

(Library ebook) The Shanghai Gesture

The Shanghai Gesture

Gary Indiana

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Gary Indiana : The Shanghai Gesture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shanghai Gesture:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ShanghaiBy GeonomeakI find Gary Indiana a chore to read, frequently far too clever and cutesy. He has written some interesting articles in the popular press.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. make yourselves at home in the future pastBy Simon Joyce RandallGary Indiana's first novel since Do Everything in the Dark is a hilarious satire, the most linguistically exuberant work yet from an author already deservedly admired for his astonishing prose. Giddy anachronisms abound in this bawdy tale that features a

drug-addicted doctor accompanying a Scotland Yard inspector in pursuit of the fiendish Fu Manchu, who may or may not have something to do with strange occurrences in the seaside town of Land's End, a damp pocket of sleaze that time forgot, whose denizens sleep during the day and emerge for depraved revels come nightfall. Along the way there are all sorts of wonderfully sketched cameos, including Thalidomido the dwarf, Dr. Philidor Wellbutrin, "the fartsome abortionist," and Earl Sludge, the garbage truck driver turned opportunistic necrophiliac. Among the most comically inspired bits are the gossip phone conversations between the diabolical Fu Manchu and his mercenary employee, the club-footed ex-STASI Roswitha Klebb, whose logistical discussions concerning Fu's campaign for world domination get continually sidetracked by their shared passion for the labyrinthine plot of a Brazilian soap opera. Ribald satire, narcotic phantasmagoria, a gruesome Cronenbergian transformation, mysterious portals in spacetime, corrosive (and hysterical) social commentary all amazingly cohere in a satisfying narrative due to Indiana's prose mastery, simultaneously flamboyant and rigorously controlled. This is a wonderfully unhinged book, Indiana totally unfettered. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fun romp that's sure to entertain many a reader By Midwest Book Review Narcolepsy is a strange disorder. It's stranger when it takes an entire community by storm. "The Shanghai Gesture" is a comedic mystery thriller following Weymoth Smith and Obregon Petrie, who are out to stop the world domination plans of one Fu Manchu. As if one madman was not enough, they also must deal with being behind on the times, and the cravings of their own bodies. "The Shanghai Gesture" is a fun romp that's sure to entertain many a reader.

"Indiana has gloriously revived an obscure Hollywood film of the same name, infused it with eroticism and intrigue - and added Dr. Fu Manchu! The result is a lustrous, laugh-out-loud world of bawd and mayhem; an erudite, charmingly operatic opium den of decadence that seesaws between high brow and low camp and reads as though Cormac McCarthy had rewritten Austin Powers."—Arthur Nersesian "Ambitious... gonzo social satire." —Publishers Weekly "A fearless and valuable writer."—The Washington Post "[Gary Indiana] is the primary reporter of the underground, the dissociation of cultures, the new behaviors; there is a sense that if you want to understand what has happened in America, you would have to read Gary Indiana. And this newest book is a leap forward."—Michael Silverblatt

From Publishers Weekly In Indiana's ambitious but flawed latest (after *Do Everything in the Dark*), unconvincing characters adventure to save the world from an ill-defined threat. Two narrators, Dr. Obregon Petrie and another who remains nameless through most of the book, tell the parallel stories of a Scottish seaside town, Land's End—whose residents are suffering an epidemic of somnolent days and insomniac nights—and the hunt for criminal mastermind Fu Manchu. Petrie, a heroin addict who lost his medical license, accompanies a rogue Scotland Yard inspector in a push to capture Fu Manchu. The anonymous narrator, meanwhile, watches the situation in Land's End deteriorate, as prostitutes turn up murdered and genetically modified insects invade with nefarious intent. Indiana's stylized, elevated dialogue does no favor to this pseudo-pulp adventure, as Petrie and the other narrator sound virtually identical. While the author's take on Fu Manchu has some clever quirks, much of the book's humor appears forced and affected (the introduction, for instance, of a club-footed ex-STASI agent plays as camp). The book seems to aim for gonzo social satire, but it lacks the genuine human experience that makes such commentary effective. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Gary Indiana is the author of thirty-two books, including *Do Everything in the Dark*, *Depraved Indifference*, *Rent Boy*, *Resentment*, and *Let It Bleed*.