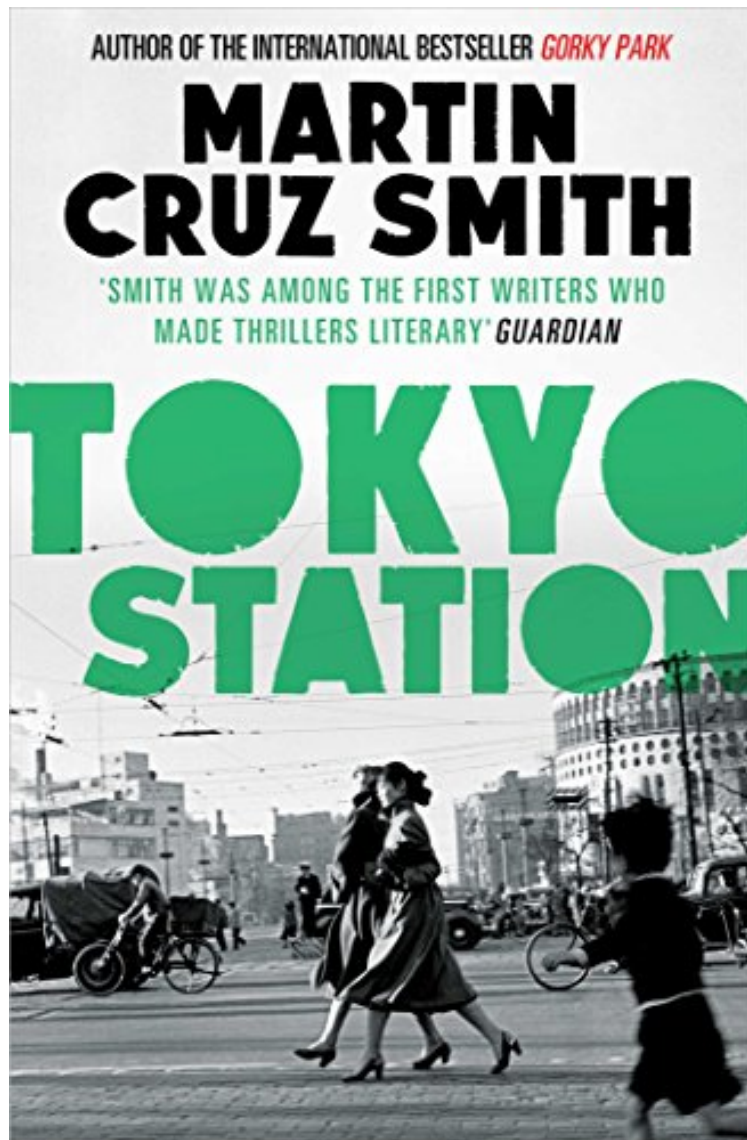


(Download free pdf) Tokyo Station (English Edition)

## Tokyo Station (English Edition)

Von Martin Cruz Smith

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**Von Martin Cruz Smith : Tokyo Station (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tokyo Station (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen10 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sympathy for the DevilVon Dirk Steffen"Tokyo Station" (aka "December 6") is a classic Cruz-Smith. As with "Gorky Park" and "Havanna Bay" he has set his novel once more in "hostile" territory. This time it is in Tokyo on the eve of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. War-fever and paranoia have gripped the city. "Tokyo Station" is as much a novel

of suspense as a kaleidoscope of images from Tokyo and of Japanese society between 1922 and 1941 the way it was before it disappeared twice: once in the great earthquake of 1923 and then in the fire bombings of 1945. For all the rich detail, however, Cruz-Smith's story never gets sidetracked. Coming from fast paced save-the-world-novels the concept of frequent flashback to the pre-earthquake Tokyo of 1922 and the richly detailed characters and portraits of pre-war Tokyo life may seem like a put-off. They are not. While the story may be centred around the anti-hero and con-man Harry Niles, I soon found myself turning pages not just to find out if and how Harry would make his exit from Japan before war broke out, but also to follow the progress of the various side-characters, all of which are intricately woven into the plot. There is Harry's arch-nemesis, the sword-wielding, ultra-patriotic Colonel Ishigami, a veteran of the Rape of Nanking in 1937/38 who still has a score to settle with Harry; Gen, the naval officer on Admiral Yamamoto's staff, and childhood friend of Harry; Yamamoto, C-in-C of the Japanese Fleet and compulsive gambler himself; Willi, the German businessman who bears a startling resemblance to the historical John Rabe - the "good Nazi of Nanking" - and his Chinese mistress; and Michiko, Harry's impulsive lover. There are no broad brush strokes, no black and white in Cruz-Smith's characters. All of them are subtly developed - shades of grey - and even Thought Police goon Shozo manages to appear distinctly likeable. But the story is not only about Harry get-away plans. It is also about Japan's motivation and ability to wage war - ultimately against the vastly superior United States. The war making ability depends largely on the Japan's access to oil, of which it is nearly starved by December 1941 following the implementation of a western embargo. Harry suddenly and involuntarily becomes a very important man for the Japanese leadership which, under pressure of the navy, must decide whether or not to risk the gamble of an attack before the country runs out of fuel oil and its fleet becomes immobilized. "Tokyo Station" is a gripping tale, set against a well researched and superbly detailed background of pre-war Japan. Not without a few well deserved side-swipes at the inability of many westerners (then and now) to understand even the most basic concepts of Asian mentality.

Kurzbeschreibung 1922, Tokyo. Harry Niles is a 'wild child', an American boy in a strange country, ignored by his missionary parents, he begins to lead his life in the Tokyo underworld. One night, he is charged with delivering a painting to an enigmatic figure, the samurai Ishigami. It is an encounter that will haunt Harry Niles forever... 1937, Nanking. China is under attack. The Japanese army is brutally and systematically murdering and raping the local population. In the midst of this horror, Harry finds himself face to face once again with Lieutenant Ishigami. But for the samurai warrior, their meeting leads to the greatest possible dishonour - public humiliation. 1941, Tokyo. With the attack on Pearl Harbour only days away, Japan is on the brink of war with the United States. Harry Niles has become a man of many faces. Allying himself with both sides, he treads a dangerous - but profitable - path between the fading glory of the Chrysanthemum Club, where the city's banking and industrial elite meet, and the shadowy Tokyo underworld. Werbetext Another impressive thriller from Martin Cruz Smith. 'Extraordinary story-telling... he uses urgency like a mind-bending drug; he stampedes us'. New York Times Kurzbeschreibung 1922, Tokyo. Harry Niles is a 'wild child', an American boy in a strange country, ignored by his missionary parents, he begins to lead his life in the Tokyo underworld. One night, he is charged with delivering a painting to an enigmatic figure, the samurai Ishigami. It is an encounter that will haunt Harry Niles forever... 1937, Nanking. China is under attack. The Japanese army is brutally and systematically murdering and raping the local population. In the midst of this horror, Harry finds himself face to face once again with Lieutenant Ishigami. But for the samurai warrior, their meeting leads to the greatest possible dishonour - public humiliation. 1941, Tokyo. With the attack on Pearl Harbour only days away, Japan is on the brink of war with the United States. Harry Niles has become a man of many faces. Allying himself with both sides, he treads a dangerous - but profitable - path between the fading glory of the Chrysanthemum Club, where the city's banking and industrial elite meet, and the shadowy Tokyo underworld.