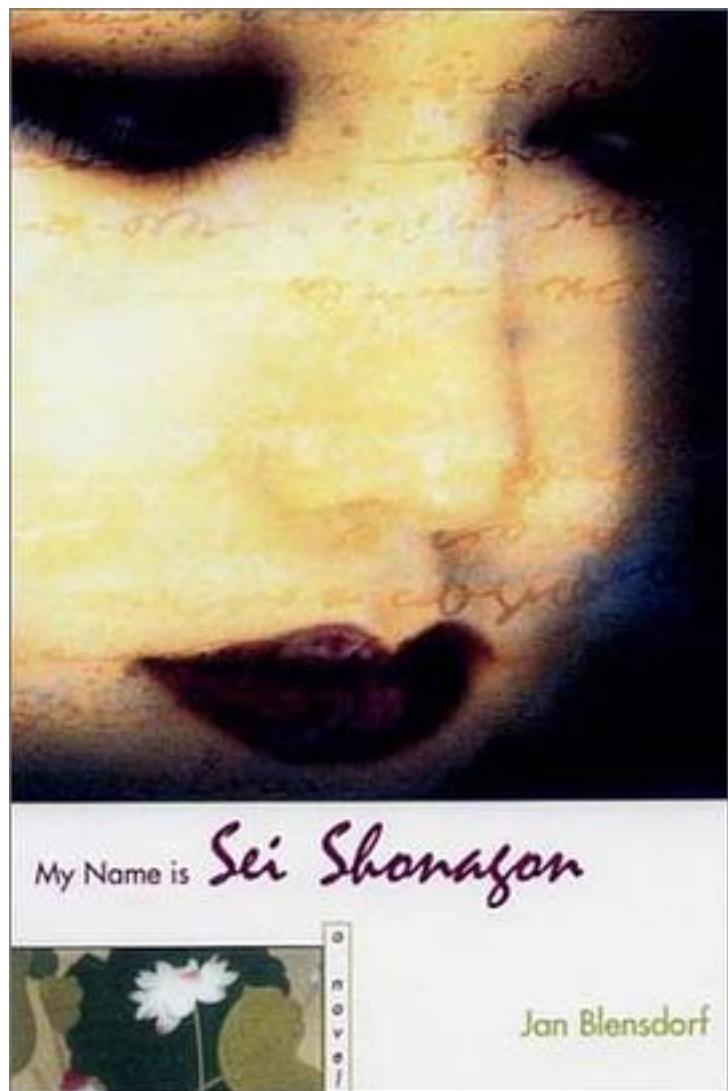


My Name Is SEI Shonagon



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In a small incense shop in modern Tokyo, amid the manic consumerism of cartoon-colored Shibuya youth culture, incense is still made in the ancient way-slowly ground by hand and matured over time. Above the shop, a young woman sits behind a painted screen, listening to men unburden themselves about their work-dominated lives. She calls herself "Sei Shonagon," after the eleventh-century woman who wrote "The Pillow Book." This exquisite first novel is a "Pillow Book" for the twenty-first century; its "Sei" is a young woman who, as a child, moved to Japan from America to live with her strict, tradition-obsessed uncle after the death of her parents, an American academic and a Japanese student. As the novel opens, "Sei," now a young woman, lies in a hospital bed, hearing sounds around her, unable to speak except silently to herself—"I don't even know if you are still alive . . . I'm going to talk to you anyway, tell you everything I remember." Thus her story unfolds, back to a dark past and toward an unimaginable fate. Sharply evocative, atmospheric, and suspenseful, "My Name Is Sei Shonagon"-with rights sold in eight countries before publication-adds an exciting new dimension to literature about Japan in the way that "Memoirs of a Geisha" has done, and introduces a fantastically talented author.

作者介绍:

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