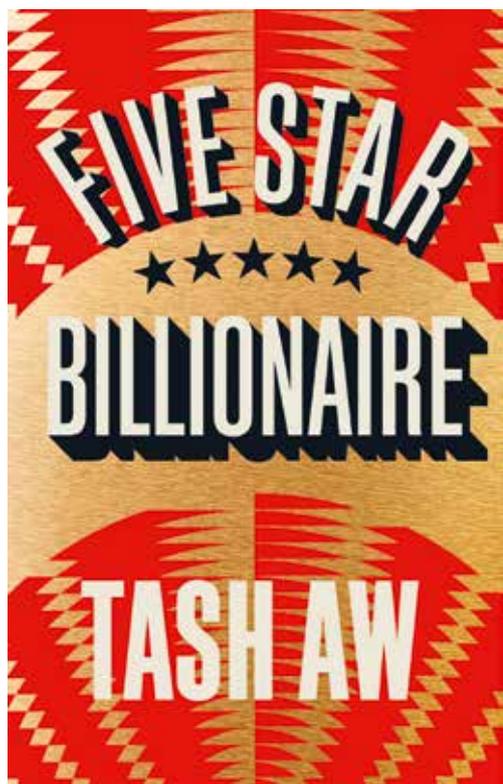




Reader's Guide



Other novels by Tash Aw

Map of the Invisible World (2009)

The Harmony Silk Factory (2005)

Five Star Billionaire Tash Aw

Fourth Estate

www.themanbookerprize.com



Innovating to perform



About the author

Tash Aw was born in Taipei in 1971 to Malaysian parents. He grew up in Kuala Lumpur and moved to England at the age of 18 to attend University.

Tash Aw is the author of two other novels: *The Harmony Silk Factory*, winner of the Costa First Novel Award and a Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Novel and *Map of the Invisible World* which was longlisted for the 2005 Man Booker Prize.

Five Star Billionaire

Phoebe has come to China buoyed with hope, but her dreams are shattered as the job she was promised seems never to have existed. Gary is a successful pop star, but his fans disappear after a bar-room brawl. Yinghui was once a poetry-loving activist and is not sure how she became a wealthy businesswoman. Justin works hard for his powerful family, but begins to wonder if his efforts are appreciated. And then there is the *Five Star Billionaire* himself, pulling the strings of destiny, his lessons for success unsettling the dynamics of these disparate lives.

Discussion points

"Tash Aw's *Five Star Billionaire* opens with a bang, not a whimper", Aminatta Forna, *The Guardian*. What is your response to the start of the novel?

Walter Chao is the only character who is given a first person narrative. How does this affect the reader's impression of Walter?

Which of the cast characters do you find most convincing and memorable?

Do you think that the coincidences and chance encounters that bring the characters together are inventive or contrived?

"It's possible to reach the book's final stretch without being sure that this is a story of revenge. If it is, then revenge is being eaten very cold indeed, from the chiller cabinet if not the freezer". (Adam Mars-Jones, *The Observer*). Do you think that *Five Star Billionaire* is a story about revenge? How did you respond to the ending?

Themed reading

Yu Hua *China in Ten Words*
Timothy Mo *An Insular Possession*
Yiuan Li *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*

Useful links

[Publisher's website](http://www.4thestate.co.uk/features/)

<http://www.4thestate.co.uk/features/>

[The Guardian interview with Tash Aw](http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2013/mar/15/tash-aw-life-in-writing)

<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2013/mar/15/tash-aw-life-in-writing>

[The British Council \(bibliography and critical perspective\)](http://literature.britishcouncil.org/tash-aw)

<http://literature.britishcouncil.org/tash-aw>