

A Case of Two Cities: An Inspector Chen Novel (Inspector Chen Cao)

By Qiu Xiaolong

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Inspector Chen Cao of the Shanghai Police Department is assigned a high-profile anti-corruption case, one in which the principal figure has long since fled to the United States and beyond the reach of the Chinese government. But Xing left behind his organization, and Chen, while assigned to root the co-conspirators, is not sure whether he's actually being set up to fail.
In a twisting case that takes him from Shanghai all the way to the U.S., reuniting him with his colleague and counterpart from the U.S. Marshall's Service, Inspector Catherine Rhon, Chen finds himself at odds with hidden, powerful, and vicious enemies. At once a compelling crime novel and an insightful, moving portrayal of contemporary China, *A Case of Two Cities* is the finest novel yet in this critically-acclaimed, award-wining series.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Starred Review. Chinese expatriate Qiu's gripping fourth Inspector Chen novel (after 2004's *When Red Is Black*) captures an honest detective's struggle to be true to his professional ideals under a repressive regime. The Communist Party leadership appears to be vigorously investigating rampant corruption among the profligate power elite during China's economic reforms of the recent past. After the head of the Fujian special case squad is murdered in sordid circumstances, Chen Cao of the Shanghai police bureau discovers that the dead man had been probing a wealthy businessman, Xing Xing, who fled to the United States to escape prosecution. Chen himself is then given the highest authority to carry on the investigation, which takes him to the U.S., but he soon realizes he's not meant to succeed. Chen stands in a class with Martin Cruz Smith's Russian investigator, Arkady Renko, and P.D. James's Scotland Yard inspector, Adam Dalgliesh. *(Dec.)*
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From Booklist
Whether set in the U.S., Europe, or Asia, crime novels offer a lens with which to look at societies and the dynamics that shape them--and few locales can offer the kind of dynamics that Shanghai can, a city being transformed by the introduction of market economics. Beijing assigns Detective (and poet) Chen Cao of the Shanghai police the task of investigating Xing Xing, who has amassed a fortune while corrupting various party officials, but the detective has no sooner begun his investigation than he is told to lead a delegation of writers to the U.S. for a cultural exchange. Concerned that Xing may have fled to the U.S and requested asylum, Chen agrees to lead the delegation. Plot is secondary, or even tertiary, here. Character, poetry, insights into Chinese society and culture, and food all come before story in this unusual and compelling crime novel, the fourth in a fascinating series. *Thomas Gaughan*
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Review

“His characters are expertly drawn, his prose superb.” ?*Library Journal (starred review)*

“Unusual and compelling...a fascinating series.” ?*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joann Hamilton:

This A Case of Two Cities: An Inspector Chen Novel (Inspector Chen Cao) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific A Case of Two Cities: An Inspector Chen Novel (Inspector Chen Cao) without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't always be worry A Case of Two Cities: An Inspector Chen Novel (Inspector Chen Cao) can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' come to be full because

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