



Gweilo: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood

By Martin Booth

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Gweilo: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood By Martin Booth

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.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[Gweilo] stands as one of the most original and engaging memoirs of recent years, all the more telling because it is so personal, witty and true. Booth has delivered a pre-coming-of-age book that ranks with the best of the breed.”

—*The Times*

About the Author

Martin Booth was an internationally admired writer and biographer and also an acclaimed novelist: **The Industry of Souls** was shortlisted for the 1998 Booker Prize. He died in February 2004, shortly after completing **Gweilo**.

Users Review

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Kimberly Williams:

Precisely why? Because this Gweilo: Memories of a Hong Kong Childhood is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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