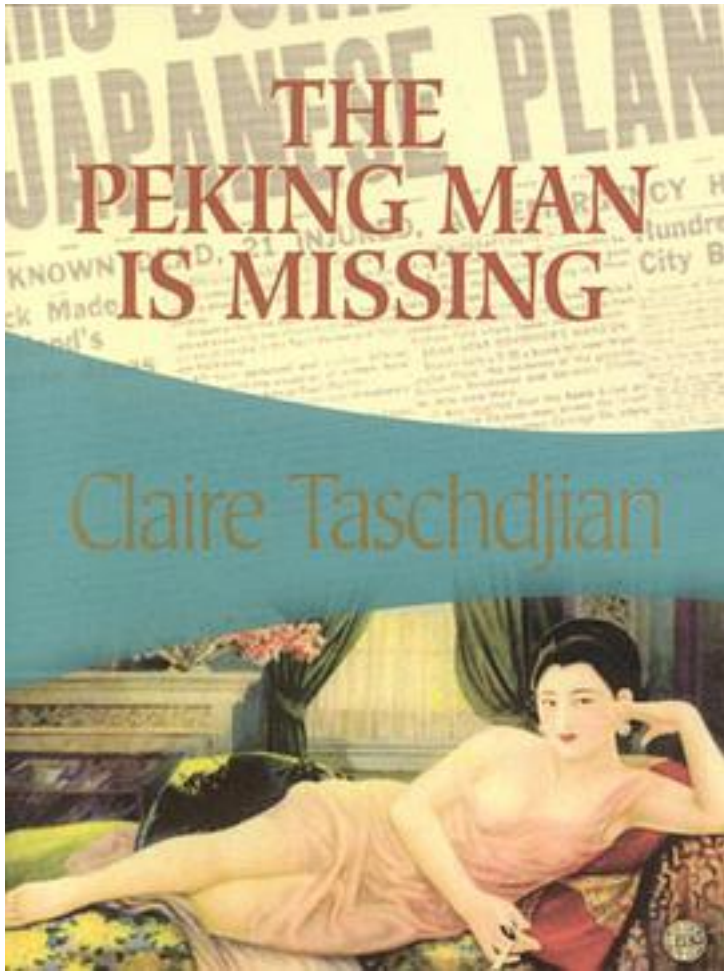


# The Peking Man Is Missing



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In the 1920s, on a hill near Beijing, a multi-national team discovered a large cache of human bones, some as much as 500,000 years old. Collectively dubbed "Peking Man,"

the fossils were one of the most important finds in the history of paleontology, and they generated enormous excitement. Then, as now, evolutionary theory was under attack by supporters of "creationism," and scientists around the world were frantic to discover the so called Missing Link, the fossil evidence that would prove Darwin right. With Peking Man, they came closer than anyone had before. For research purposes, the bones were stored at an American medical facility in Beijing, but as war with Japan became increasingly likely, the U.S. government arranged to send the fossils to America for temporary safekeeping. In late 1941, the bones were crated up and handed over to a convoy of U.S. Marines, who were charged with delivering them to a troop ship berthed some three days' drive away. The fossils never made it to the ship. Shortly after they were loaded onto the Marines' trucks, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The Marine convoy was captured by the Japanese military, and the soldiers were thrown into prisoner-of-war camps. And Peking Man has never been seen since. The Peking Man is Missing is Claire Taschdjian's speculation, in the form of a novel, as to what might have happened to those priceless bones. Super-Cool Factoid Claire Taschdjian, the author, was secretary to the director of the facility where Peking Man was stored. She was responsible for seeing that the fossils were correctly packed for transport. She was, therefore, one of the last persons known ever to have seen Peking Man. Additional Material Includes eight pages of archival photographs -- some never previously published -- and a newly commissioned essay by Russell Ciochon, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Iowa, on the True and Truly Bizarre Story of the Peking Man.

作者介绍:

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