

BLUE SKY MANSION

H.Y. YEANG

This story follows the passage of Tang Mei Choon from girl to woman, first in 1910 China and then in the Straits Settlement of Penang in British Malaya.

Five-year old Mei Choon is trapped deep underground, sealed in an impregnable tomb. The mausoleum is designed and constructed by China's foremost engineer to defeat the most determined of tomb raiders.

Following her escape, Mei Choon finds herself in Harbin, a city in the grip of the pneumonic plague against which Traditional Chinese Medicine has no answer. She must evade the contagion, fatality to which is 100 percent; no one ever recovers. To control the epidemic, China appoints Penang-born Dr Wu Lien-teh, the first Chinese graduate in medicine from Britain's Cambridge University.

Mei Choon leaves China for Malaya and grows up in Penang. Coming of age, she is held captive in a house of ill repute, a victim of betrayal and treachery. She engineers an escape, outwitting her pursuers amidst the annual Festival of the Hungry Ghosts.

World War II catches up with Mei Choon, the woman. When the British flee Penang, she finds herself in the thick of the Japanese aerial bombardment, in want of another extraordinary escape.

A [review of this novel](#) has appeared in *The Star* on 29 August 2021. Another [review](#) appeared in the *Asian Review of Books*.

