

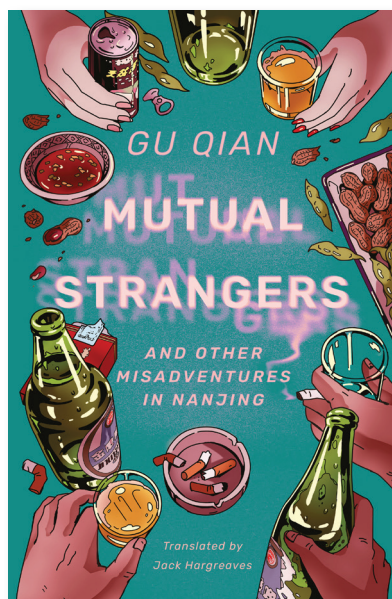
ADVANCE INFORMATION



For information and review copies please contact

Daniel Li // daniel.li@alaincharlesasia.com // +44 (0)7454765027 // www.sinoistbooks.com

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240pp

Mutual Strangers

And Other Misadventures in Nanjing

By **Gu Qian**

Translated by
Jack Hargreaves

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- Short, funny, readable stories
- In an energetic translation by Jack Hargreaves with a strong sense of voice and dialect
- Appeals to anyone interested in the examination of masculinity and male friendships
- A snapshot into the underground literary scene of 90s China

Collecting two decades of remembrances from China's premier literary caricaturist, these stories offer bite-sized misdeeds committed by Nanjing's underground literati during a series of nights out on the seedier districts of the city. Freed from family duties, the "boys" spend their nights freewheeling and trying their luck with pretty girls amid a haze of cigarette smoke and cheap beer. However, as the evening drags on, trouble brews and dates turn sour. Told in a series of anecdotes, the stories cover cruel pranks, cramped apartments, sleazy karaoke bars...and dead cats, and are sympathetic to the vital bonds of friendship of the "boys" while poking fun at their misplaced machismo.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gu Qian started writing in the 1980s while working various jobs including as a labourer, beekeeper, advertising sales manager and magazine editor. His works include the short story collections *Flat Out*, *Hi*, *Long Time No See* and *Mutual Strangers*, and the novels *Go Elsewhere* and *Civilian Life*. Often anthologised, he has won the Nanjing Gold Medal for Literature and Art. He lives in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Jack Hargreaves is a translator of Yorkshire extraction. His literary work, recognised by English PEN and PEN America, includes the full-length works *Winter Pasture* by Li Juan and *Seeing* by Chai Jing, both co-translated with Yan Yan, *Wait and See* by Zhu Hui, co-translated with Jun Liu and *A Submarine in the Night* by Chen Chuncheng. He writes for the China Books Review.