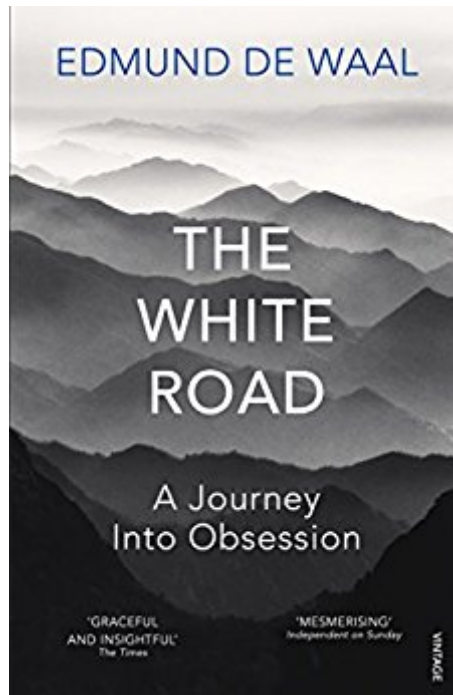




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The White Road: A Pilgrimage Of Sorts



Synopsis

**** A Sunday Times Top Ten Bestseller ****"Other things in the world are white but for me porcelain comes first"A handful of clay from a Chinese hillside carries a promise: that mixed with the right materials, it might survive the fire of the kiln, and fuse into porcelain – translucent, luminous, white.Acclaimed writer and potter Edmund de Waal sets out on a quest - a journey that begins in the dusty city of Jingdezhen in China and travels on to Venice, Versailles, Dublin, Dresden, the Appalachian Mountains of South Carolina and the hills of Cornwall to tell the history of porcelain. Along the way, he meets the witnesses to its creation; those who were inspired, made rich or heartsick by it, and the many whose livelihoods, minds and bodies were broken by this obsession. It spans a thousand years and reaches into some of the most tragic moments of recent times. In these intimate and compelling encounters with the people and landscapes who made porcelain, Edmund de Waal enriches his understanding of this rare material, the –white gold– he has worked with for decades.**** Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4 ****

Book Information

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Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese

Customer Reviews

This is a book full of history - not only of porcelain but of the way people lived in China for centuries;

the way the West's besottedness with porcelain lead to excess and to cut throat business practices; and, importantly, De Wall's own history and feeling for porcelain and his artistic expression through it.

I know his smooth, poetic style of writing. As a potter I am, 'White Road' is really a treasure to me. He took roads to the origin of Porcelain , China. He talks so fluently how the original Kaolin and bone in China was meshed and made to so white or so blue, green surfaced pots, and dragon and peony flowers in color drawing. Silkroad spread this clay to Europe. He is British and his simple porcelain cups installed in galleries. I was so mesmerized. The word Porcelain came from Italy. Wow! This is a documentary book, and esp. ceramicists can not miss this.

Glorious, insight filled and poetic, Edmund De Waal has constructed a fascinating, beautifully written look at the history of porcelain, and in doing so shares his artistic soul/vision. It is a book to be savored. Art history and a look at the artistic soul combined. Excellent!

The book is quite slow borderline boring. It is filled with the author's personal impressions and. not so much data. It is nothing like his other book the hare... Etc

An unusual, imaginative and inviting history of porcelain. Totally different from The Hare With Amber Eyes, but with the same curiously interesting sentence structure.

Purchased as a gift

Interesting. Charts the author's obsession with porcelain - a fragmented narrative and not in the same category as "The Hare With Amber Eyes", but a "must read" for any porcelain lover.

Complete survey of porcelain making history world wide, yet concise enough to follow each country. It is interesting to read how social and political background influenced porcelain production and physical effects of the workers of the early years.

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