



## Cixin Liu's Remembrance of Earth's Past Trilogy

Written by Sun Qing

Cixin Liu is a world-renowned science-fiction writer and one of China's most successful novelists. His international breakthrough came when he was awarded the prestigious Hugo Award for Best Novel in 2015, making him the first Asian writer to win the prize. Since that time, he has enjoyed continued critical and commercial success. In November 2018, he was awarded the Clarke Award for Imagination in Service to Society in recognition of his contributions to the creation of science fiction.

Liu Cixin leads Chinese sci-fi into global stage: before, we only enjoys scientific film and television works made by Western countries and writers, such as Marvel, while Chinese sci-fi seemed old-fashioned and uninteresting. The biggest difference between Liu's work and other sci-fi writers is that Liu's novels have physics knowledge as the foundation. The plot can stand up to much scientific scrutiny. Liu's style is called 'hardcore science fiction'. Therefore, the plot of the novel is well-founded and will not seem absurd or unconstrained. For example, even though the presence of alien life is central to the plot of his most famous Remembrance trilogy, the aliens never appear on Earth, the setting of the plot. When we read the story, we are reading about ourselves as human beings and our collective humanity.

As with most science fiction, technology plays a central role. In the trilogy, suspense is built up as humans are forced to decide whether technology will help ultimately save humanity or lead to its elimination. Many people feel disappointed with our civilization, such as an astrophysicist named Wen Jie who seeks to betray humanity by contacted aliens and a billionaire who is the victim of a tragic crime

and works to create a new weapon that will give him the power to destroy humankind out of vengeance. They prefer helping the alien race attack earth. Technology is central to each of the main characters story lines. Liu introduces 'The Law of Dark Forest' in these books, which maintains that: Civilizations try their best to hide themselves in order not to be discovered by more advanced civilizations. If a more advanced civilization finds a lower civilization it will go on and destroy the civilization.

In Liu's grand plot about human cooperation, advancement, and weakness, technology cannot save people from their own human nature. On one hand, human beings are autonomous but greedy. They occupy Earth, which is also an ideal climate for other life (like the alien race in the series). People living on Earth never think about gratitude, they damage other creatures which lead to the fast rate of extinction. Besides that, they lack compassion and frequently pursue their own self-interest at the expense of others. On the other hand, humans are very tough species. They are not discouraged when they learn the level of science and technology on the Earth is as low as worms compared to alien civilizations, for they reason that even though human beings are much more advanced than worms, humans have never really defeated worms.

His books are suitable for young people. It can cultivate young people's passion for science and help them learn knowledge. At the same time, they are also suitable for anyone who has encountered difficulties in life. When humanity faces a desperate situation, some optimistic attitudes in book can help us continue to survive and flourish.



## ISU Launches New Movie Nights with Showing of "Crazy Rich Asians"

Written by Lewis D-G

On November 27th, the International Students Union organized a special showing of "Crazy Rich Asians" for Peking University students. The movie has become an international sensation and is sure to get even bigger as its audience in mainland China grows. The organizers did well to cater to students' busy schedules: "The event provided students with the perfect excuse to take a break and relax in the lead up to mid-semester exams," said co-organiser Jackson Collantes, a PHBS Master of Finance student from Ecuador. It was a great combination of a highly anticipated movie and the perfect timing. Both international and domestic students took advantage of the opportunity to take a short break from their studies.

There was not a spare seat in the theatre as students were treated to popcorn, mooncakes, and relaxing bosa nova music whilst they waited eagerly for the start of the movie. The film follows the complicated love story of a Chinese-American, Rachel Chu (played by Constance Wu) and Singaporean conglomerate heir Nick Young (played by Henry Golding) as they try to persevere in the face of social class and cultural differences, as well as expectations imposed on them by family and friends. Director Jon Chu's movie explores relationship structures in Singaporean culture and the larger concept of identity and belonging. "Crazy Rich Asians" was a box office hit, becoming the highest-grossing romantic comedy in over a decade.

"Crazy Rich Asians is a light-hearted romantic comedy and definitely worth watching," said Liyang, a domestic student from the School of Computer Science.

"Jackson and I were very happy with the event," said co-organiser Ann Tseng, PHBS Master of Finance student from America. "It was great to see so many students in the theatre! Thank you, everyone, for coming, I hope you all enjoyed the evening as much as we did!" she said at the closing of the event. The hard work had obviously paid off.

The ISU has recently been hosting a variety of cultural events to try and promote cross-cultural relationships. The movie was shown in English with Chinese subtitles to accommodate both an international and domestic audience.

