

SUBJECT MATTER

IN THIS PROJECT, I EXPLORED THE DIFFICULTIES THAT I WOULD FACE AS AN ASPIRING TEENAGE AUTHOR OF AN HISTORICAL NOVEL ABOUT THE FALL OF AN ANCIENT CHINESE DYNASTY. DEADLOCKED WITHIN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, DEVOID OF ANY DEGREE IN THE HUMANITIES AND WITH LESS THAN A YEAR TO ACHIEVE MY AIMS, THIS PROVED TO BE A CHALLENGE LIKE NONE I HAD EVER FACED BEFORE!

I BEGAN BY DOING THOROUGH RESEARCH ON THE INTRICACIES OF THE TIME PERIOD I HAD CHOSEN, MOST NOTABLY SO ON THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE EASTERN HAN EMPIRE. I THEN CHOSE AN INTERESTING PROTAGONIST I BELIEVED WOULD HELP ME GUIDE THE READER THROUGH THIS TURBULENT AGE WITH RELATIVE EASE; A CHINESE GIRL FROM A SMALL, ISOLATED HAMLET, WHO THEN GROWS UP TO RECOGNISE THE DEEP-ROOTED ISSUES AT THE HEART OF THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL DISCORD IN HER COUNTRY. SUBSEQUENTLY, SHE CHOOSES TO LIVE A LIFE AS AN OUTLAW RATHER THAN TO CONFORM TO A SOCIETY THAT HAS FAILED HER WITH IMPUNITY.

TO MAKE SURE THAT MY WORK WOULD REMAIN AS ACCESSIBLE AS POSSIBLE FOR BOTH EUROPEAN AND ASIAN AUDIENCES, I DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT WELL-KNOWN LITERARY PRINCIPLES FROM EITHER FIELD OF WRITING TRADITION, BE THEY CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY. THOSE WOULD TURN OUT TO INCLUDE, BUT BE IN NO WAY LIMITED TO; CHEKHOV'S GUN, SHOW/DON'T TELL, ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S BREVITY IN DIALOGUE, YUKIO MISHIMA'S STANDARD FOR THE BEAUTIFUL AND HARUKI MURAKAMI'S URBAN SURREALISM.

ULTIMATELY, THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT WAS TO CREATE A NOVEL THAT WOULD SUCCEED IN OFFERING A UNIQUE NARRATIVE AND REFRESHING PERSPECTIVE INTO AN AGE OF REBELS, WARLORDS AND EMPERORS LONG GONE BY.

HERE'S MY VERDICT – AFTER OVER A HUNDRED HOURS OF HARD WORK, I BELIEVE I HAVE ATTAINED THIS OBJECTIVE AND LEARNED PLENTY OF VALUABLE LESSONS ON THE WAY, WHICH HAVE BOTH IMPROVED MY ABILITY AS A WRITER AND MY MATURITY AS A PERSON. I'VE HAD TO DELVE INTO MILITARY STRATEGY, ORIENTAL HISTORY, LITERARY THEORY AND COUNTLESS RELATED AREAS OF STUDY; ALL OF THIS AS LITTLE MORE THAN A MERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. THIS REPRESENTED AN AMAZING, ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR WHICH I AM IMMENSELY GRATEFUL.



FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN ACCURACY, DESCRIPTIVENESS AND A PLEASURABLE NARRATIVE; THE DELICATE ART OF WRITING AN HISTORICAL NOVEL

**ARNAUD HARTMUT
KOGLIN**

Author

**KANTONSSCHULE
HOTTINGEN**

School

**DR LUTZ
WIEDMANN**

Reviewer