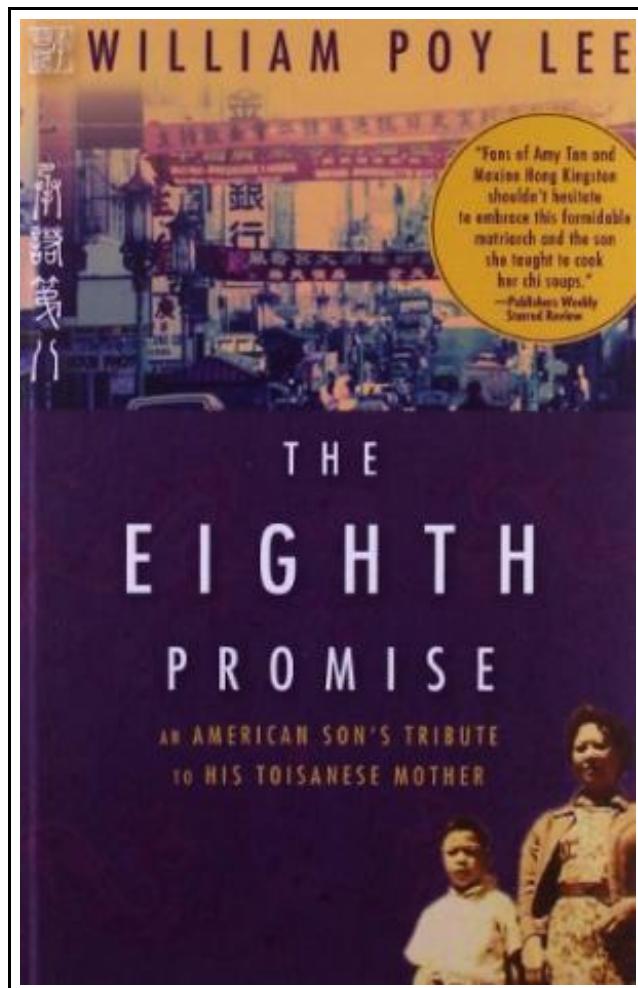


## The Eighth Promise: An American Sons Tribute to His Toisanese Mother



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Modern Times. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 336 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 1.0in.William Poy Lee received his bachelors of architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law, University of California, San Francisco. A lawyer since 1979, he lives in Berkeley, where he writes full-time. In The Eighth Promise, author William Poy Lee gives us a memoir of a relationship between a mother and sonand of the Chinese American immigrant experience. His stories unfold simultaneously in the ancient Chinese farming village of his mothers childhood during World War II while under attack by the Japanese Imperial Army, and in America in the housing projects of San Franciscos Chinatown during the civil rights era, Vietnam War, and the countercultural 1960s and 1970s of Williams coming-of-age. The authors mother, Poy Jen, makes her mother eight promises before she leaves China, perhaps forever, to join her husband in America. The eighth is the most sacred. The Eighth Promise recounts how Poy Jen keeps this promise and instills the sense of its importance into her sons very soul. He writes, It is the Eighth Promiseto live with compassion toward allthat I think of as the ever-living promise, the one for all of ones days. And this promise, this wayperhaps arising to the level of a moral pathstrikes me as the distillation of all the wisdom of my kin. Born in the heart of San Franciscos Chinatown, William begins his life with fractured identitieson the one hand, he is American and has never seen China, and on the other hand, many Americans consider him an outsider. Only through living by his mothers words, uttered years ago in an ancient Chinese farming village, is he able to achieve a sense of balance and survive the Jim Crow...

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