

ORGAN MEATS

A NOVEL

BOOK
CLUB
KIT

K-MING CHANG

Author of **BESTIARY** and **GODS OF WANT**





THE WOMEN OF ORGAN MEATS

ANITA HSIA

- Anita is alive in a way that waters everything else around her, alive with such generosity that she gives it away without knowing.
- Anita is the kind of girl who grows up to be gone.

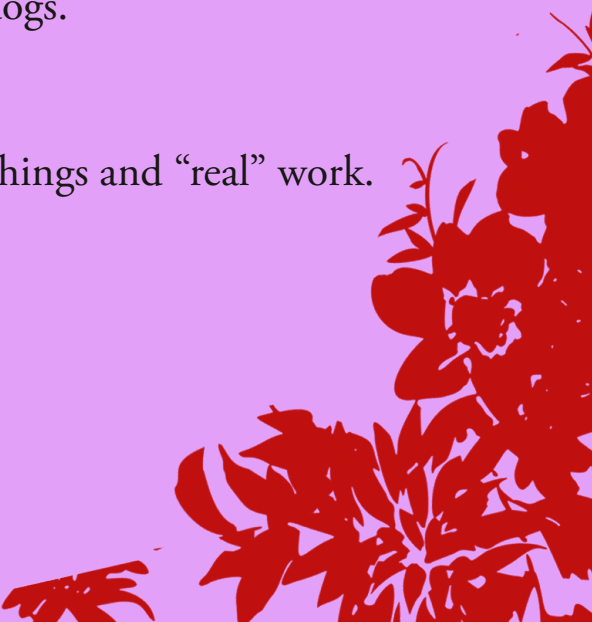
RAINIE TSAI

- Rainie only believes what she can eat. Her mother says she has to be fed every day at the same time or else she will swallow her shadow and skin herself.
- Rainie can inhabit her loneliness like a house.

THE DOGPACK

- We are the bitches under the sycamore tree. Don't mistake us for strays, those dogs who don't have names. We have names. We were once women born from dogs.

MAMA HSIA

- Her favorite time is meantime. All the times in between doing “real” things and “real” work. In the meantime, she always says, is actually the nicest time.
 - Her laughter is a season you want to stand in forever.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do Rainie and Anita want to be dogs? What do the dogs represent for them?
2. How would you describe Anita and Rainie as characters? How would you describe their relationship?
3. The red thread is both a symbol and a physical tether. What does it represent throughout the story? Does its meaning change? Discuss.
4. How do Anita and Rainie's power dynamics shift over time?
5. How would you describe the tone and voice of the book? What qualities set K-Ming Chang's writing apart from other authors you've read?
6. What do you think *Organ Meats* has to say about the relationships between mothers and daughters?
7. Boundaries with wide-ranging levels of permeability feature throughout the book: The topside and the underside; waking vs. dreaming; alive vs. dead; body vs. self; even dog vs. woman. How are these boundaries crossed—or not crossed? Why are some more difficult to traverse than others? What happens to characters in the crossing?
8. You can read the story of the boy and the girl with the scar as a tragic tale of possession and doomed fate, or one of true love and romantic destiny. Rainie sees it both ways at different points. How did you read it? Similarly, how did you interpret the link between Rainie and Anita?
9. *Organ Meats* draws on folklore, ghost stories, mythology, gossip, and other storytelling traditions. How does this enhance the story?
10. What do you think happens to Rainie and Anita after the book ends?

HOW TO MAKE A CHOKER

(FROM THE FERAL GIRLS OF ORGAN MEATS)

If you have ever wanted to bind yourself to a place or a body, you will need a collar as inescapable as fate.

First, gather your materials from your dreams. Sleep and all lost faces will reappear before you. Grasp onto them tightly and, in the morning, you will find them in your fists. If all else fails, materials can be purchased when you awake.

You will need:

- Yarn the color of blood
 - Tape
 - Scissors
1. Measure your neck. Cut three pieces of thread: a central cord and two knotting cords. Pluck the cords like the strings of an instrument and you will hear your own blood sing back to you.
 2. Fold all three cords in half and knot the loops together; make sure this knot is secure. A loose knot is easy to slip out of, and you do not want your soulmate to slide out of your life by accident. Leave a one-inch loop above the knot, which you can tape to a table.
 3. Bring the knotting cord all the way around the central cord, creating a loop. Thread the knotting cord back under itself. Pull the knot taut.
 4. Repeat with the other knotting cord. The space between the knots will create a window to peer through, allowing you to gaze into your past.
 5. Continue alternating between the right and left sides, knotting along the central cord until it is durable as the trunk of a sycamore tree, ready to bear the weight of your love.
 6. Once your necklace is an inch or two shorter than your neck measurement, tie it off. Remember not to sever the knotting cords, which will be used to tie the choker around your neck. Severing those threads will result in your soul's permanent exile into the dream realm.
 7. Gift this necklace to your beloved friends, lovers, family members, or enemies. You must be the one to tie the knot, ensuring an eternity together.

FERAL FOR K-MING CHANG'S BOOKS?

Play a game of bingo connecting themes across her mythic triptych of books:
BESTIARY, GODS OF WANT, and ORGAN MEATS.



**Mother-Daughter
Relationship**

**Homoerotic
Friendship**

**Animal Transforms
into Person
or
Person Transforms
into Animal**

**Teeth
Imagery**

**Free
Space**

**Retold Myth
or Folktale**

**Character Eats an
Inanimate Object
or a Living Thing**

**Feral Girl
Narrator**

**Bodily
Fluids**