



Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake

By *Edward G. Seidensticker*

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The Great Earthquake of 1923 left much of Tokyo desolate. Shitamachi, the Low City, heart of Tokyo's cultural life for centuries, was a smoking ruin--hundreds of blocks of wooden dwellings, teahouses, and entertainment quarters gone forever. Yet Tokyo was a city that would not die. Here, in his brilliant sequel to "Low City, High City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake," Edward Seidensticker carries the story of this irrepressible metropolis forward to the present, showing it rising not only from the disaster of the earthquake but a second time, from the still more serious catastrophe of 1945, to become a city in which skyscrapers stand in the midst of neighborhoods jammed full of little bars and "soaplands," baseball is the national sport, one can spend \$500 on a meal, the best subway system in the world is matched by the worst traffic jams, and only a multimillionaire can afford to buy a house. Exciting, horrifying, utterly distinctive, modern Tokyo comes to life in "Tokyo Rising" as never before.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As this vibrant, intimately detailed volume opens in September 1923, Tokyo is rebuilding after a devastating earthquake and fires; Japan is run by the Taisho emperor, a mentally incapacitated figurehead. Tokyo would rebuild a second time: after the Allied bombing raids of WW II and the typhus plague of 1945-46. By the book's close, the city is the hub of a contemporary Japan that has largely overcome strong feelings of inferiority; yet it is still a very insular town, one that effectively excludes foreigners from much of its pulsating life. This sequel to *Low City, High City* is much more than a portrait of Tokyo; in good measure, it is a serendipitous social history of modern Japan. Interwoven with 72 photographs, the narrative covers sundry topics from nightlife to the arts, all set in the context of Japan's metamorphosis from 1930s jingoistic, repressive state to its emergence as the world's chief creditor nation.

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Review

[Seidensticker] has written a kind of cultural anatomy of the metropolis, embracing its folkways, its architecture, its street speech, its crime lore, its entertainment, its art. (*New Yorker*)

James Joyce once declared that if turn-of-the-century Dublin were to vanish from the face of the earth it could be rebuilt on the basis of Ulysses. In *Tokyo Rising*, Edward Seidensticker seems to have exercised a similar, nonfictional ambition...Seidensticker's history of Tokyo is a loving elegy to a lost city. (Jay McInerney *New York Times Book Review*)

The most distinguished living celebrator of Tokyo in the English language...When the city has been transformed yet again, some writer will feel the deepest nostalgia. One may only hope that he or she will express it with the wit and style of...a Seidensticker. (Ian Buruma *New York Review of Books*)

Rich, fascinating cultural geography...*Low City, High City* and *Tokyo Rising* are guidebooks to an unforgettable journey. (*Bloomsbury Review*)

Instead of an economic or sociologic determination, [Seidensticker] focuses on the effect upon society of the disappearance of this theater building, that café, those geisha houses, markets, and other landmarks, and their replacement stores, subways, and so on... Packed with original material and insights, [this book is] invaluable to scholars, students, and Tokyophiles. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

[This] vibrant, intimately detailed volume...is much more than a portrait of Tokyo; in good measure, it is a serendipitous social history of modern Japan. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joanne Hall:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of

the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

David Marx:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even an issue. What people must be consider if those information which is inside the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake as your daily resource information.

Daniel Scott:

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Maryann Warren:

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