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# CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE

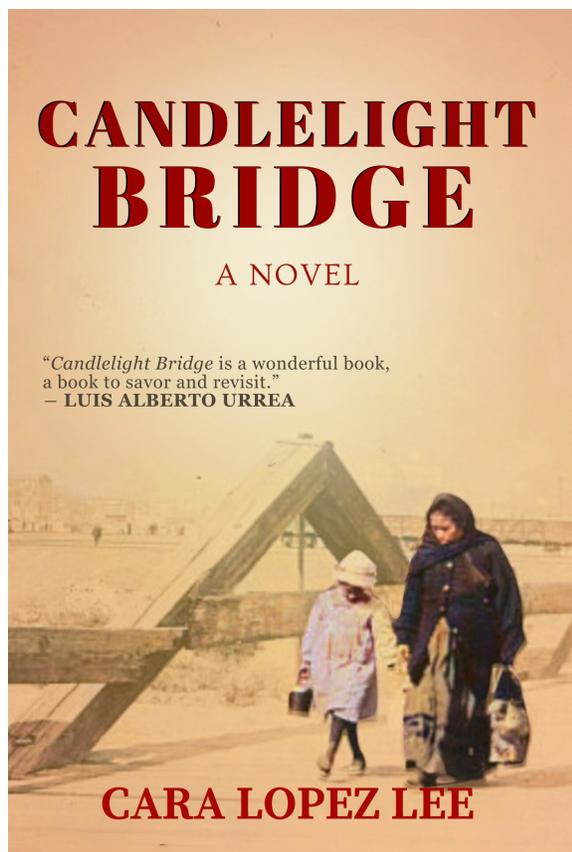
By Cara Lopez Lee • May 28, 2024 • FlowerSong Press • Paperback: \$21.95  
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“Cara Lopez Lee is a talented and audacious author. And CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE is a wonderful book, a book to savor and revisit.”

–**Luis Alberto Urrea**, author of *Good Night, Irene* and *The Hummingbird’s Daughter*

“The literary prose delves into the innermost thoughts and secrets of the main characters. Many subplots contain surprising twists and turns right up to a cluster of life-changing decisions at the very end. Readers wanting to be transported to those harrowing times and places for immigrants from China and Mexico will appreciate this story.”

–**Historical Novel Society**



In 1910, twelve-year-old Candelaria Rivera and her family flee across the Chihuahuan Desert to America to escape the rising storm of the Mexican Revolution. Meanwhile, twenty-year-old Yan Chi Wong flees the Chinese Revolution and a shattering loss, also bound for America, where he’s nicknamed Yankee.

The unlikely pair meet in El Paso, Texas, where they fight to make a home in a world that does not want them, until a terrible desire threatens to destroy their lives.

***Candlelight Bridge*** is not a romance, but a tale of grudging partners struggling to survive the American Dream.

# MEET CARA LOPEZ LEE

**Cara Lopez Lee** is the author of the historical novel, *Candlelight Bridge* (May 28, FlowerSong Press). She's also the author of the memoir, [\*They Only Eat Their Husbands\*](#), and coauthor of the veteran-acclaimed [\*Unexpected Prisoner: Memoir of a Vietnam POW\*](#) (with Robert Wideman). Her writing has appeared in the [\*Los Angeles Times\*](#), [\*Rivet\*](#) and [\*Manifest-Station\*](#).

Lee was an award-winning TV journalist in Alaska. Lee is also a winner of *The Moth StorySLAM* and is featured in such storytelling shows as *Unheard L.A.* and *Risk*. She's passionate about traveling, swing dancing and bingeing stories of all kinds. She and her husband live in Ventura, California.

## CONNECT WITH CARA ONLINE

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X (Formerly Twitter): [@CaraLopezLee](https://twitter.com/CaraLopezLee)  
TikTok: [@caralopezlee](https://www.tiktok.com/@caralopezlee)



*“CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE is a novel of tremendous heart. Cara Lopez Lee delivers a well-researched, moving, grand adventure of hope and sacrifice and of what it means to create and define the true meaning of home.”*

*—Kali Fajardo-Anstine, bestselling author of *Woman of Light* and *Sabrina & Corina**

*“Sweeping yet intimate, CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE traces the epic journey of Candelaria and Yankee across China, Mexico and the borderlands of America. With these defiant and determined characters, Cara Lopez Lee powerfully portrays the costs of survival. Deeply moving.”*

*—Vanessa Hua, author of *Forbidden City**

# PRAISE FOR CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE

“*CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE* poignantly portrays the journeys of Candelaria Rivera and Yankee Wong, fleeing violence and revolutions and heading toward each other in a new world. Impeccably researched, this heartfelt story offers no stereotypes, no clichés—only interconnected stories of life’s struggles and resilience.”

—**Eleanor Parker Sapia**, award-winning author of *A Decent Woman*

“*CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE* unflinchingly illustrates the sacrifices required to make a home in an unwelcoming place. With vivid prose, Cara Lopez Lee brings to life the story of two immigrants from opposite sides of the world who form an unlikely and surprising partnership. This is a gripping tale of resilience, redemption, and survival. I highly recommend it.”

—**Tiffany Quay Tyson**, author of *The Past is Never*

“In *CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE*, Cara Lopez Lee masterfully weaves together two compelling perspectives to explore geographical and emotional borderlands. Elegantly told, dazzling in its verisimilitude, and fascinating in its cultural complexity, this gorgeous novel shows just how far we are willing to go in our quest for home.”

—**Erika Krouse**, author of *Tell Me Everything*

“This is as American a story as there is: two immigrants from different cultures escaping dangers and demons in their own lands, coming to the US to create better lives in a country that barely tolerates them. Highly recommended!”

—**Lisa Brackmann**, NYT best-selling author of *Rock Paper Tiger* and *Black Swan Rising*

“If Maxine Hong Kingston and Luis Alberto Urrea were to come together to write a masterpiece, I imagine it would read much like Cara Lopez Lee’s brilliant novel, *CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE*. Set amid the Mexican Revolution and the ramifications of the Chinese Exclusion Act in the U.S., her characters form an unlikely union in El Paso, Texas. At once heartrending and deeply human, this is a story you won’t forget.”

—**Susan Blumberg-Kason**, author of *Bernardine’s Shanghai Saloon* and *Good Chinese Wife*

“From the very first sentence, readers are pulled into an epic, beautifully written, rich, and vivid story that leaves us breathless, hopeful, and excited for the sequel. This untold immigrant story is nothing short of amazing!”

—**J.D. Mason**, national bestselling author of *The Real Mrs. Price* and *One Day I Saw a Black King*

“Set against the turbulent backdrop of the Mexican Revolution, the Riveras—an impoverished family escaping the long reach of war—head for what they hope is a better life in America. The story follows the oldest daughter, Candelaria, in an unexpected and sweeping saga that stretches from Mexico to China and into America. Settling in the wild west town of El Paso on the cusp of Prohibition forces Candelaria and her family to make dangerous and difficult decisions. *CANDLELIGHT BRIDGE* delivers a profoundly moving story of one strong and determined woman. Highly Recommended!”

—**Randi Samuelson-Brown**, author of *Market Street Madam* and *On The Fringes*