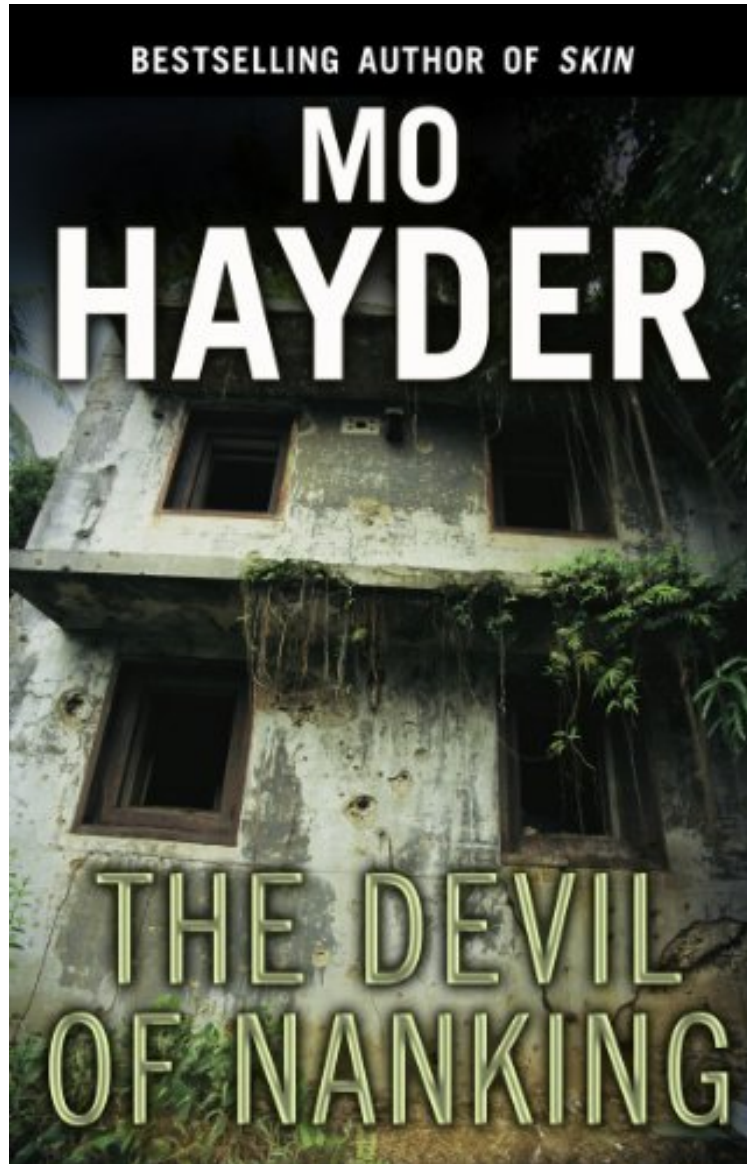


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The Devil of Nanking

Von Mo Hayder

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Von Mo Hayder : The Devil of Nanking before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil of Nanking:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Zwischen Fiktion und historischer RealittVon Ein KundeWer die beiden ersten Bcher von Mo Hayder kennt, sollte wissen, worauf er sich einlst: Ihre Bcher sind nichts fr schwache Nerven. "The treatment" war bereits schwer zu

ertragen, als reine Fiktion für hartgesottene Thrillerfans jedoch ein empfehlenswerter Garant für hohe Adrenalinpiegel. Doch mit "Tokyo" hat die Autorin für meinen Geschmack den Bogen überspannt. Dass mit der Schilderung von Greuelthaten, die vor nicht allzu langer Zeit tatsächlich begangen wurden - die sogar im Internet für jeden zugänglich fotografisch dokumentiert sind - Spannung erzeugt wird, war für mich unerträglich. Ich habe das Buch dennoch zu Ende gelesen. Und so bleibt neben einem verstörenden Nachgeschmack leider auch die Erkenntnis, dass die Auflösung der Story zu dünn ist. Der Zusammenhang zwischen den historischen Fakten und der persönlichen Geschichte der Heldin der Story scheint an den Haaren herbeigezogen.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
 Rich, well-researched, stunning thriller
 Von Alfred J. Kwak
 Rich, well-researched, stunning thriller
 "Tokyo" is situated in 1937 and 1990. Its content is weird, its plot brilliant, its story a page turner right up to the final page, its atmosphere compelling, its language beautiful. Deep down it is about the difference between ignorance and evil, about how past and future swing back and forth, and about the value of rational thought vs. traditional folk superstitions and portents about impending disaster. "Tokyo" is about the Nanking Massacre of December 1937, when between a handful (Japan) and 3- 400.000 Chinese civilians were massacred by Japan's Imperial Army. Unspeakable atrocities took place. This book follows two characters through whose eyes, in 1990 in Tokyo, two obsessions come to an end. They both lost their only child, but in different times and circumstances. They write this book.

As a child, the isolated, poorly-socialized girl Grey finds an orange-colored book about the Nanking Massacre in her parents' bookcase. She reads about a Japanese officer bayoneting a baby alive from its mother's belly. A later, crucial, but at the time poorly understood event in Grey's life occurs at age 13. Its aftermath condemns her to lengthy psychiatric care, where she is considered insane for what she has done. Once out of care, she enrolls in Asian Studies at the University of London. She copies and soaks up everything known about the Nanking Massacre and acquires a working knowledge of spoken and written Japanese and Chinese. Her aim is to find evidence for what she read in the lost orange book, Japanese soldiers bayoneting pregnant Chinese women with the baby surviving. When she finds the name of a person who may have filmed evidence, she sells everything she owns for a ticket to Tokyo to question this person. The second writer's name is Shi Chongming, an old Chinese visiting professor of sociology at Japan's top Todai university. In 1937, he was a rational thinker, married with a superstitious, pregnant wife. He kept a diary throughout the events his wife has warned him about and which he chose to ignore. During the coldest, hungriest days of December 1937, he recorded what he saw, heard and did to save his pregnant wife, who was right after all... His diary extracts from 1937 intermingle with Grey's accounts from 1990, when she finally meets a much older Shi Chongming, and then a third main character named Junzu Fuyuki, now in a wheelchair, kept alive by a secret medicine, protected by an army of bruisers and cared for by the Nurse, Miss Ogawa, who is neither a Miss nor a nurse... Fuyuki was a sadistic devil in Nanking in 1937 and still a devil in Tokyo in 1990 as a Yakuza godfather. He seems to live forever thanks to an elixir whose formula Shi Chongming wants to know and market to save his own Chinese university from bankruptcy. If Grey can procure it, he will show or even give her the film that haunts her, proves that she is not insane... This is a great piece of writing based on lots of research and with a great support cast: weird American Jason, who can read girls' minds; Ms. Strawberry, an elderly Japanese Marilyn Monroe look-alike, who employs Grey in her exclusive men's club as a hostess; her Russian colleagues; and the enormous old house Grey, Jason and the Russians live in, its overgrown garden and its mysterious ground floor, locked up, out of bounds.

This book is a triumph of evocative and creative writing with plenty of potential for a movie, or better, a series of 4 or 6 installments. Highly recommended thriller.

2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
 Schockierend und nachdenklich machend
 Von Jean Ulrike Uellenberg
 Zugegeben, die Story ist vielleicht/hoffentlich? nicht wirklich wahrscheinlich und teilweise etwas extrem. Aber sie zieht einen in ihren Bann. Vor allem die Rückblicke auf das Jahr 1937 und die Invasion Nankings durch die Japaner lassen den Leser teilhaben an den Ängsten, Hoffnungen und dem Entsetzen von Menschen, deren Welt und Leben innerhalb weniger Tage zusammen bricht. Diese Rückblicke in Kombination mit der verstörten und traumatisierten Protagonistin und ihren Erlebnissen im heutigen Tokyo machen das Buch sehr intensiv. Dabei versteht es Mo Hayder große Spannung zu erzeugen und auch zu halten, indem sie erst nach und nach scheinbar unzusammenhängende Fäden zusammenführt und Stück für Stück nicht nur eine historische Tragödie sondern auch deren Einfluss auf persönliche Schicksale entrollt. Der Identifikationswert ist vielleicht nicht allzu groß, weil die meisten Charaktere dafür einfach zu extrem sind, aber sie fesseln einen dennoch und sind zumeist nicht einfach stereotype Freaks sondern vielschichtig und irgendwie eben doch menschlich (zumindest einige weisen menschliche Züge auf!). Auch wenn die Geschichte vielleicht nicht viel mit einem selbst zu tun hat, so ist sie trotzdem nicht nur sehr packend, sondern bleibt einem auch nach dem Ende der Lektüre irgendwie im Gedächtnis und führt, zumindest bei mir, dazu, dass man sich über ein irgendwie wohl fast vergessenes oder zumindest kaum angesprochenes Kapitel Geschichte Gedanken macht. Empfehlenswert für alle, die nicht nur Mörder und Mörderjagd suchen, sondern sich auf ein intensives und oft bedrückendes Buch einlassen möchten.

Kurzbeschreibung Tokyo, 1990 Grey Hutchins is in pursuit of an obsession. She is searching for a piece of film taken

during the infamous Nanking massacre of 1937. Some say it never existed. Grey is certain that it does, and that it lies hidden - somewhere in Tokyo. Alone in an alien city, Grey becomes a hostess in an exclusive club catering for Japanese businessmen - and gangsters. One gangster dominates - an old man in a wheelchair surrounded by a terrifying entourage - who is rumoured to rely on a powerful elixir for his continued health. It is an elixir that others want - at any price ... With its focus on 1990's Tokyo and Nanking in 1937, *The Devil of Nanking* is a literary thriller of the highest order. With its heady atmosphere of overt violence, lurking fear and sexual tension, this is a novel that takes hold of the reader and does not let go until its explosive final pages.

deTokyo is another of Mo Hayder's deliciously chilling criminal outings, but probably won't produce the frisson of disapproval that such novels as *Birdman* and *The Treatment* did. The days are gone when Hayder was identified as one of a cadre of women writers who did something totally unacceptable: produce grisly crime novels quite as unsettling as the products of male imagination. People seem to have finally accepted that the tough crime novel needn't be an exclusively male preserve. Her troubled female protagonist in Tokyo is Grey, haunting the thronging streets of Tokyo in search of an elusive piece of film recording the infamous Nanking massacre of 1937. But did the film ever exist? The past is a touchy subject for Grey, with incidents in her own life that she has not yet come to terms with. She ill-advisedly becomes a hostess in a nightclub where the clientele is a tad unsavoury (another example of Hayder utilising real-life crime for her plots, with the echoes of a recent murder case). And Grey finds a lead to her quest: a taciturn survivor of the massacre who is now an academic, with no time for the woman pestering him. But Grey makes progress with him--until she encounters a powerful Godfather figure and his violent associates, with a clandestine source for his well-being a much sought-after elixir. Soon, Grey's life becomes two things: very complicated and a place of considerable danger. The change of locale for Mo Hayder here has ensured that the imaginative energy of her earlier books is consolidated, as is the rejection of the now hackneyed serial killer plot. Atmosphere is brilliantly sustained, set pieces are pulse-racing, and (most satisfying of all) Grey is a truly complex and damaged heroine, the perfect conduit for the reader through this dark world. --Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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