



## The Bridge of Birds: A Novel of an Ancient China That Never Was

*By Barry Hughart*

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**The Bridge of Birds: A Novel of an Ancient China That Never Was** By Barry Hughart

When the children of his village were struck with a mysterious illness, Number Ten Ox found master Li Kao. Together they set out to find the Great Root of Power, the only possible cure, and together they discover adventure and legend, and the power of belief....

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**The Bridge of Birds: A Novel of an Ancient China That Never Was** By Barry Hughart Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

*Bridge of Birds* is a lyrical fantasy novel. Set in "an Ancient China that never was", it stands with *The Princess Bride* and *The Last Unicorn* as a fairy tale for all ages, by turns incredibly funny and deeply touching. It won the World Fantasy Award in 1985, and Hughart produced two sequels: *The Story of the Stone*, and *Eight Skilled Gentlemen*. All present the adventures of Master Kao Li, a scholar with "a slight flaw in [his] character", and Lu Yu, usually called Number Ten Ox, his sidekick and the story's narrator. Number Ten Ox is strong, trusting, and pure of heart; Master Li once sold an emperor shares in a mustard mine, because "I was trying to win a bet concerning the intelligence of emperors."

Number Ten Ox comes from a village in which the children have been struck by a mysterious illness. He recruits Master Li to find the cure and comes along to provide muscle. They seek a mysterious Great Root of Power, which may be a form of ginseng. Of course, nothing turns out to be as simple as it seems; great wrongs must be avenged and lovers separated must be reunited, from the most humble to the highest. And even in the midst of cosmic glory, Pawnbroker Fang and Ma the Grub are picking the pockets of their own lynch mob, who are frozen in awe and wonder. --*Nona Vero*

From the Inside Flap

When the children of his village were struck with a mysterious illness, Number Ten Ox found master Li Kao. Together they set out to find the Great Root of Power, the only possible cure, and together they discover adventure and legend, and the power of belief....

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