

# TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



R. A. MacAvoy | 140 pages | 25 Sep 2014 | Open Road Media | 9781497642294 | English | United States

## **Black Dragon Pearls Tea | Adagio teas**

View 1 comment. Upped to 5 stars on this reread -- perhaps because I've just read several mediocre books? Regardless, I'm glad to have a copy now, so I can read it again in a few years. And if you never have, or it's been awhile -- there's nothing else quite like it. Pretty nearly perfect. I liked it a lot in , on a reread. The whole book is infused with Chinese mythology and CPM era computers. View all 3 comments. The plot would have worked well, I think, even without the supernatural elements.

It reminds me of some books by James Hadley Chase with his band of crooks setting up a clever heist and then turning on each other after the

deed is done. A plus for me is the age of the two main characters : Martha MacNamara a spirited 50 something violinist, and Mayland Long - a mysterious gentleman who claims to be quite a few centuries older. There are a couple of younger actors in the book, Liz and Fred Frish, and they balance nicely the older generation discourse. I'm not giving any hints about the nature of the heist, because it is not revealed at the start of the book, I would just mention that the parts dealing with computers are quite well researched and brought some nostalgia about chipsets and magnetic band software loaded from a cassette player. Being a bit on the short side, the book doesn't go too deeply into character background and motivations, but what there is mesh well with the action thriller plot. I would have liked to spend more pages on the history of Oolong Chinese Dragons apparently love to drink tea and read books , but I guess this would have slowed down the pace considerably.

Overall, I think MacAvoy had some cool ideas here and some beautiful romantic moments, but the writing is not in the same class. View 2 comments. Aug 12, Brownbetty rated it really liked it. MacAvoy is an author who seems not to write as a career, but rather because she has a story she wishes to tell. Some authors seem to be telling the same story again and again, and I do not begrudge them that: it's the story they're interested in, and generally they are good at it. MacAvoy, however, seems to write one story well, and then move on to the next, which is generally completely unrelated-- not to say she doesn't write sequels, but when she is done with a story, she moves on, and writes MacAvoy is an author who seems not to write as a career, but rather because she has a story she wishes to tell.

MacAvoy, however, seems to write one story well, and then move on to the next, which is generally completely unrelated-- not to say she doesn't write sequels, but when she is done with a story, she moves on, and writes the next thing. This may make her less marketable, but I have never read anything by her that I didn't enjoy. Is there an oversight body? Except that the here and now in which it was written is , which makes it a sort of historical artifact, especially if you're me. I was alive in , but not a keen cultural observer. It is a bit like War for the Oaks by Emma Bull , another author who seems to write only when a new story comes to her. Between the title, and the fact that there is a Mr. Long in this book, I don't think there actually is any way I could spoil this book for you, so I'm not going to take any great pains to avoid it.

Martha Macnamara is a middle-aged hippie, a musician who couch surfs her way across America. Her daughter is a driven computer programmer who has gotten herself into trouble. Mr Long is the interesting man Ms. Macnamara meets when she comes to San Francisco, hoping to help her daughter. This book is in general delightful, but my qualm was the way in which Mrs Macnamara was presented by the book as somehow an exceptional spirit, the qualities of whom are evidently self-evident and overwhelmingly attractive to the titular black dragon. I liked her, and I think she would be the sort of friend one would welcome when she came and collapse in gratitude when she left, but the black dragon seems to hold her in much higher esteem than that, and the reason why was not clear to me. This is a short little thing, I shouldn't just quit it like that, but I can't do this.

Everything about this book makes me not want to read it at all. Sorry about that. I'm not writing the review to diss or to try to hate on this, but I do not want to forget my reasons why I got absolutely annoyed by it. Martha Macnamara's daughter is in trouble, so she does what most of us would; calls her mother, so said mother leaves New York to meet her in San Francisco. In her posh hotel she meets a weird Asian man, named Mayland Long, who seems impossibly old for someone looking middle-aged. Once Martha's daughter, Elisabeth doesn't show up, they decide to find her. Sounds suspenseful, hm? A mother trying to find her daughter, desperately seeking the help of a mysterious man. Yeeeah, no. We will have no Liam Neeson style a'la Taken. Martha Macnamara is an absolute airhead. Her daughter is impossible to access and she has no idea what happened to her, maybe her body is rotting in a ditch, maybe some Saw thing is happening to her.

They hang out. She laughs when Long is trying to ask questions to her daughter's old acquaintance and doesn't even pay attention to the things being said. In short, she feels like a kid with attention issues in the body of a middle-aged woman. So annoying. But hey, the prose is actually just like the protagonist; it drifts around and makes me skim, which is not something I enjoy. But is all just feels so inconsequential, like a song that was meant to be background for something and when you pay attention, it just feels like it was written by a squirrel of average intelligence. Maybe it was a thing in the 80's that I should know about to not be some uncultured swine, I don't even know, I just feel I am not enjoying myself and that's that. To me it's all just uncomfortable and Another thing. Miss MacAvoy obviously has her interests, like Irish mythology and Taoism and all, which is nice, but her characters keep talking about things that you will not get if you are not actually knowledgeable about the exact things she is.

It makes me feel totally out of the loop. Don't get me wrong, I like looking up a few things that I hear about in books, that can be interesting, but this level of artsy prose with things I have no knowledge about mix together into a jumbled mess of nonsense to me. As I finished the book fast, I can't say much more about the story and resolution and the overall pacing, but god, this wasn't one for me. At this point I don't feel I should keep reading when nothing at all works for me. Not going to lie, I am a bit disappointed. I wanted to read this book for a long time and all.

So long and don't drag on! Hurr hurr, get it? Shoot me now, after that pun not even my mother would look for me if I disappeared. Read this multiple times because I liked it so much. May 26, Lukasz rated it liked it. It's a charming and unusual contemporary fantasy. Titular dragon is Mayland Long; he has tea with Martha Macnamara, who has just checked into the hotel, where he lives.

Mr Long is seeking truth; Martha is looking for her missing daughter Liz, who summoned her a while ago. Mayland decided to help Martha in search of her daughter. Not an easy task - as they follow the trails, things get a little ugly and dangerous. It's a short under pages novella that contains a love story, questions about human nature, forays into eighties computer science, and drama. I appreciate compact writing, and it seems MacAvoy can do this well. Despite being short, the story manages to engage the reader, convey emotions, surprise well, just a tiny bit.

The book is classified as fantasy, but, truth be told I think it's something of a stretch. While Mayland claims to be a dragon, in the end, the claims remain claims. We don't get a full dragon. On the other hand, clues are here. It may be just a play of light, but his hands may remind talons. Also, which sexagenarian is able to leap in the air or shred the doors with his hands? Despite this fantasy hints, it's more of a old-style thriller than urban fantasy. Dick, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards. MacAvoy won the John W. If you're interested in more personal opinions - for me, it's a subtle but predictable book. I enjoyed it, but it's not a story I loved. Jul 07, Christine rated it liked it Shelves: fantasy-urban , dragons , kindle , minority-and-women-writers. It's not a bad book, a quick read. A bit predictable, but fun. I was rooting around in my attic a few days ago and I found this little gem

I had read it in which was the year I purchased it and I recalled that I had really liked it. So I read this again in between reading *Reunion: Surviving the Evacuation* book. I needed something less zombie and this fit the ticket. It is lovely. It is peppered with references to John Donne and Thomas the R. I was rooting around in my attic a few days ago and I found this little gem. Martha Macnamara, the woman Mayland Long meets and falls in love with is a fifty year old woman, a musician looking for her daughter.

Mayland Long is older yet, ageless even. Aug 24, Marina Bonomi rated it it was ok. There are many things I like in *Tea with the Black Dragon* but I would have liked it better if some little things had been different. I also like the zen snippets and the fact that the moment of revelation for Mr. Long felt like an echo from a famous quote by Gertrude Stein. Long himself, the black dragon of the title. It feels to me like the author portrayed him like a transformed Chinese dragon but was hazy about what a Chinese dragon really is and how it differs from an European one. Mayland Long tells of finding himself in human shape after a night-long vigil over the body of a dead hermit, fact is that in Chinese stories dragons have two shapes, they can appear either as dragons or as humans, at will, the nasty surprise for Mayland should have been finding himself trapped in human shape, not having one.

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Long once told him that he used to be a Chinese black dragon who loved to read. Martha and Mr. Long become friends, and she asks him to help her find her daughter. I really enjoyed this mystery. Mayland Long, or Oolong, is stuck in human form. He deals with fatigue, gunshot wounds, and hunger just like any other human, yet he has the determination to keep going. Plus, he has some special skills that help him just when he needs them. Mostly, he is a curious, gentle soul who has searched for centuries for truth, and when he finds Martha, he knows he has found his truth. Martha is delightful, a talented violinist who sacrificed her career to raise her daughter which her daughter resents , and now she tours with a Celtic band, earning just enough to get by. She has the ability to see the real person beneath the surface, and she is not afraid to say what she thinks.

The story takes place when computer technology was in its infancy and cassette tapes were used instead of CDs, but this only makes the book more interesting and does not distract from the charm of the two main characters. *Tea with the Black Dragon* does not follow typical fantasy conventions; in fact the fantasy elements remain in the background with the crux of the story focusing on a spiritual and emotional awakening and the search for missing persons. It is unusual not to delve into the power and life of an ancient and magical figure, since they tend to be the most interesting part of the story, but MacAvoy does not do this. The book also mentions Chinese philosophy and mythology but again only very lightly, giving just what is needed and nothing more. Words are not wasted by MacAvoy, everything has a purpose and a reason, and because of this the book has a very mysterious feel to it.

Most fantasy novels choose to go back to a preindustrial world or a totally new world from our own; this book, however, is written in modern times and includes present-day technology at least for when it was written; it seems a bit out dated now. However, MacAvoy pulls it off beautifully. He crafts a tale about an old and ancient being, one who finds truth in the most unlikely of places, the realm of humans.

A delight to read! Sadly, this was a case of an old favourite not quite living up to my memory of it. I remember this having been a great book, it wasn't quite as wonderful as I thought. All the same, this is still a lovely, little story. I think it is the themes and concepts I remember most; the search for truth and how a dragon might go about trying to find it. Those are still wonderful ideas and I loved revisiting them. The story itself doesn't hold them up as well as it might, but is well worth taking the time to read. I hadn't realised there was actually so little of Martha in the story.

It's is Mayland Long's book more than it is hers, and I love him to pieces. He's a truly wonderful character. The computing aspects of the story have dated - how could they not with the advances that have been made since the book was published. I did giggle a little at the mention of "a 16K machine". I'm now computer expert, but even I know that's orders of magnitude behind some of today's computers.

But the themes are far more timeless and it is easy to read past the details that have dated to find the truth of the story beyond them. I still firmly recommend "*Tea with the Black Dragon*" as a good read. Enjoy Mayland Long and his personal journey through the pages. It's worth it. Well, that was different. I have a feeling that if I'd read this in the 80s, I'd have rated it higher. Please note: I'm not really referring to the romance, or old computer tech, but to the 'feel'. The proofing and formatting is not wonderful, no scene breaks , but I'm happy to Well, that was different. The proofing and formatting is not wonderful, no scene breaks , but I'm happy to acquire it at that price point.

I wouldn't be averse to reading the sequel, but I'm definitely not interested in paying full price for it since several reviews point out it is even more poorly edited than this one. Do you think your customers are stupid? Mar 12, Melissa rated it liked it Shelves: fantasy. This was a lot different than I expected. I thought it would be more of a fantasy, but that is really very much in the background and the story is really about trying to find some missing persons. Which, really, is how the blurb reads, but I must have forgotten that by the time I actually read it. I enjoyed the two protagonists being older and I thought some of the writing was beautiful. A quick read. Jul 27, Kat Hooper rated it liked it Shelves: audiobook. Will review soon at www. I really enjoyed it. I don't know if I can categorize it, but there's an unusual romance plot, as well as some elements of crime fiction and some of light fantasy.

I would almost call it urban fantasy, except it's nothing like anything else I've read in that genre. There's a strong theme of Eastern spirituality, but I don't know enough about that topic to understand it very well. Hopefully I'll understand it better when I read it again, and I'm sure that I will. The romance is between a year-old woman and a man who seems to be about the same age. I've never read a romance featuring a woman older than

her early 40s, so I was really happy about that. We never actually see them together, but their love for each other drives the whole plot.

Liz believes that her mother deserves adulation from everyone she meets, and the author succeeded in creating a character who lives up to that high esteem, while still making Martha human and imperfect. This book feels relevant to current discussions about the barriers women face in the tech industry, although it definitely isn't about that topic. It's amazing that this was first published in the early 80s, because it doesn't feel dated at all. I also like that the main villain is not mustache-twirlingly-evil, but bad in a relatively ordinary kind of way. This line is pretty insightful, and I think it applies pretty well to the people in tech who are often in the news these days: He never obeys the rules if he thinks he can get away with it. Although it isn't a very long book, it's fairly atmospheric, with a lot of details about the setting the San Francisco area.

All of the major characters have point-of-view sections, but most of the story unfolds from Mr. Long's PoV. He's a wonderful character with an unusual perspective, and he's quite a badass, too. As usual when I read outside of my main genre romance, I had no idea how this would end. I was on the edge of my seat. I'm excited to read more by this author. The plot is a bit serpentine.

You have the start of a quest, Martha trying to find her grown daughter, Elizabeth, and happens to meet and enlist the help of one enigmatic Mr. Long, an older man with a vaguely oriental appearance who has the habit of discussing his life as a black dragon if he drinks a little too much. So we have two damsels in distress, several computer programmers with more skill than sense, a looming daybreak deadline, a Zen prophecy lurking about, and one old dragon who is thinking it would be easier to just go back to sleep. Long's thoughts and actions are definitely the best part of the novel. And I enjoyed very much reading of Martha, although Elizabeth I could never sympathize with. How on earth did I miss this? I have some friends in Silicon Valley. This book is so going to start making rounds there. One could call this "Urban Fantasy", given the contemporary, urban setting and genre blending, but this does not fit comfortably into that niche. Partly this is due to the balance; this is a mystery that just happens to have a fantasy element.

There is also tone; this is much closer in feel to stories of amateur detectives, such as Lord Peter Wimsey, than it is to the noir-ish PI novels that inspire most modern UF. Third, the characters; the female lead is a middle-aged bohemian, her cohort a man of great class and dignity, and the missing person is her daughter, a computer programmer. They are all unassuming and, each in their own way, quite formidable. I have only hinted at the story and have made no mention at all of the fantasy elements; that is intentional. The less you know going in, the more it will surprise and, hopefully, delight you. This book is short, sweet, and a lot of fun. I can not recommend this highly enough. Tea with the Black Dragon is a fantasy novel by American writer R. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. Martha Macnamara is called west to San Francisco by a message from her daughter Elizabeth, a computer programmer.

When she arrives, however, Elizabeth has disappeared. Mayland Long, an Asian gentleman who is skilled in both human and computer languages — and who may be a transformed 2,000-year-old Chinese dragon — aids Martha in her search for her daughter. As they search for clues to Elizabeth's disappearance, they discover hints that Elizabeth is involved in a dangerous crime. David Langford has called it a "pleasant little novel" and "engaging", while qualifying it as "only just fantasy".

Greg Costikyan reviewed Tea with the Black Dragon in Ares Magazine 16 and commented that "Tea with the Black Dragon is a book mystery lovers, computer people, and fantasy fans will all enjoy. In a way, it is a shame that Bantam's packaging is so oriented toward the fantasy market, as this is the kind of book that could do very well in the mainstream. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Tea with the Black Dragon Cover of first edition paperback. Ares Magazine.

## The story of Black Dragon Tea - Stories About Tea

The processing of this tea is quite similar to that of the popular Tieguanyin oolong style. Oolong teas range in their flavor and color from light green to dark. Usually, color indicates the level of oxidization in the tea leaves, and tea merchants sometimes refer to percentages of oxidation to indicate where on the spectrum their oolong falls. The leaves are tightly rolled into small pellets. When infused, the leaves unfold into their original state and provide many infusions. Every tea is different and can be brewed in different ways. The chart below is not a hard-and-fast guide for brewing this tea, but rather a place to get started. Steeping time may vary based on your personal taste or on how many infusions have already been done. Experiment with the brewing of your tea to discover its unique character. Hurr hurr, get it?

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The writing is a bit distant--something about the author's style puts a layer of insulation between the events in the story and the reader so that emotional involvement does not happen. However, I still read the whole thing without getting bored or impatient and went on to read the next in the series. I listened to the audible audiobook. Intriguing mystery. Good narration. Mar 11, Jean Triceratops rated it it was ok Shelves: owned. Most of the other reviews on the back of the book mirror this sentiment. The story starts with Martha Macnamara in a hotel restaurant, waiting for her daughter. Instead she meets Mayland Long, and they hit it off.

Tea with the Black Dragon is set in San Francisco in the s. There is no magic. And given that plot, how can it be a fantasy? Okay, fine, Mayland used to be a dragon. Used to—as in, the magic that made him human happened off screen, long before the start of the book. That said, I love reading in general. And while the book has some merits, on average, I was not wooed. Mayland Long is Chinese, after a fashion. Sure, a sly smile versus a mocking smile versus an ecstatic smile—those are all variations on a smile.

The difference between them is clear by the adjective paired with them. The author never explains it. This leaves a sour taste in my mouth. Smiles are universal. Pecollo was a much heavier man than the Eurasian. Pecollo was a much heavier man than Mayland. Nothing about in this book feels pointedly, bigotedly racist. And he's constantly othered. I wanted to throw my hands up, yell "I get it, he's Asian! Now dear god, focus on the plot. As far as I can tell, there were roughly 10 people in the book, total. Seven of them were—if only for a moment—POV characters. Early in the story, as Martha meets Mayland, the hops between their heads are frequent and sudden enough that I had to back pedal to keep things straight. That the book is a scant pages makes these POV changes feel all the more intrusive. It was hard to feel like I got to know anyone when I never got to spend much time with them.

Another thing that crowded the book was technical jargon. But Tea with the Black Dragon overdid it for me. Neither Mayland nor Martha uses computers. This jargon, then, exists almost exclusively in conversation held for its own sake. Then, between jargon-heavy dialogue, we get stuck with purple prose—especially when it has to do with eyes. And a cat gets killed in the stupidest way ever: it's own owner shoots it because said owner mistakes the sound of a seven-pound cat on the floorboards for a grown-ass man. When Mayland and Martha go out hunting for said daughter, Martha lets Mayland take the lead. If she had reason to think that Mayland would be a better investigator, then that would be a shrewd decision. And, worse than taking a back seat, Martha entirely checks out of the investigation. At one point, while Mayland is talking to a lead, Martha is playing with a remote controlled car.

Afterwards, as Mayland discusses what he discovered, she blurts out that she ought to have owned a toy store. Later, during a much more tense meeting with the same end goal, Martha is too distracted to pay attention to what Mayland and his informant are saying. Why is she distracted, you ask? She wants to know how the informant won the trophies on his shelves. After Martha tries to change the subject to more pleasant things, Mayland apologizes for having not found her daughter yet, and she goes on a tear propping him up and downplaying the severity of the fact that her daughter is missing and that all signs point to significantly foul play. In the end, I was not surprised to find out that Martha exists almost solely as a source of inspiration for Mayland. I like this friend. Rather, the tremendous thing about him is the perfection in which his normalcy is captured. I also like that Mayland and Martha are not kids. As main characters tend to be young adults, I enjoyed this deviation from the standard.

Speaking of deviations from the norm, leading men are—sadly—normally white, and Asian men are rarely romantic leads. Mayland is a Chinese romantic lead. I very much enjoy that the author bucked expectations in this manner. His interaction with the cat RIP Blanco made me want to give him a hug, and the camaraderie and loyalty between him and his unexpected friend is touching. The satisfaction and sense of completion he gets from Martha, he gets without overburdening her, or, well, burdening her at all.

I was mostly curious if and how it would turn into a fantasy, and I did want to see what Mayland got up to. I do think I would have liked it more had I gone into it expecting it to be a light romance-thriller with dashes of mystery, which, were I asked to label this baby with a genre, is what I would have come up with. I think *Tea with the Black Dragon* is the sort of book that would lend itself to younger women. At twenty, I suspect I would have felt very differently. Timing also probably matters. In , *Tea with the Black Dragon* might have felt fresh and different, but shape-shifting erotica is pretty much a genre unto itself at this point.

## **Tea with the Black Dragon - Wikipedia**

Today, oolong tea still is cultivated predominantly in the Fujian region of China, as well as the Guangdong region and Taiwan. Nicole Wilson loves to drink tea and share her knowledge with the rest of the world on the passionate tea blog *Tea For Me Please*. It might sound like something out of a movie, but in five of the best clipper ships of its age set sail from China. Your email address will not be published. Skip to content. The story of *Black Dragon Tea*. Posted by Martin November 23, No Comments.

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Is that because honey is added inside of the 'pearls' or is that just the natural taste from this combination of tea leaves? Asked by Thomas Hofler on September 25th, *Direct Trade Advantage* We import our teas direct from the artisan farmers whose names and faces you'll find throughout our catalog. This makes our teas fresher than those offered by the companies who use middlemen and brokers, and also less expensive. Here's a comparison of how much more you'd be paying by buying this tea elsewhere: *Teavana*..

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