The Great Wave: Gilded Age Misfits, Japanese Eccentrics, and the Opening of Old Japan (Paperback)

By Christopher Benfey

Random House Trade, United States, 2004. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English. Brand new Book. When the United States entered the Gilded Age after the Civil War, argues cultural historian Christopher Benfey, the nation lost its philosophical moorings and looked eastward to "Old Japan," with its seemingly untouched indigenous culture, for balance and perspective. Japan, meanwhile, was trying to reinvent itself as a more cosmopolitan, modern state, ultimately transforming itself, in the course of twenty-five years, from a feudal backwater to an international power. This great wave of historical and cultural reciprocity between the two young nations, which intensified during the late 1800s, brought with it some larger-than-life personalities, as the lure of unknown foreign cultures prompted pilgrimages back and forth across the Pacific. In The Great Wave, Benfey tells the story of the tightly knit group of nineteenth-century travelers--connoisseurs, collectors, and scientists--who dedicated themselves to exploring and preserving Old Japan. As Benfey writes, "A sense of urgency impelled them, for they were convinced--Darwinians that they were--that their quarry was on the verge of extinction." These travelers include Herman Melville, whose Pequod is "shadowed by hostile and mysterious Japan"; the historian Henry Adams and the artist John La Farge, who...

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Reviews

This publication is amazing. It is definitely basic but shocks in the fifty percent of your publication. You wont feel monotony at anytime of your own time (that's what catalogues are for concerning if you question me).
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This kind of book is every little thing and taught me to looking ahead of time and a lot more. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. I found out this book from my dad and i encouraged this pdf to find out.
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