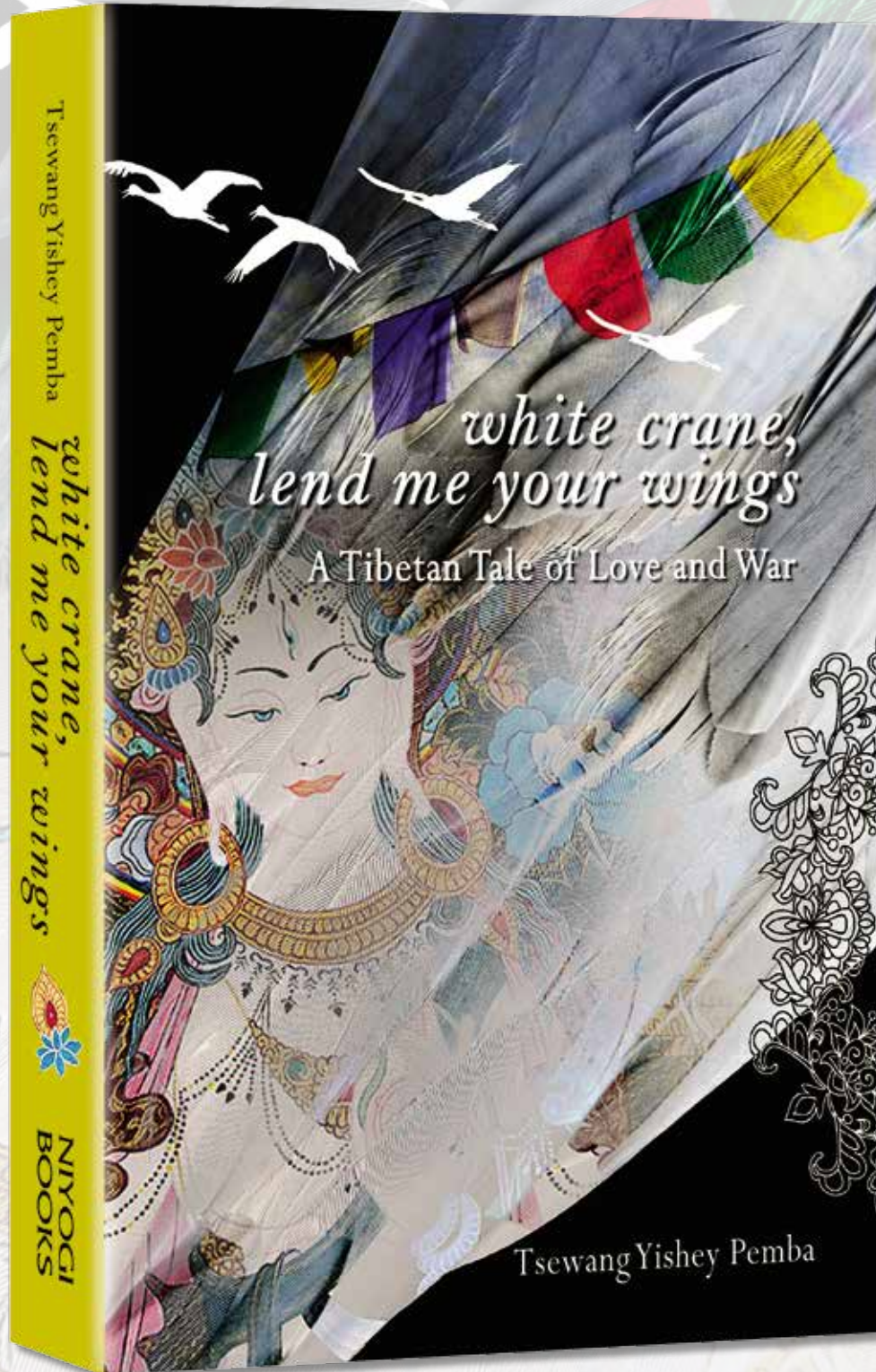


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white crane, lend me your wings

A Tibetan Tale of Love and War

by
Tsewang Yishey Pemba

FICTION

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A posthumous novel by Dr Tsewang Yishey Pemba, the founding father of Tibetan-English literature, *White Crane, Lend me your Wings* is a historical fiction set in the breathtakingly beautiful Nyarong Valley of the Kham province of Eastern Tibet in the first half of the twentieth century. Dr Pemba skillfully weaves a dazzling tapestry of individual lives and sweeping events creating an epic vision of a country and people during a time of tremendous upheaval.

The novel begins with a never-told-before story of a failed Christian mission in Tibet and takes one into the heartland of Eastern Tibet by capturing the zeitgeist of the fierce warrior tribe of Khampas ruled by chieftains. This coming-of-age narrative is a riveting tale of vengeance, warfare and love unfolded through the life story of two young boys and their family and friends.

The personal drama gets embroiled in a national catastrophe as China invades Tibet forcing it out of its isolation. Ultimately, the novel delves into themes such as tradition versus modernity, individual choice and freedom, the nature of governance, the role of religion in people's lives, the inevitability of change, and the importance of human values such as loyalty and compassion.



Tsewang Yishey Pemba, was born at Gyantse in Tibet in 1932. He was the first Tibetan to become a doctor and surgeon in Western medical science from the University of London in 1955.

He was awarded the prestigious Hallet Prize by the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1966. Dr Pemba also founded the first hospital of Bhutan in 1956 and was a member of the Bhutan delegation to WHO in Geneva in 1989.

Dr Pemba has written the first Tibetan-English novel, *Idols on the Path* (1966), and an autobiography, *Young Days in Tibet* (1957), in English. He passed away on 26 November 2011. He is survived by four children.

The novel begins with a never-told-before story of a failed Christian mission in Tibet in the first half of the twentieth century.



The reader is taken into the heartland of Eastern Tibet, to the breathtakingly beautiful Nyarong valley, and introduced to the fierce warrior tribes of Khampas ruled by their chieftains.



It is a coming of age narrative about the life story of two young boys and their families and friends who get embroiled in a tale of vengeance, warfare and love.



The novel dramatises the critical point in history when China invades Tibet, forcing it out of its isolation.



Dr Pemba's historical fiction is a plaintive plea for the return of exiled Tibetans to their homeland.