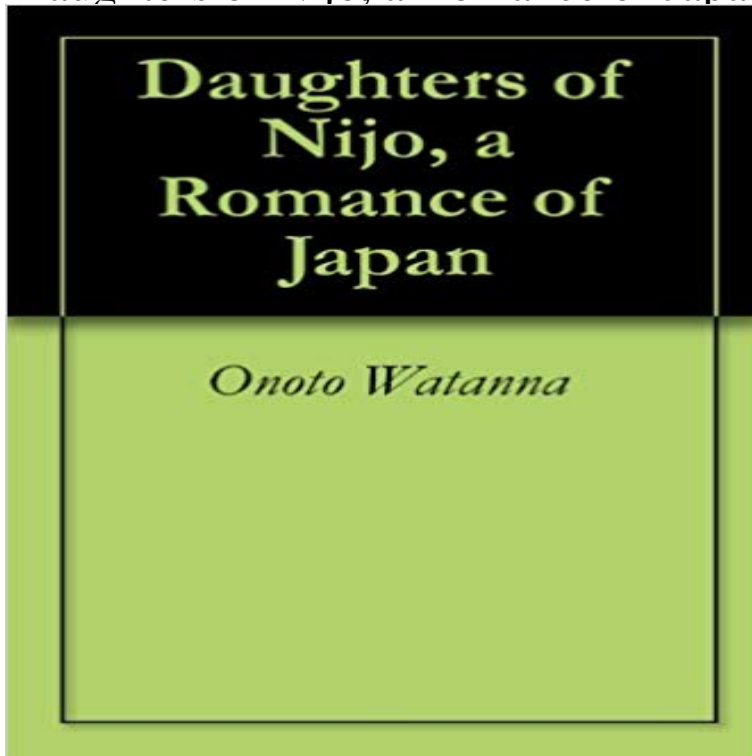


## Daughters of Nijo, a Romance of Japan



This volume was published in 1904. Winnifred Eaton was born in Montreal, Quebec, in 1875. However, she lived most of her life in New York, Hollywood, and Calgary. Winnifred's father, Edward Eaton, was a silk merchant who traveled around to major Asian trading towns, particularly Shanghai. There he met his wife, Grace Lotus Blossom Trefusis. She was a Chinese woman adopted and educated by English missionaries. Winnifred was the eighth of fourteen children. She became an author who published many novels, a Chinese-Japanese cookbook, short stories, newspaper articles and motion picture screenplays. At age fourteen she published her first story in a Montreal newspaper. At that young age she was already establishing a name for herself in the United States, with articles in *American Youth*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Metropolitan Magazine*. Her works were popular because they were romances, not only giving Americans a flavor of the Orient but also drawing upon the Orientalist clichés of her time. Eaton was able to explore diverse social issues and exploit Oriental fantasies. Eaton used a Japanese pen name when she wrote, even though she was of Chinese descent. She used the name Onoto Watanna because she wanted to create for herself a persona of a Japanese noblewoman. At that time in America, there was a more favorable perception of Japanese than Chinese. The name Watanna can be dissected into two parts- wata[ru], to cross and na, which means, name. Winnifred put these two ideograms together for an intentional purpose. Her sister, the eldest girl in the family, was also a writer named Edith Maude Eaton. She wrote fiction and was a journalist. She too had a pen name which was Sui Sin Far or Water Lily, which she said was a pseudonym of a prominent Americanized Chinese merchant from Los Angeles. The *Daughters of Nijo* is set during the period of transition, meaning

when Japan began to incorporate Western culture into its own ancient culture.  
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