century opera by Tang Xianzu, "the Shakespeare of China," is retold here for Western readers, too late for the rescheduled performance of the opera at New York's Lincoln Center, but valuable as a resource. Though Xiaoping Yen's adaptation is only adequate, and its language is often jarringly contemporary, the story of a 16-year-old girl and her dream-lover is a window into the Chinese literary imagination. Illustrations. (Homa & Sekey [11 Colonial Pkwy, Dumont, N.J. 07626], \$16.95 256p ISBN 0-9665421-2-6)