

BOOK CLUB in a bag

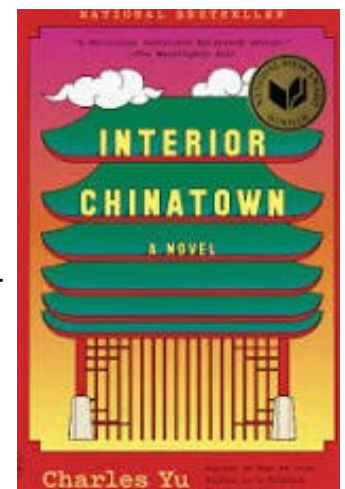


Interior Chinatown

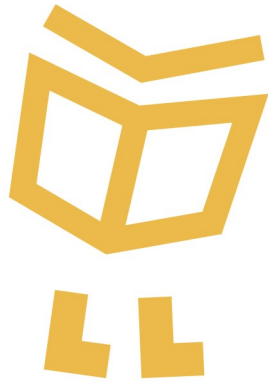
Charles Yu

Discussion Questions

1. What do you make of the structure of the book? Why do you think Charles Yu chose to write it in the form of a screenplay? How did the format change your reading experience?
2. Reading is often about finding empathy for others. Did Yu's use of second person point of view help you immerse yourself more fully in Willis's experience?
3. The book moves between several different "interior" spaces, from the building where Willis lives to the set of the show. How important is the physical setting of the story? Does it project a strong sense of place?
4. What are the major issues and ideas that the author is trying to convey and explore? How do they relate to topics or events in recent headlines?
5. Did *Interior Chinatown* change how you think about Hollywood, representation, and cultural stereotypes? If so, how?
6. At its core, *Interior Chinatown* is a celebration of the importance of family. How is Willis's experience and identity shaped by his family's history? In what way do the flashbacks to his parents' backgrounds deepen your understanding of their family dynamics?
7. *Interior Chinatown* is filled with a lot of satirical, dark humor. Were there any scenes in particular that made you laugh? What does humor add to the story?
8. The book depicts three different perspectives on the immigrant experience: the first generation that emigrates from Taiwan, the second generation, and the third. How does Yu show the evolution of these three generations' relationships with America and Americanness?



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About the Author

Charles Yu is the author of four books, including *Interior Chinatown* (the winner of the 2020 National Book Award for fiction), and the novel *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* (a New York Times Notable Book and a Time magazine best book of the year). He received the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 Award and was nominated for two Writers Guild of America Awards for his work on the HBO series, *Westworld*. He has also written for shows on FX, AMC, and HBO. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Wired*, among other publications. Together with TaiwaneseAmerican.org, he established the Betty L. Yu and Jin C. Yu Writing Prizes, in honor of his parents.

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