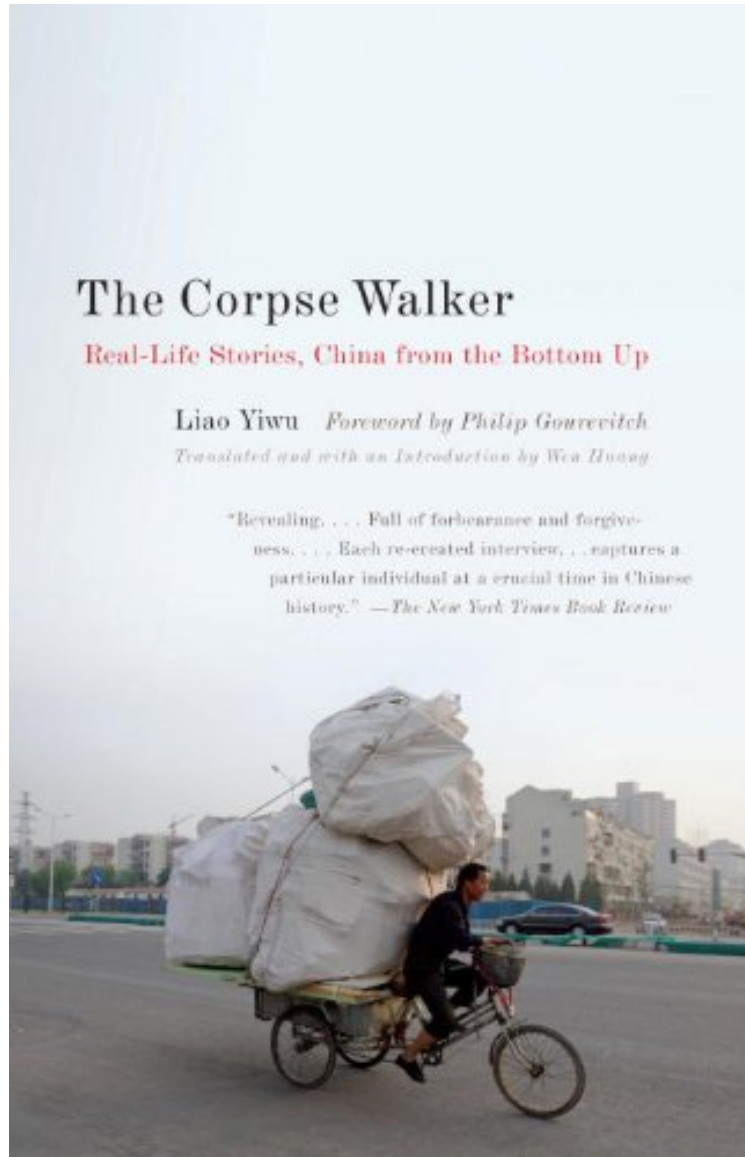


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# The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories: China From the Bottom Up

Liao Yiwu

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**Liao Yiwu : The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories: China From the Bottom Up** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories: China From the Bottom Up:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. After a general concept through other books I can confront the reality of this one better. It is amazing to realize the resilienceBy JalaFascinating book ! China as it is and as it was through the words and eyes of Chinese people who experienced it in its most brutal and aberrant historical way. The

interview conducted by a Chinese Author, who himself had to suffer through the same historical period and can understand,- please don't skip the foreword and introduction - makes it much closer to the reality of it all. I am reading a lot of books on China and this one gives more depth to the general education I am receiving on the subject as I go. I don't think that I would have started with this one though and would have been able to continue reading without being prepared by other books. After a general concept through other books I can confront the reality of this one better. It is amazing to realize the resilience of Chinese people and of individuals who, I had no idea, could survive under such harsh conditions even though I had heard 1st hand all kind of 2nd World War European stories. I could not put this book away. IT IS HISTORY !0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I LOVED this bookBy Nanae ItoI LOVED this book! It's one of my favorites still. The short vignettes of the individuals highlighted in the book were fascinating and riveting - illustrating a time where tradition perseveres despite structural oppression.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Engrossing Interviews with the People at the Bottom of SocietyBy A. SilverstoneThis is a fascinating and engrossing book that provides 27 glimpses into lives that have not fared so well in China. The author, Liao Yiwu, is a poet who has drawn upon his own life to conduct interviews with people from the bottom of society. This extremely well-done English translation draws upon 27 interviews from the 60 in the original Chinese book. The people range from the occupation from which the book draws the title - an ancient method of transporting dead bodies for burial - to a 103 year-old Buddhist abbot to a rest room manager to a blind street erhu player. Liao is by no means an objective interviewer; he does not let the Human Trafficker (already in jail) of easily. Each chapter is titled by the role or occupation of the interviewee. These are people who have suffered under the various deprivations of revolutionary communism, the cultural revolution, or the newest era of capitalist communism. Liao brings a harsh light to many of the sufferings of the past. However, despite the accumulated human misery, this is not a depressing book. Many of the people interviewed, as the original Chinese title describes "Interviews with People from the Bottom Rung of Society", are not the wildly successful, they often have come to accept their lot in life, and they have a quiet dignity the perfuses their words. I would highly recommend this to anyone who wants to see a very different view of life in China.

The Corpse Walker introduces us to regular men and women at the bottom of Chinese society, most of whom have been battered by life but have managed to retain their dignity: a professional mourner, a human trafficker, a public toilet manager, a leper, a grave robber, and a Falung Gong practitioner, among others. By asking challenging questions with respect and empathy, Liao Yiwu managed to get his subjects to talk openly and sometimes hilariously about their lives, desires, and vulnerabilities, creating a book that is an instance par excellence of what was once upon a time called "The New Journalism." The Corpse Walker reveals a fascinating aspect of modern China, describing the lives of normal Chinese citizens in ways that constantly provoke and surprise.From the Trade Paperback edition.