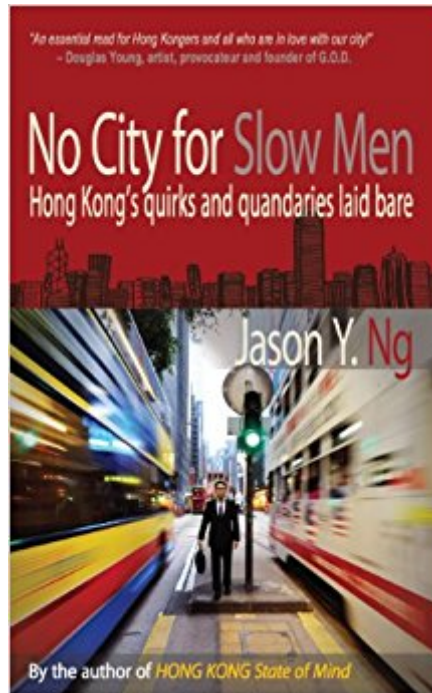




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No City For Slow Men: Hong Kong's Quirks And Quandaries Laid Bare



Synopsis

Blogger Jason Y. Ng has a knack for making the familiar both fascinating and funny. This collection of 36 essays examines some of the pressing social issues facing Hong Kong. It takes us from the gravity-defying property market to the plunging depths of old age poverty, from urban streets to beckoning islands, from the culture-shocked expat to the misunderstood Mainland Chinese and the disenfranchised domestic worker. The result is thought-provoking, touching and immensely entertaining.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Ng's observations are compelling, entertaining and insightful. His essay 'Maid in Hong Kong' provides a much needed voice to the migrant worker community in Hong Kong." â Noel Servigon, Philippine Consul General to Hong Kong

Jason Y. Ng is a lawyer, blogger and newspaper columnist who lived in Europe, the US and Canada before returning to Hong Kong.

I am an occasional visitor to Hong Kong, and love the city. This book provides explanation in understanding some of the contemporary issues facing the city, and gives a local insight and perspective. I recommend the book if you want to learn more about living in Hong Kong.

Fantastic book. Read it 2x

Jason Y. Ng's latest collection of essays, capture the very essence of Hong Kong life with humour, poignancy and depth, making this is a must read for anyone who wants to scratch below the surface of our great city and find out what makes it tick. The essay which gives its name to the title, No City for Slow Men, is a hilarious portrayal of the dynamic pace at which Hong Kongers live their lives. Speed is in our DNA, Ng wryly observes, as evolution has caused us all to mutate into multi-taskers, genetically programmed to feel unproductive unless we are doing three things at once. Just superb! Ng proves equally adept in the field of history, as he brings to life Sheung Wan's colourful past, guiding us through its fascinating 170 year evolution from shantytown to trendy neighbourhood hang-out, in History in our Midst. There are also some real heart-warming, personal pieces in the collection. No City for Slow Men has Ng recreating a dinner table conversation with his parents, which exquisitely examines the growing problem of poverty among the elderly in our city. The last two essays, one on his father's work as an illustrator, the other on his mother's background, are poignant depictions of two people who have played such an important part in Ng's life. Throughout the book, the father's illustrations offer a strong compliment to the son's words. If I had to pick a stand-out personal favourite, however, it would be HKID, which sets out the city's difficulty in trying to find its true identity in the post-Handover era. Hong Kong needs to find out what principles it stands for, before it is able to defend them, Ng challenges, otherwise the city faces the inevitable erosion of its uniqueness in favour of the cloak of just any other Chinese megalopolis. I agree with Ng: this challenge is indeed a vital and urgent one. But those best placed to meet it are not sound-bite spouting politicians, posing movie stars or self-interested tycoons. We need a real opinion former to take on the challenge. I say, look no further than the author of this book. As a gifted essayist, Jason Ng is best placed to take on the responsibility handed down to him from past-masters of the genre like Edmund Burke and Tom Paine. So a five-star, must-read from me.

Brilliant look at what life is like for people living in Hong Kong post-1997 handover to China. It's mainly humorous and fun but serious at the same time and not really about the politics per se. The writer, Jason Ng, grew up in the West (Italy, US and Canada) so he's a real expat in HK but not one of those pampered by some big corporation ones. The other thing that is just superb are the drawing that accompany each chapter done by his dad, Lee. They add a sense of wonder to daily life in HK. Check out Jason Ng's Hong Kong blog, As I See It, for more social commentary on life in one of

the world's most vibrant cities.

Jason Y. Ng is the authority on contemporary Hong Kong issues and this book exemplifies that. I enjoyed each of the chapters and felt like I was back in my favorite city. "No City for Slow Men" is suitable for Hong Kong locals, experts, and those who have never been there and are interested in learning more.

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