

PLEASE DON'T CALL ME HUMAN

Author: Wang Shuo
Translator: Howard Goldblatt
Category: Literature



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Renowned author and director Wang Shuo is described by his translator of this work, Howard Goldblatt, as achieving a “sardonic view of contemporary culture and mockery of national traits [which] have installed him as spokesman for China’s urban underclass and whipping boy for the official guardians of contemporary morality”. Indeed, *Please Don’t Call Me Human* is concerned with shame to a heightened degree, forcing readers to question what guilt really is, and how it can be created. Using both satire and an exaggerated cultural divide throughout, this work focuses on a fictional Olympic event while investigating the importance and failure of nationalism.

“Shuo aspires to the surreal, dreamlike subversive comedy of William Burroughs or France’s Boris Vian.” *The Wall Street Journal*

“Unnervingly funny... wanders into the wonderfully wild territory of mythic exaggeration.” *USA Today*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Wang Shuo was the enfant terrible of Beijing when he declined to enter the Chinese Writer’s Association, and when the bad boy turned bestseller it was clear that he had connected with a part of society that the establishment had been ignoring. Wang Shuo wrote the voice of the 80s as disaffected hooligans with dizzying schemes in a seamy Beijing. His written works and films have come under frequent attack, but he always manages to make it back onto the shelves.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR Howard Goldblatt has translated almost fifty works from more than twenty individual authors, including multiple novels by Nobel Prize winner Mo Yan. He is respected by academics and enjoyed by readers because of his ability to convey the vitality of the original language materials. He lives and works in South Bend, Indiana with his wife and co-translator, Sylvia Lin.

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