

# Strange Tales From A Chinese Studio

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Chips from a German Workshop: Essays chiefly on the science of language. With index to vols. III and d IV  
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the missionary's curse tells the story of a chinese village that has been catholic since the seventeenth century drawing direct connections between its history the globalizing church and the nation harrison recounts the popular folk tales of merchants and peasants who once adopted catholic rituals and teachings for their own purposes only to find themselves in conflict with the orthodoxy of franciscan missionaries arriving from italy the village's long religious history combined with the similarities between chinese folk religion and italian catholicism forces us to rethink the extreme violence committed in the area during the boxer uprising the author also follows nineteenth century chinese priests who campaigned against missionary control up through the founding of the official church by the communist party in the 1950s harrison's in depth study provides a rare insight into villager experiences during the socialist education movement and cultural revolution as well as the growth of christianity in china in recent years she makes the compelling argument that catholic practice in the village rather than adopting chinese forms in a gradual process of acculturation has in fact become increasingly similar to those of catholics in other parts of the world

written during the early qing dynasty strange tales from a chinese studio is a collection of nearly 500 mostly supernatural tales by chinese author pu songling the work which was published posthumously sometime between

1740 and 1766 is comprised of stories varying in length while the main characters of this book apparently are ghosts foxes immortals and demons pu songling is more focused on the real life of commoners four main themes run throughout the book the first is the author s complaint with the existing feudal system which he finds to be unjust and skewed towards the elite secondly the author is concerned with the corruption that exists in the imperial examination system thirdly the author shows his admiration of pure faithful love between poor scholars and powerless women and lastly is the overarching theme of morality for which pu songling intended strange tales from a chinese studio to be instructive towards bettering this work of classical chinese literature is translated here by herbert a giles

the strange tales of pu songling 1640 1715 are exquisite and amusing miniatures that are regarded as the pinnacle of classical chinese fiction with their elegant prose witty wordplay and subtle charm the 104 stories in this selection reveal a world in which nothing is as it seems here a taoist monk conjures up a magical pear tree a scholar recounts his previous incarnations a woman out foxes the fox spirit that possesses her a child bride gives birth to a thimble sized baby a ghostly city appears out of nowhere and a heartless daughter in law is turned into a pig in his tales of humans coupling with shape shifting spirits bizarre phenomena haunted buildings and enchanted objects pu songling pushes back the boundaries of human experience and enlightens as he entertains

utterly delicious compelling idiosyncratic and refreshingly honest by two of this country s most dynamic young talents kylie kwong james beard award 2023 winner for best visuals as immigrants with chinese heritage who both moved to australia as kids rosheen kaul and joanna hu spent their formative years living between at least two cultures and wondering how they fitted in food was a huge part of this journey should they cling to the traditional comfort of their parents varied culinary heritage attempt to assimilate wholly by learning to love shepherd s pie or

forge a new path where flavour and the freedom to choose trumped authenticity they went with option three chinese ish celebrates the confident blending of culture and identity through food take what you love and reject what doesn t work for you in these pages you ll find a bounty of inauthentic chinese influenced dishes from all over southeast asia including the best rice and noodle dishes wontons and dumplings classic chinese mains and even a sichuan sausage sanga that would sit proudly at any backyard barbecue there are also plenty of tips and shortcuts to demystify any tricky sounding techniques and reassuring advice on unfamiliar ingredients and where to find them chinese ish is modern unconventional innovative vibrant tasty colourful incredibly delicious food

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