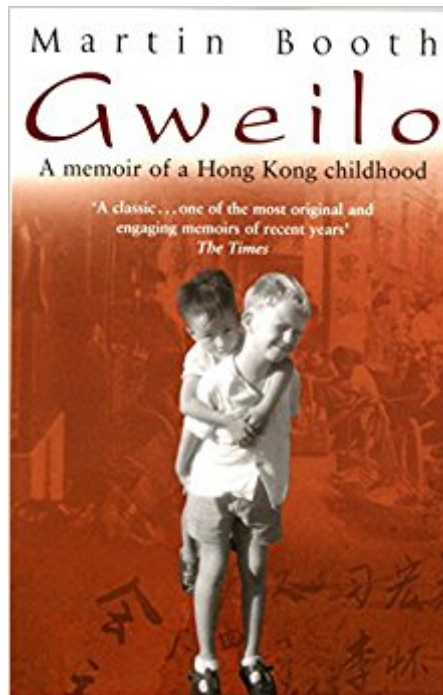




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Gweilo: Memories Of A Hong Kong Childhood



Synopsis

Evocative, funny and full of life, this is a beautifully observed childhood memoir of growing up in colonial Hong Kong in the 1950s. As an inquisitive seven-year-old, Martin Booth found himself with the whole of Hong Kong at his feet when his father was posted there in the early 1950s.

Unrestricted by parental control, he had free access to hidden corners of the colony normally closed to a Gweilo, a 'pale fellow' like him. Befriending rickshaw coolies and local stallholders, he learned Cantonese, sampled delicacies such as boiled water beetles and one-hundred-year-old eggs, and participated in colourful festivals. He even entered the forbidden Kowloon Walled City, wandered into the secret lair of the Triads and visited an opium den. Along the way he encountered a colourful array of people, from the plink plonk man with his dancing monkey to Nagasaki Jim, a drunken child molester, and the Queen of Kowloon, the crazed tramp who may have been a member of the Romanov family. Shadowed by the unhappiness of his warring parents, a broad-minded mother who, like her son, was keen to embrace all things Chinese, and a bigoted father who was enraged by his family's interest in 'going native', Martin Booth's compelling memoir is a journey into Chinese culture and an extinct colonial way of life that glows with infectious curiosity and humour.

Book Information

Paperback: 269 pages

Publisher: Bantam Press (September 6, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553816721

ISBN-13: 978-0553816723

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #235,616 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > History > Asia > Hong Kong](#) #80 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > China](#) #109 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese](#)

Customer Reviews

As a long-term Hongkong resident and sentimental fool, I'm almost bound to say that Gweilo and my adopted home are utter magic. Sadly, I live in London right now and, like me, those with a tendency to homesickness will probably read Gweilo and immediately want to get on the first Cathay

flight home. For Gweilo is a terrific story with intimate glimpses of Hongkong in the fifties seen through the eyes of a curious little boy called Martin and his ill-suited, warring parents. It gets five stars just for the author's enviable ability to conjure up unforgettable images in a splendid pacy style. 'Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood' is only half memories though, with much of it reading like a novel. Yet the plot is extremely simple; young boy and open-minded mother have the life-changing experience of leaving post-war Blighty for somewhere exotic while insecure, racist father does everything in his power to undermine their attempts to fit in with the locals and learn something new. An eventful tug of war between cultures and enlightenment, it will undoubtedly invite empty-headed complaints from the usual suspects that these are the memories of a privileged set that lived in a world far above the toil and filth of the great unwashed. But, as always, this would miss the point. Gweilo is a celebration of life through the eyes of a little boy, unburdened by guilt or irony. In fact, somewhat perversely, the book's only real weak point is Booth's revelling in Daddy-bashing. Even though the tales of Pop's sycophantic attempts to ape the naval officers he would never become are hilarious, it is worth remembering that both mother and boy might never have had their opportunity were it not for Booth senior.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Gweilo: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood Islam in Hong Kong: Muslims and Everyday Life in China's World City (Hong Kong Culture and Society) Hong Kong Internment, 1942-1945: Life in the Japanese Civilian Camp at Stanley (Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series) The Taking of Hong Kong: Charles and Clara Elliot in China Waters (Echoes: Classics of Hong Kong Culture and History) Contract Law in Hong Kong (Hong Kong University Press Law Series) Custom, Land, and Livelihood in Rural South China: The Traditional Land Law of Hong Kong's New Territories, 1750-1950 (Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series) Golden Boy: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood The Tao of Tai Chi: The Making of a New Science: One man's amazing 55 year journey from an angel in Kansas to a Taoist Temple in Hong Kong, which ... the world's largest institutions of science. Financial Markets in Hong Kong The Uncertain Hand: Hong Kong Taxis and Tenders (Friedman Lecture Fund Monograph) Asian Godfathers: Money and Power in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia Hong Kong Modern History of Hong Kong, A: 1841-1997 Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong The Hong Kong Visitor's Book: A Historical Who's Who (Odyssey Guides) An Illustrated History of Hong Kong The Fall of Hong Kong: Britain, China, and the Japanese Occupation Mainstreaming Gender in Hong Kong The Making of Hong Kong: From Vertical to Volumetric (Planning, History and Environment (Paperback)) Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the United States, China, and Hong Kong, 1842-1943

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help