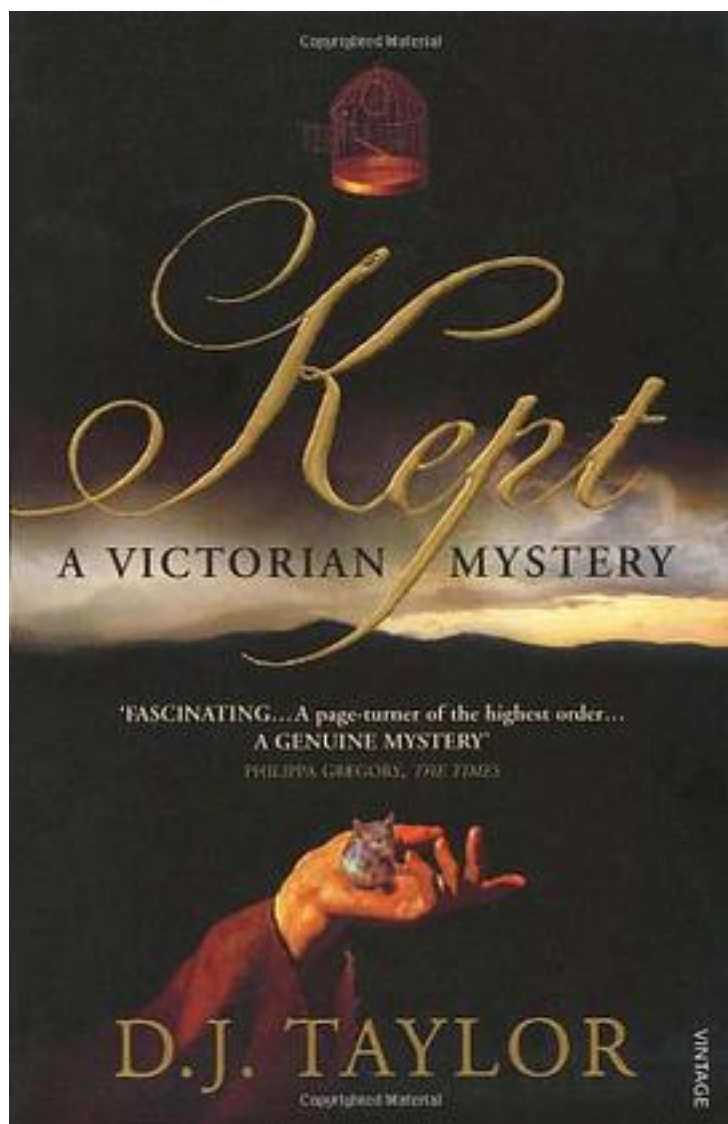


# Kept



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Who knew that being in the leisure class required so much work? Y. Euny Hong's *Kept* is a brilliant, wickedly funny tale that examines sexuality, class, and family ties among the bright young things of Manhattan. Judith Lee, an entitled descendant of the Korean royal family, has grown quite accustomed to the privileges of the aristocracy. Unfortunately for her, royal descent does not equal money. Her family lost their fortune long ago, and when her parents add insult to injury by cutting off her allowance upon her graduation from Yale, Jude (as she is known) learns the hard way that her fancy upbringing has left her unprepared to deal with her monstrous debts. As she hobnobs in New York with her clever, wellborn friends, she is introduced to Madame Tartakov, a charismatic Russian émigré, who has the solution for Jude's financial woes. The catch: Jude must put in two years at "Tartakov's Translation Services" -- a front organization for the flock of high society girls, collected from all over the world, who now work as Manhattan's most coveted courtesans. Jude's taste of the good life convinces her that she's right at home in Madame Tartakov's luxurious Upper East Side townhouse. She has finally found a job that uses the unique skills of a blue blood, and she is quite taken by the fiery classical violinist who pays for her "companionship" -- that is, until she finds herself irresistibly drawn to Joshua Spinoza, a penniless philosophy student who has a stutter and poor taste in wine, and who leaves the opera at intermission because he thinks it is over. Dark forces begin to test Jude's already limited moral fiber when she discovers not only that she is falling in love outside her clientele, but that an illegitimate relative is harboring a grotesque secret and something catastrophic is hidden in the family archives. Ultimately, Jude is forced to take a good, long look in her warped antique Tiffany mirror. Is being born into a world of privilege a gift? Can bad things really happen to blue bloods? And perhaps more startlingly: are courtesans nothing more than prostitutes in Prada? Revelatory and voyeuristic, sexy and sophisticated, *Kept* is the thoroughly accomplished debut of a gifted newcomer who writes like a present-day Jane Austen.

作者介绍:

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