

<<美哉中国>>

图书基本信息

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前言

Before I left for the US in 1986, I lived in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou-three of China's biggest metropolises-and visited the terra-cotta army in Xi' an, and the karst mountains and Li River in Guilin. That was all I saw of China. Fast forward 16 years, I was back in China. I have had many opportunities to visit many more cities and provinces. It took a long absence and an outsider's perspective to appreciate what I did not know before or what I took for granted. This was a country I thought I knew but never learned to embrace. The Chinese have a saying: Read ten thousand volumes and travel ten thousand miles. Having grown up in the latter half of the Cultural Revolution, I missed much of the reading, but I'm determined to make up for it with as much travel as possible. In a few short years, I have covered three quarters of the country's provinces, autonomous regions and central governmentled municipalities. Every place is a revelation. I've learned to leave behind any presumptions associated with a place. The biggest surprise has always been whenever I approach a location with a blank mind, ready to absorb the sights and sounds afresh and hear locals tell their stories.

内容概要

China the Beautiful is Raymond Zhou's paean to his motherland, written after returning home following a long absence, which provided him with new perspectives and new opportunities to travel to places he had previously only read about. It is anything but a guidebook for roughly half of the country's provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Zhou takes a multifaceted approach to each place he writes about. His real interest is always in ordinary people - their joys, concerns and anxieties, the breath-taking beauty of the sceneries, and the quandaries between economic growth and ecological preservation. The book is a kaleidoscopic view of a country on the cusp of change - a country always yearning for something new, yet constantly reminded of its past glory; a country caught between the need for improving living standards for all and the hard decisions of what has to be given up in the process; a country where everything is happening so fast it's a blur and capturing it with words and images amount to sculpting in time. Besides portraying everyday lives on the ground and up close, Zhou makes one exception by examining the Great Wall from an international space station. With the help of an astronaut, he busted, once and for all, the urban myth about the Wall as the only man-made structure visible from outer space. The book is a kaleidoscopic view of a country on the cusp of change - a country always yearning for something new, yet constantly reminded of its past glory; a country caught between the need for improving living standards for all and the hard decisions of what has to be given up in the process; a country where everything is happening so fast it's a blur and capturing it with words and images amount to sculpting in time. Besides portraying everyday lives on the ground and up close, Zhou makes one exception by examining the Great Wall from an international space station. With the help of an astronaut, he busted, once and for all, the urban myth about the Wall as the only man-made structure visible from outer space.

作者简介

Raymond Zhou Raymond Zhou is a writer who is hard to define or categorize: He is prolific in English and Chinese; his topics and interests cover many areas, from culture to social issues; he is comfortable with all media platforms, including print, online and television, or government-oriented, market-driven and grassroots; and he explores many genres, from journalistic reporting to commentary essays, to genre-busting experiments in fusing fiction and nonfiction. Above all, Zhou is praised for his ability to cross the boundaries of languages and cultures. Immersed in both Chinese and Western (specially American) cultures, he often deciphers a Chinese controversy from a Western perspective and vice versa. The ease with which he shifts his viewpoint endows him with a rare openness and independence of thinking. Zhou started writing in California's Silicon Valley in the early days of the Internet boom. His focus has shifted from high tech and e-commerce, to business, movies, arts and culture in general, and from social issues to travel and humor. He began to blur the lines of some of these areas in recent years.

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书籍目录

Foreword by Zhu Ling Preface Part One: Close to Home Beijing Municipality Looking at the Great Wall from up high -- very high Wannabe extras dream of stardom Guangdong Province Out of Guangzhou, Africa trade booms Zhejiang Province Hollywood in central Zhejiang ? Give it a break ! Jiangsu Province Yixing: Pour to rich Master Xu's feats of Clay Collecting scraps of history, one certificate at a time Suzhou: Paradise intact Fujian Province Heavenly Mountain Part Two: Remote Places Gansu Province Surprise, the Yellow River is blue Droughts root of poverty in Dongxiang Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Letters from Xinjiang Turpan: Where all paths crossed Qinghai Province Letters from Qinghai Tibet Autonomous Region Dawa Dondop: Local son also rises Letters from Lhasa Part Three: Beautiful Mountains and Beautiful Waters Yunnan Province Monkey business Double exposures reveal clearer picture Guizhou Province 'Emerald' a possible heritage site Emerald masterpieces Sichuan Province Letters from Chengdu Chongqing Municipality Celluloid Chongqing In Chongqing, it's all in the cards Part Four: Rising from the Ashes Hunan Province The sleepy town of Phoenix Hunan television: The one to watch Milk of love is magic potion for children in need Liaoning Province Rebirth of the rust belt Then and now: Sea change in landscape Hebei Province 30 years on, memories of Tangshan quake still shake them... Rescuers tell stories of a shattered city Henan Province Henan stigma highlights regional bias Tudging down a blessed coal mine Justice, Bao style, dispensed with a smile A French apprentice at Shaolin Temple Henan Museum: An archeological paradise Eo stern Zhengzhou: a glimpse into the future Back to the future for revival of past glory Acknowledgments Photo Credits

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