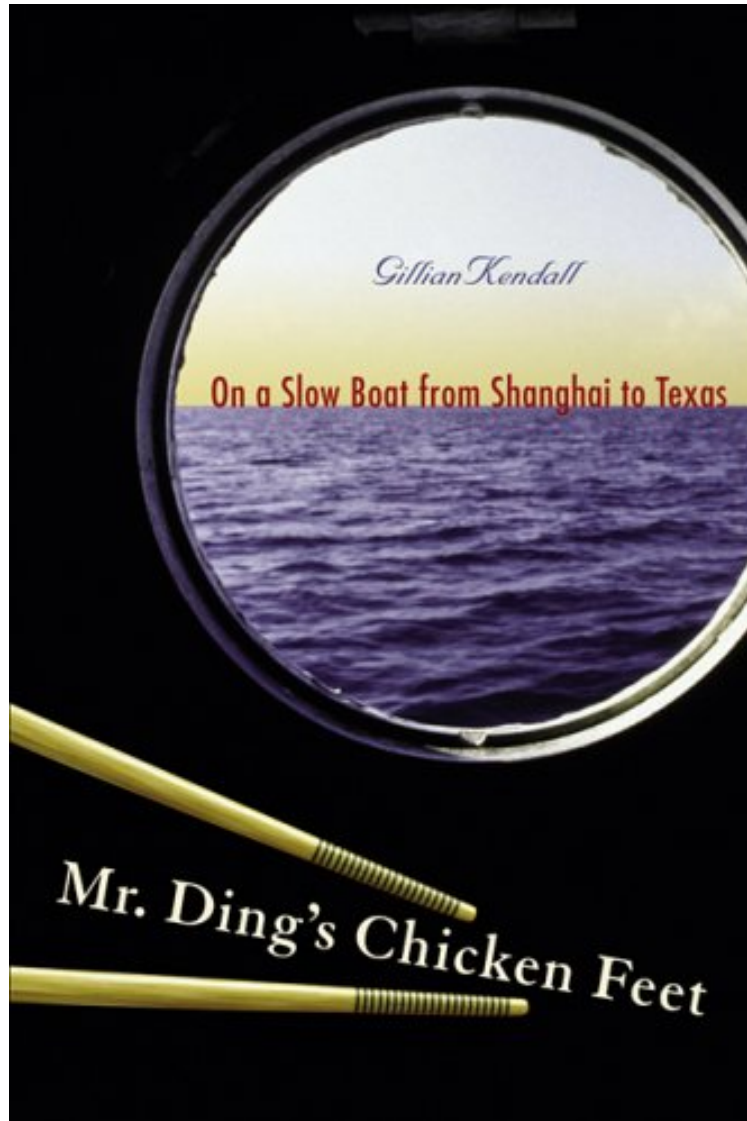


(Download free pdf) Mr. Ding's Chicken Feet: On a Slow Boat From Shanghai to Texas

## Mr. Ding's Chicken Feet: On a Slow Boat From Shanghai to Texas

*Gillian Kendall*

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**Gillian Kendall : Mr. Ding's Chicken Feet: On a Slow Boat From Shanghai to Texas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Ding's Chicken Feet: On a Slow Boat From Shanghai to Texas:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I felt like I was on the boat with Gillian!By Paula CzechI highly recommend this fast paced exciting read. A substantive story full of twists and turns with insight into the Chinese culture and life on a boat as the only woman. Laugh out loud moments with sensitive emotional highs and lows. Educational, poignant, and an enjoyable journey. Could not put it down.5 of 5 people found the following review

helpful. Mr Ding's is good reading  
By David Gilmore  
Everyone loves an adventure (or at least reading of one) and most of us will never take a boat from China to America. Envious of this one, I curled up by my fireplace and read Mr. Ding's *Chicken Feet* with a taste for the fascinating journey of a Caucasian woman on a boat full of Asian men. I was not disappointed. The author sets sail on an ocean of cultural difference and wins over the hearts of the crew - a rough and salty bunch who sit spellbound by her in English class. Because of the obvious vast expanse of ocean to cross, you know that the author is going to have to face a few things she has probably never had to before, and deal with them. There is, after all, no escape on a small boat in the middle of the ocean. Kendall reveals the color of the crew over the course of the journey as if she were polishing up tarnished brass. It was great fun to read about the men as they blossom at the hand of their teacher...though the revelations were not one-sided. Not surprisingly, I felt the poignancy at the sight of land, which meant having to say goodbye. Kendall writes with an unpretentious clarity, humor and heart. I definitely recommend it.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I recommend it to all  
By Sandra Boos  
It is a very fast reading book. It never drags. She is a gifted writer in that she holds your interest. I recommend it to all. Very funny in spots.

After accepting a job teaching English on a small engineering vessel traveling from Shanghai to Texas, Gillian Kendall embarks on a strange journey with no ports of call but exotic emotional landscapes. She is the only female aboard, surrounded by Chinese men. The cosmopolitan graduate student suddenly has to adjust to an alien world, thick with cigarette smoke, unusual sea creatures, and male sexuality. Kendall invites readers to travel with her across cultural divides as deep and mysterious as the Pacific while she explores her own culture, orientation, and heart.

From Publishers Weekly  
There's a lot of potential in the story of a young American woman hired onto a Chinese vessel to teach the sailors English as they cross the Pacific, and Kendall, a freelance writer who lives in Australia, hits it from time to time in this swift and eventful memoir of her weeks at sea as "Teach-ah." The setting is ripe for misunderstandings, loneliness, bonding and self-reflection. As her students' English improves and Kendall's Chinese and "Chinglish" develops, she befriends some of the men on board, attempts to sort out a series of cultural faux pas and thinks about her doomed relationship with her boyfriend back home. She hints at the deeper issues that influence her, most especially her nascent homosexuality, but only with glancing strokes that leave much unexplored and the relationship between the reader and writer stymied. The fun, however, is in the stories of the daily navigation of tight quarters, cultural collisions and storms and the cigarettes, sweets and chicken feet that get them all through the long days and nights of sea and sky. (Oct. 3) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
Hold on to your seat as you travel with cosmopolitan English graduate student Kendall, the sole woman aboard a Chinese ship. Kendall's adventure begins with a flier and a help-wanted ad: "English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher Needed." Intrigued, she answers the ad and soon finds herself accompanying a cruise from Shanghai to Galveston, Texas, teaching ESL en route to Chinese seamen, ship's officers, and mechanical engineers. And that's just the beginning! English lessons, of course, are only part of the story. The fundamentals of intercultural communication are at the heart of this fast-paced journey. Self-discovery is also central. Readers will learn about the Chinese system of manners, dietary customs, ships' rolls, seasickness, student-teacher relations, and hunger for knowledge. Time zones will be crossed, and the ocean will not always look the same. This is enjoyable through and through. Sarah Watstein  
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"Like all voyages worth taking, Gillian Kendall's odyssey across the Pacific is also a journey into the human heart. What a skillful navigator she is, never losing sight of her true destination." Sy Safransky, Editor, *The Sun*