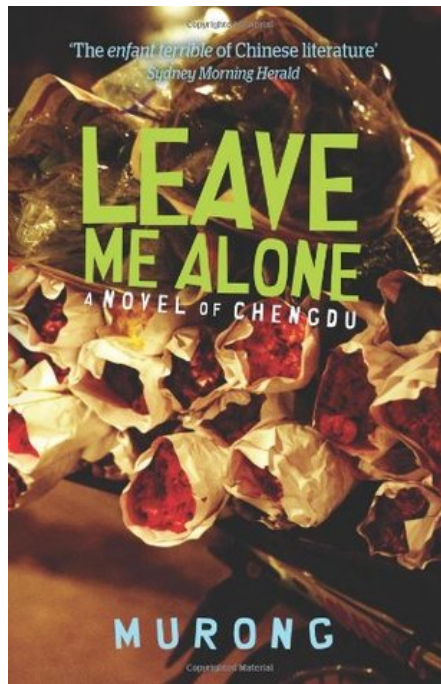




Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu

Murong Xuecun , Xuecun Murong

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Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu is an unflinching, darkly funny take on love and life in modern China. It's the story of three young men, Chen Zhong, Li Liang and Big Head Wang and their tragi-comic struggles to make their way in Chengdu, China's fifth most populous city. Despite their aspirations in the newly capitalist China, the trio's lives are beset by dead-end jobs, gambling debts, drinking, drugs, and whoring. Chen Zhong is married to Zhao Yue. Although he loves her, he plays around with other women. But it isn't until Chen Zhong discovers that Zhao Yue is having an affair that he realizes exactly how much he stands to lose

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Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu Details

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From Reader Review Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu for online ebook

Guilherme Solari says

Romance mostra um submundo de corrupção, traição, amizade e explosão econômica do ponto de vista de um representante de vendas em uma das maiores cidades da China

Chen Dong é um ambicioso gerente de vendas de autopeças em Chengdu, uma das metrópoles mais populosas da China. Ele é a nova cara do gigante asiático, trabalha como um louco na empresa e gasta como um louco enchendo a cara bares, em puteiros e compras. O tipo de cara que se mete em rolos como engravidar a noiva do melhor amigo, de ter que conversar com o contador da firma sobre seu uso “flexível” de verbas de viagens, assim como os acordões para receber por fora de clientes.

À sua volta gira um panteão de amigos e parentes que montam muito bem a atmosfera de uma cidade que existe para o trabalho e o prazer. Temos o chefe Gordo Dong que tenta derrubar Chen Dong a cada momento, o colega de faculdade poeta que virou viciado, o amigo policial que está subindo no escalão da corrupção e do poder e os pais, reflexos de uma geração esquecida e que não encontra lugar na explosão do milagre chinês.

Deixe-me em Paz tem um ar de Nelson Rodrigues, quase como um “A Vida Como Ela É na China”. O próprio Chen Dong é um “cafajeste adorável”, trai a mulher com tudo que tem duas pernas, mas se remói de tristeza quando ela finalmente o larga. Tem um gênio impossível com explosões de fúria, mas se encanta ao lembrar antigos poemas escritos pelo melhor amigo no tempo da faculdade.

E alguém que parece querer viver para sempre no passado. Aos 28 anos, Chen Dong já é um velho saudosista que passa o tempo remoendo os bons tempos de poucos anos atrás depois de apenas alguns anos da rotina moedora de trabalho que a cidade de Chengdu e a China exigem.

O livro tem um ritmo de thriller, por mais que o principal que aconteça seja as peripécias extraconjugais e financeiras de Chen Dong. O escritor Murong Xuecun consegue capturar com minúcias essa atmosfera ao mesmo tempo tão semelhante com a da minha cidade natal de São Paulo ao mesmo tempo com particularidades da cultura chinesa. As descrições colocam o leitor de fato dentro desse mundo que consegue ser ao mesmo tempo o mais comunista e o mais capitalista. Um lugar cruel e implacável e que consegue ser um lar aconchegante.

nicole says

I didn't finish the book. The language is quite difficult for me and I wasn't that much interested in the story to continue.

Ze Dongmao says

One of the most informative books about modern China you will find. Chinese history produced in China

and works on Chinese culture will provide a sanitized view, conveniently overlooking what does not sit well with government censors. This book tells it like it is and authentically portrays the challenges of business life, personal life, married life, relationships with friends, and so on.

LEAVE ME ALONE is essential reading for those wishing to better understand the China of today.

Allan Dyen-Shapiro says

This book starts out seeming it will be a Chinese version of the awful '80s in the US--future's so bright, I have to wear shades--capitalist-worshipping hedonistic nonsense. But it isn't. Murong's characters do not rise to the top of the business world. They self-destruct. The world he portrays is empty, and the characters know it, even if they don't always realize it.

Yeah, there's some black humor, and as an American reading it, yes, the insights into Chinese culture are interesting. But it's the darkness to this work that distinguishes it from a similar American novel. And the realization that things are changing, but not in time to save the generation portrayed.

How dark this material is doesn't hit you until you finish the book.

Serviceable prose; I'm reading it in translation, but I still don't think this is "high literature." I'd be interested in hearing whether the exposure of the emptiness of the corrupt capitalist life resonates with Chinese people or is just considered obvious.

Ville says

This book reminded me of Bret Easton Ellis's novels. The characters are all "shades of gray", which makes the book an interesting read while also making it quite dark. The theme of there being no true good or evil is ever-present in this book.

The protagonist is constantly behaving like a jerk, yet somehow I found myself sympathizing for him. I think that is a mark of good writing and it played well with the book's overall theme.

Minni says

Olכוןpa miten ansiokasta nyky-Kiinan kuvausta tahansa, niin tämän mulkvistin edesottamusten seuraamiseen on aikani liian kallis. Vasitenkin kun ei ole varmuutta, käykö hänelle lopulta edes esimerkinomaisen ikävästi.

Susana says

Una versión masculina del horrendo "Shanghai Baby", una novela sobre la loca vida de los nuevos ricos chinos cuyo único motivo de celebridad es el escándalo que rodeó su publicación y la ligereza moral de su

protagonista (que en la estricta sociedad china choca mucho, pero no es nada del otro jueves para un occidental). La espantosa traducción indirecta desde el inglés no ayuda en absoluto.

Josh says

A contemporary Chinese noir, LEAVE ME ALONE had all the hallmarks of a great book yet it fell short on a number of levels. I'm not sure if something was lost in translation or if the author was a little loose with the writing as the style was jumpy, often switching gears from urbane poetic to grade school in a matter of sentences.

The story of a slowly depreciating young man living a life of deceit and sin who has little sense of self despite the at times overbearing narrative attempting to illustrate the opposite is a constant draw back and contrary to what the novel was to deliver rather than complimentary - in my view.

The lead character starts with a good job, professional prospects, a close knit circle of friends and a loving wife - by the end of LEAVE ME ALONE all this things are little more than words in the wind.

The premise is definitely something I like reading and could be vaguely compared to a Jason Starr white collar noir (without the murder) yet there was always this limitation to the expanses LEAVE ME ALONE could reach.

Review first appeared on my blog: <http://justaguythatlikes2read.blogspot...>

DaViD'82 says

V zásadě jde o nástřel autorova pozdějšího majstrštyku "*Než slehne rudý prach*". Dříve, postavy, styl, situace i celkové pojetí jsou v zásadě nemlich to samé; jen odehrávající se o jednu společenskou třídu níže.

Vše co tu je, se v pozdějším díle objeví dotaženější, lépe napsané, o mnohavrstevnaté motivy obohacené, vyzrálejší a prostě tak nějak celkově lepší. Což však neznamená, že i toto není výtečné. Protože je, jen to chtě nechtě stojí ve stínu svého mladšího bratříčka odsouzené do nevdyčné škatulky "pokud po dožení Rudého prachu chytnete slinu na něco ze stejného ranku".

Sorrell says

Some times lyrically beautiful, but mostly a rather boring book.

Based around the life of a car parts dealer who has a penchant for hookers, gambling and shady dealings. He is unfaithful and unscrupulous. No redeeming characters in this book. Very little to keep the story flowing. A disappointing read.

Sam says

This is a grim picture of womanizing and corruption in the capital of Sichuan, in southwestern China. It's nicely written, impressionistic and harsh. It focuses on a 20-something guy in the car business in the present day, and his friends from university -- a futures trader and a cop. It reminds me of a seedier, Chinese version of one of the Hollywood films that shows a bunch of guys on a drug-fueled, prostitute-patronizing, head-bashing, trouble-inviting drunken spree in Las Vegas. Only that usually takes up only one episode in the movie, and it takes up most of the 310 pages of this book. Still, it was interesting to read some contemporary Chinese fiction, and the story was compelling.

Rl says

I got tired with all the dirty things the main character did all the time and gave up after about 120 pages.

C. says

Not sure what I think of it, but a very realistic portrayal of life a certain sector of middle-upper class life in China. Very empty, depressing, somewhat fatalistic.

New York Times article on author: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/07/wor...>

Iina says

Tähän piti tarttua, koska a) hellu on ollut Chengdussa vaihdossa, tosin aikana ennen minua, ja muistelee kaupunkia kaiholla b) koska minunkin pitäisi lähteä kesälomalla käymään Kiinassa, Pekingissä kylläkin. Romaani kuvaa 28-vuotiaan nuorukaisen kiihkeää elämää mm. alkoholin ja syrjähyppyjen maailmassa. Parhaiten mieleen jäi suunnilleen joka sivulla toistuva "Nussin äitiäsi". Kiinalaisten yleisin solvaus tai jotain? Päähenkilöä voi kuvata täydeksi sovinistimulkuksi, mutta jotenkin hänen mulkkuutensa vain teki tarinasta kiinnostavan eikä ärsyttänyt juurikaan. Varsin viihdyttävä teos, opettavainenkin (siis siinä mielessä, että harvoin tulee luettua kiinalaista kaunokirjallisuutta).

Dylan Suher says

Wrote a bunch about this book here: <http://www.asymptotejournal.com/artic...>
