



The Silent Traveller in London (Lost & Found: Classic Travel Writing)

Chiang Yee

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First published in 1938, this book by Chiang Yee is original in more ways than one. It was one of the first available titles written in English by a Chinese author, but it also reversed the expected conventions of travel writing, as the "exotic" subject becomes London and its people, as observed by a foreigner. Chiang Lee, immersing himself in the strange rituals of London life, set out to learn about Londoners, their habits and their pleasures. He watched locals at work and at play. He was fascinated by such social conventions as afternoon tea and discussing the weather. He tried to make sense of British society, and as Chiang Yee lived through the capital's various seasons his affinity with the place and its people grew, all reflected in his simple and lyrical prose. "The Silent Traveller in London" contains sketches in the author's own hand. It is also a book about China and a world in transition. Comparing London with his native land Chiang Yee draws parallels and contrasts, seeking to rectify misunderstandings and stereotypes regarding Chinese life.

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