

A Dictionary of Maqiao

By Han Shaogong

Download now

Read Online

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong

One of the most-talked about works of fiction to emerge from China in recent years, this novel about an urban youth "displaced" to a small village in rural China during the Cultural Revolution is a fictionalized portrait of the author's own experience as a young man. Han Shaogong was one of millions of students relocated from cities and towns to live and work alongside peasant farmers in an effort to create a classless society. Translated into English for the first time, Han's novel is an exciting experiment in form?structured as a dictionary of the Maqiao dialect?through which he seeks to understand and translate the local life and customs of his strange new home.

Han encounters an upside-down world among the people of Maqiao: a con man dupes his neighbors into thinking that he has found the fountain of youth by convincing them that his father is in fact his son; to be scientific" is to be lazy; time and relationships are understood using the language of food and its preparation; and to die young is considered "sweet," while the aged reckon their lives to be "cheap."

As entries build one upon another, Han meditates on the ability of a *waidi ren* (outsider) to represent the ways of life of another community. In this light, the Communist effort to control the language and history of a people whose words and past are bound together in ineluctably local ways emerges as an often comical, sometimes tragic exercise in miscommunication.

Download A Dictionary of Maqiao ...pdf

Read Online A Dictionary of Maqiao ...pdf

A Dictionary of Maqiao

By Han Shaogong

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong

One of the most-talked about works of fiction to emerge from China in recent years, this novel about an urban youth "displaced" to a small village in rural China during the Cultural Revolution is a fictionalized portrait of the author's own experience as a young man. Han Shaogong was one of millions of students relocated from cities and towns to live and work alongside peasant farmers in an effort to create a classless society. Translated into English for the first time, Han's novel is an exciting experiment in form?structured as a dictionary of the Maqiao dialect?through which he seeks to understand and translate the local life and customs of his strange new home.

Han encounters an upside-down world among the people of Maqiao: a con man dupes his neighbors into thinking that he has found the fountain of youth by convincing them that his father is in fact his son; to be scientific" is to be lazy; time and relationships are understood using the language of food and its preparation; and to die young is considered "sweet," while the aged reckon their lives to be "cheap."

As entries build one upon another, Han meditates on the ability of a *waidi ren* (outsider) to represent the ways of life of another community. In this light, the Communist effort to control the language and history of a people whose words and past are bound together in ineluctably local ways emerges as an often comical, sometimes tragic exercise in miscommunication.

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2559781 in Books
- Published on: 2003-08-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.22" h x .95" w x 6.32" l, 1.29 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 400 pages

Download A Dictionary of Maqiao ...pdf

Read Online A Dictionary of Maqiao ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Maqiao, a fictitious rural village lost in the vitals of Mao's Communist empire, is to Han's magical novel what Macondo is to One Hundred Years of Solitude-a place in which the various brutalities and advances of contemporary history are transformed within the "fossil seams" of popular myth. Han adopts the rules of the dictionary to the rules of fiction, distributing mini-sagas of rural bandits, Daoist madmen and mixed up Maoists across the definitions of terms with special meaning in Maqiao. Han, narrator as well as author, is sent to Maqiao as part of a cadre of "Educated Youth" during the Cultural Revolution. A sharp, sophisticated observer, he narrates these folkloric tales from the vantage point of contemporary China, situating them within a richly informative historical and philosophical framework. Among the stories that deserve mention are those of Wanyu, the village's best singer and reputed Don Juan, who is discovered to lack the male "dragon"; of "poisonous" Yanzao, so called both because his aged mother has a reputation as a poisoner and because he is assigned to spread pesticides (and in so doing absorbs such a quantity of toxins that mosquitoes die upon contact with him); and of Tiexiang, the adulterous wife of Party Secretary Benyi, who takes up with Three Ears, so called because of the rudimentary third ear that grows under one of his armpits. Flawlessly translated by Lovell, this novel should not be missed by lovers of literature.
Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

The best novel of the year isn't that DeLillo-on-automatic-pilot thing that broke out, along with SARS, this spring; nor the smutty anti-Islamic screed by the super-annuated French juvenile delinquent; nor even Jane Smiley's excellent investigation of the unlikely souls of real estate agents. Rather, it is this 'dictionary' of the dialect of a fictitious village, Maqiao, lost in the squat hills of South China.

(*San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*)

[A] subtle and smashingly effective critique of the futility of totalitarian efforts to suppress language and thought?and, more to the point, a stunningly imaginative and absorbing work of fiction.

(*Kirkus Reviews*)

[*A Dictionary of Maqiao*] is a magnificent book, epic in its ambitions and sweep without any of the sentimental obfuscation on which that genre so often depends.

(*The Village Voice*)

[B]oth fascinating and masterful... Han paints a detailed, intriguing and amusing picture of what happens when Marxism collides with entrenched village beliefs, and how traditional China coexists with modernity. The book is filled with peculiar, beguiling, tragic characters and scenery so real you can touch it... This is an intelligent, amusing, clever, fascinating and well-written view of a China most of us never see, or don't recognize when we do.

(*Asian Review of Books*)

To enter [*A Dictionary of Maqiao*]'s pages is to cross into a world of bandits and ghosts, where 'rude' means 'pretty,' and homosexuals are 'Red Flower Daddies' and people don't die, they 'scatter.'

(*The New York Times Book Review*)

Dictionary of Maqiao is a wonderful, many-layered novel written as a series of definitions which gains further depth from a good translation... Han Shaogong's novel [is] clever, sympathetic and amused... Julia Lovell's translation is an impressive achievement, a fine reflection of a complex book.

(*Times Literary Supplement*)

Han Shaogong's novel has won wide acclaim, and deservedly so; through his treatment of language, he not only vividly portrays village life in rural China, but also inspires readers to rethink what they are accustomed to taking for granted.

(*Persimmon*)

Sometimes humorous, but crude and grim at other times, the entries all intertwine to give readers a picture of life in this distant region.

(*Library Journal*)

The narrator's folkloric stereotypes the provincial simpletons and fools, the cuckolded husbands, the long-suffering wives resolve affectingly into distinct human beings. And the peasant vocabulary vulgar, quaint, superstitious which so perplexesthe earnest young outsider is also revealed to be cunningly subversive, an antidote to the totalitarian imposition of a "reality"irreconcilably at odds with the real thing.

(Amanda Heller *The Boston Globe*)

This is a serious, ground-breaking and finally brilliant novel by one of China's leading authors... The translation is everywhere excellent?fluent, colloquial where appropriate, without being excessively so, learned in places, and without any hint anywhere of 'translationese'... surely destined for classic status.

(Bradley Winterton *Taipei Times*)

In its formal inventiveness, its nuanced depiction of Chinese peasant life, and its speculative explorations into the Chinese cultural psyche, this is one of the finest novels of the post-Mao era to so far make its way into English.

(Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas *Review of Contemporary Fiction*)

Worth reading...fascinating and surprisingly accessible.

(Anton Graham *China Economic Review*)

Han is a good storyteller, ingeniously leading the reader into the heart of his stories...*A Dictionary of Maqiao* is readable and enjoyable.

(Fatima Wu *World Literature Today*)

Review

In view of the emphasis that Han Shaogong places on the analysis of the languages we use and how those languages shape?even become?the realities that we experience, it is not surprising that he should present his novel as a dictionary. A novel presented as a dictionary? A daunting task for any translator! Yet Julia Lovell has rendered Han Shaogong's highly original *A Dictionary of Maqiao* into English with an accuracy and grace that engross us in the daily life of Maqiao village, a place where a cast of colorful characters speak the language recorded in the dictionary.

(William A. Lyell, Stanford University)

One of the truly meaningful narratives from contemporary Chinese literature, *A Dictionary ofMaqiao* weaves together a vast tapestry of legends, anecdotes, haunting memories, proverbial wisdoms, and provocative insights. Each entry is a beautifully composed short essay or story, and provides an intriguing strand of an ever broadening vista. With this masterful novel, Han Shaogong illustrates ever more eloquently how historical traumas and actions are embedded in, and absorbed by, the persistent tradition of a living language. Thanks to Lovell's highly readable translation, students of Chinese culture, history, literature, anthropology, and indeed lexicography now have a new access to the village of Maqiao and its inhabitants. The general reader, too, will find his or her imagination of modern China magnificently extended and enriched.

(Xiaobing Tang, The University of Chicago)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alyssa Cox:

Here thing why this particular A Dictionary of Maqiao are different and reliable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. A Dictionary of Maqiao giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with A Dictionary of Maqiao. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your method home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of A Dictionary of Maqiao in e-book can be your choice.

Terry Smith:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this A Dictionary of Maqiao guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still doubt A Dictionary of Maqiao as good book but not only by the cover but also

from the content. This is one book that can break don't judge book by its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Denise Kerrigan:

Don't be worry for anyone who is afraid that this book will filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. This specific A Dictionary of Maqiao can give you a lot of close friends because by you investigating this one book you have factor that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that probably your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than some other make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? Let's have A Dictionary of Maqiao.

Rose Engle:

You can get this A Dictionary of Maqiao by browse the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve difficulty if you get difficulties to your knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only simply by written or printed and also can you enjoy this book by e-book. In the modern era just like now, you just looking by your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own ways to get more information about your guide. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

Download and Read Online A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong #ASWMENDKY1G

Read A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong for online ebook

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong books to read online.

Online A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong ebook PDF download

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong Doc

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong Mobipocket

A Dictionary of Maqiao By Han Shaogong EPub