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**WARNING: THIS BOOK HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE INSTANTANIOUS CRAVINGS FOR SOUP DUMPLINGS AND SPICY NOODLE BOWLS AND OTHER DELICIOUS FOODS ASSOCIATED WITH ASIAN NIGHT MARKETS**

## **GHOST MONTH**

**Ed Lin**

**SOHO CRIME PRIORITY TITLE**

"For a guy who scoffs at the ghosts revered by so many of his fellow Taiwanese, droll everyman Jing-nan, a night-market food stall manager, ironically finds himself spending much of his time chasing one as he investigates the murder of his childhood sweetheart, Julia Huang, in this darkly comic."

—*Publishers Weekly*, **STARRED REVIEW**

"Taiwan's traditions play a major role in Lin's category-defying thriller that manages to be both funny and profound. Lin writes with strong literary overtones and delivers a bang-up finale sure to keep readers engaged well past lights out."

—*Library Journal*, **STARRED REVIEW**

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Soho Crime • Hardcover/eBook • **PUB DATE:** August, 2014 • **PRICE:** \$26.95 • **Page Count:** 336  
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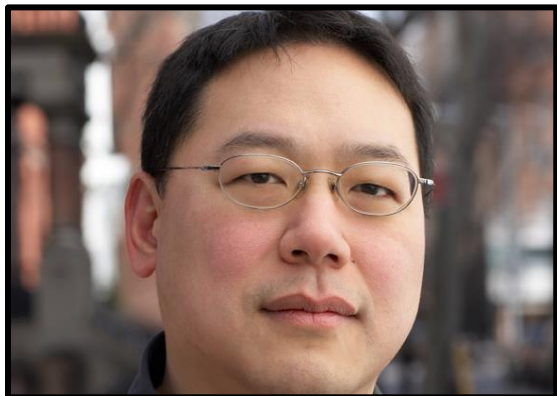
**From the author of *Waylaid* and *One Red Bastard* comes a big-hearted new mystery series starring Jing-nan, an unlikely sleuth who runs a food stand in the Taipei Night Market.**

It's the beginning of Ghost Month—August—at the beginning of Ed Lin's *Ghost Month* (August, 2014) and Jing-nan has no idea what led him to this point. He still rues the day five-years-ago when he left UCLA to return home to his father in Taipei. His father was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died soon after his return, leaving Jing-nan a somewhat successful food stand in the night market.

Jing-nan renames the stand "Unknown Pleasures" after the Joy Division album of the same name and settles into a life he never expected. His biggest regret is that his high school girlfriend and longtime confidant Julia, also Taiwanese, is lost to him. No doubt she remained in college in New York and has gone on to bigger, better things.

So it comes as a complete shock when he learns of her murder. In Taipei nonetheless, where she was found scantily clad and shot on the side of the road. She had been selling betel nuts, a frowned upon stimulant that is chewed and spit, leaving vivid red stains. Working as a "Betel nut beauty" is considered one step away from prostitution and Jing-nan has no idea why she would have been doing that kind of work. She was too smart. Too talented. Too in America and in college for all he knew.

What follows is a very funny, sometimes grim, and often tender exploration of a fascinating and often undocumented city. Jing-nan is a charming everyman hero with a wonderful mix of Western "cool" and Taiwanese street smarts. Do be warned though. If you read this book you will be at a restaurant slurping noodles within two, three days tops.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ed Lin is a journalist by training and an all-around stand-up kinda guy. He's the author of several books: *Waylaid*, his literary debut, and his Robert Chow crime series, set in 1970s Manhattan Chinatown: *This Is a Bust*, *Snakes Can't Run*, and *One Red Bastard*. Lin, who is of Taiwanese and Chinese descent, is the first author to win three Asian American Literary Awards. Lin lives in New York with his wife, actress Cindy Cheung.

## PRAISE FOR *GHOST MONTH*

"A unique blend of tension, charm, tragedy and optimism, with characters you'll love, and a setting so real you'll think you've been there. Highly recommended."

—Lee Child

"Lin is an astonishing talent."

—Junot Diaz

"Offers full-sensory descriptions of Taipei's night market that are perfect for armchair travelers, especially if they like their vacations spiced up with odd companions and exotic Mob violence."

—*Booklist*

"The teeming Taipei setting and the tormented hero combine to create a furious energy that transcends a whodunit plot."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Hold on for a breathtaking, multi-cultural ride. With some good luck and a few well-placed joss sticks, you just might survive."

—Martin Limón, author of *Nightmare Range*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**August is Ghost Month in Taiwan**—a time to commemorate the dead: burn incense, visit shrines, honor ancestors, and avoid unlucky situations, large purchases, and bodies of water. Jing-nan, a young man who runs a food stand in a bustling Taipei night market, doesn't consider himself superstitious, but this August is going to haunt him no matter what he does. He is shocked to the core when he learns his ex-girlfriend from high school has been murdered. She was found scantily clad and shot on the side of a highway where she was selling betel nuts to passing truck drivers. Beyond his harrowing grief for his lost love, Jing-nan is confused by the news. "Betel nut beauties" are usually women in the most desperate of circumstances; the job is almost as taboo as prostitution. But Julia Huang had been the valedictorian of their high school, and the last time Jing-nan spoke to her she was enrolled in NYU's honor program, far away in New York. The facts don't add up. Julia's parents don't think so, either, and the police seem to have closed the case without asking any questions. The Huangs beg Jing-nan to do some investigating on his own—reconnect with old classmates, see if he can learn anything about Julia's life that she might have kept from them. Reluctantly, he agrees, for Julia's sake. But nothing can prepare him for what he learns, or how it will change his life.

