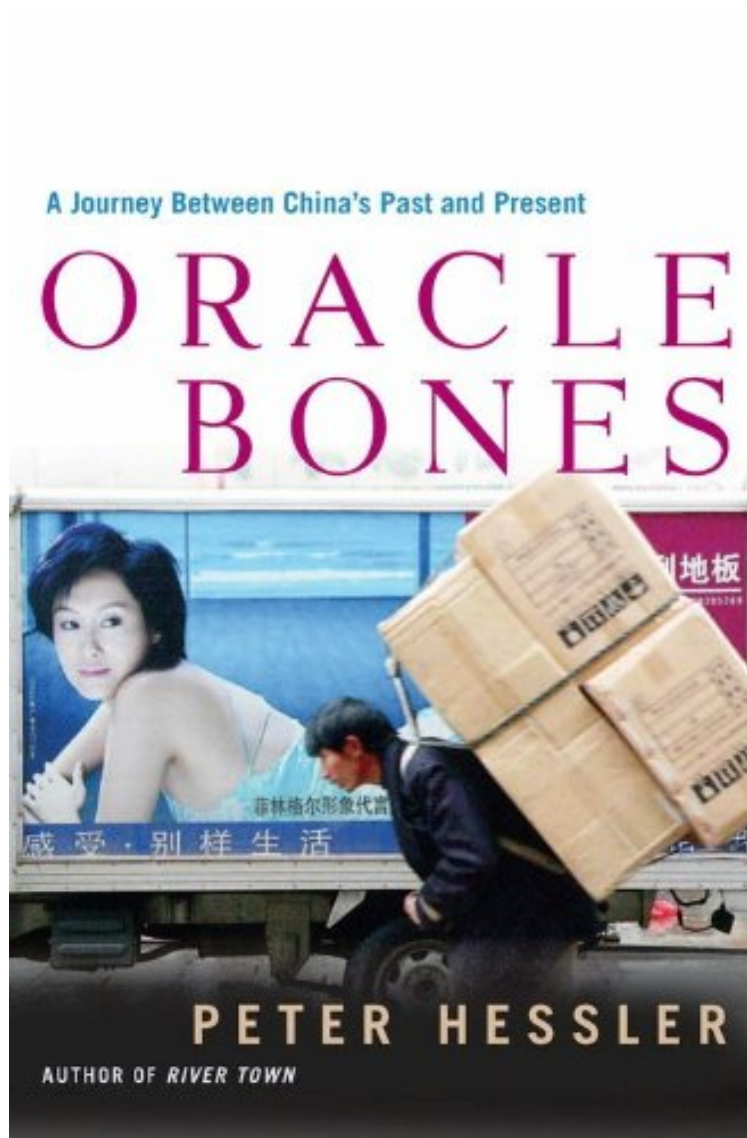


[E-BOOK] Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China

Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China

Von Peter Hessler

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Von Peter Hessler : Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. wunderbarVon Peter FischerPersnliche Erfahrungen im China der 90er und 00er Jahre und ihre Verbindungen zur Vergangenheit. Niemals wertend, dafr wertschtzend und przise beobachtend. Nachdem ich schon mehrere Male in China war, hat mir dieses Buch einrtselhaftes Land um vieles nher gebracht und verstndlicher gemacht. Auch die

Sprache ist einfach sagenhaft. Absolute Leseempfehlung. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good Anecdotes Within Von Troy Parfitt Oracle Bones, Peter Hessler's second effort, or Part II, as it were, of his China trilogy, chronicles, mainly, the lives of various Chinese people, from archeologists and intellectuals to the author's friends and former students. Many of the narratives seem to be more detailed and more rewarding versions of his newspaper and magazine articles. Themes and "characters" recur and are given a sort of chronological treatment. The glue that binds the book together, the oracle bones, is also a sort of loose symbol for the volume in total. The oracle bones convey meaning; their messages and the stories surrounding the people who excavate, study, and try to make sense of them attempt to tell us something about Chinese culture. The people Hessler writes about, and the yarns pertaining to his effort to do so, also try to tell us something about Chinese culture. Oracle Bones is a long book, about 470 pages of text. Some of the topics are interesting; others are not. But what was not interesting to me would be interesting to someone else. What's important is that the subjects were interesting to the author. That's what a good writer does: he writes for himself. If others like it, fine; if not, that's fine, too. Readers like me are going to criticize no matter what you do, so you may as well scribble about your own interests. And Hessler is a good writer. His sentences are crisp, his paragraphs economical. His writing is better than in his first book, River Town, even if River Town is a better, or at least more coherent, story. (I suppose it's fair to clarify that whereas River Town is a story, Oracle Bones is a series of vignettes.) In any event, it's always interesting, to me at least, to plot an author's development. And Peter deserves credit in general. In the sea of China experts, i.e. know-it-all expatriates who write thousands of words in poorly-formed blogs and internet forums, he got off his duff and wrote, seriously, about his experiences in China and what he learned from them. He dug deeply, he researched, he became a journalist, and he travelled extensively (sometimes at considerable risk) to talk to people and record what they had to say. He got published, and his China trilogy continues to sell. Hessler proved that there's always room for one more voice, provided that voice is reasoned, informed, and intelligent. He's got much more to say than Henry Kissinger, for instance. He's got much more to say than a lot of China writers. That said, I wish the book were a bit more passionate. In places, I found Hessler's style a little too, well, journalistic. He removes himself from the stories, but in the places where he inserts himself, i.e. expresses his opinion, or shows his frustration (as he does with the "struggle session" he faced after being detained for camping on the Great Wall, or, so the authorities thought, reporting illegally on a village election) it's quite satisfying. But again, this is a matter of personal taste. A recurring comment about Hessler's writing is that he is so very sympathetic toward Chinese people, but I don't see this as being the case, especially in this book. As there is in any China book worth its salt, there are heaps of send-ups and bucketfuls of criticism, though they are rendered in a flat, ironical fashion. I don't see Hessler as being eminently empathetic; at one point he describes himself as coldly pragmatic - a journalist getting his scoop. Oracle Bones did what it was supposed to; it made me want to read his third book, Country Driving. I'm curious as to whether there is (and I hope there isn't) as much detachment in that book as there is in this one. In total, a very good read. China at the microcosmic level is infinitely more rewarding than books on China's dynastic history or soporific tomes on, say, the history of Chinese diplomacy. And, among the dozens of intriguing and memorable stories, there are excellent tips for would-be journalists and aspiring writers. Oracle Bones works as a starting-point for neophytes or a refresher for old China hands. I recommend it. Troy Parfitt is the author of Why China Will Never Rule the World 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Great Book about China with much Subtlety and Compassion Von Donglai Xu As a native Chinese born and grown up in Beijing, but soaked in Western cultures, I spent a lot of time in Europe and traveled to the United States. I am currently living abroad. It allows me to gain access to this book in the first place. As well as information about China from outside the Great Firewall. I find this book a great work about modern China. It was written in the 1990s. Many things in China have changed since then. But it is not out of date, since the author captured the zeitgeist through the portraits of a series of common Chinese people. I feel like I knew someone similar to Emily or William Foster or I ran into Polat somewhere around Yabao Lu Street. The author faithfully documented a historical time for China, when the clumsy giant has to cope with a lot of problems in its system and with the outside world. As a Chinese I could follow the themes in the book very closely. As I turned the pages, I smiled and sighed, felt proud, ashamed, worried and outraged. Since this nation is becoming so big that the world cannot ignore it, I guess it is very important that it really learns how to grow out of its adolescence and clumsiness and learn to be part of the real world. If you are interested in modern China and preferably have been to China personally, I definitely recommend this book, and this author.

Kurzbeschreibung A century ago, outsiders saw China as a place where nothing ever changes. Today the country has become one of the most dynamic regions on earth. In Oracle Bones, Peter Hessler explores the human side of China's transformation, viewing modern-day China and its growing links to the Western world through the lives of a handful of ordinary people. In a narrative that gracefully moves between the ancient and the present, the East and the West, Hessler captures the soul of a country that is undergoing a momentous change before our eyes. Pressestimmen A remarkable travelogue documenting aspects of a country still little understood. (Kirkus (starred review)) Everyone in

the Western world should read this book. (Publishers Weekly, (starred review))Hessler has written a fascinating and frequently moving account of life in modern China. (Booklist)A brilliant observer with a novelists ear for character and dialogue, Hessler is both fascinating and funny. (Entertainment Weekly)Wonderful. . . . Intimate. . . . The book reads like a really good novel. (Minneapolis Star Tribune)Insightful. . . . Hessler is a wry and witty writer who manages to bring humor even to tense situations. (Christian Science Monitor)Engaging. . . . Acutely observed, moving, frequently funny and a perspicacious X-ray of Chinas zeitgeist. (South China Morning Post)An extraordinary, genre-defying book. . . . Beautifully constructed. . . . Hesslers reportage is vivid. (Nigel Richardson, The Daily Telegraph)KurzbeschreibungA century ago, outsiders saw China as a place where nothing ever changes. Today the country has become one of the most dynamic regions on earth. In Oracle Bones, Peter Hessler explores the human side of China's transformation, viewing modern-day China and its growing links to the Western world through the lives of a handful of ordinary people. In a narrative that gracefully moves between the ancient and the present, the East and the West, Hessler captures the soul of a country that is undergoing a momentous change before our eyes.