



THE SCROLL OF GREATNESS

Fifteen-year-old detective **SHERLOCK HONG** returns to Singapore with a new mystery in hand! After hearing so many things about the legendary Scroll of Greatness, Sherlock will do anything for a chance to examine it. But he stumbles upon a sinister conspiracy to take control of the peaceful colony, and he's suspected of a terrible crime.

Together with his best friend Aisha, Sherlock is determined to uncover the mystery of the ancient scroll and bring the people behind the conspiracy to justice. But will Sherlock be able to clear his name?

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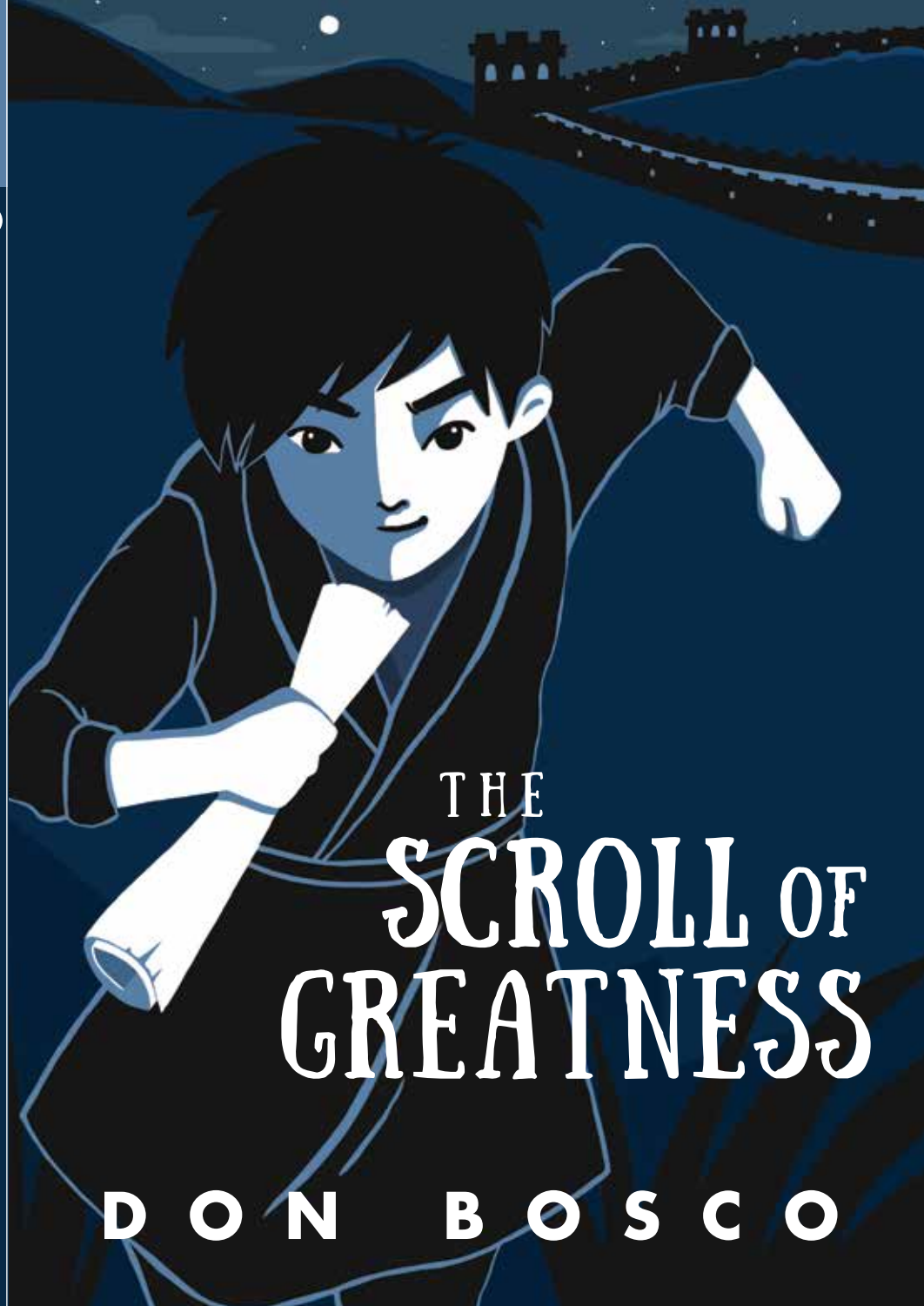
DON BOSCO



THE SCROLL OF GREATNESS

Marshall Cavendish Children

SHERLOCK HONG ADVENTURES



THE SCROLL OF GREATNESS

D O N B O S C O

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GREATNESS

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THE
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D O N B O S C O

CHAPTER 1

Why are we here?

Is there something special that we're supposed to do?

What's your destiny? How can you be sure about this?

My name is Sherlock Hong. The year is 1891. As I write this, I feel alive, awake, alert, enthusiastic.

I have a great story for you, my friend. Something wonderful and marvellous, amazing beyond your wildest dreams.

So much has happened over the past few months. It feels like the whole world is moving into a magical new era. The old becomes the new, and the new very quickly becomes something else altogether.

This is a tremendously significant time for us, the International Order of Young Seekers. Where there is mystery, we must show up and apply our skills to establish the truth. Where there is fear or doubt, we must stand firm and do everything we can to promote courage and loyalty.

The future belongs to the young and brave!

Read every page carefully, imagine each scene in your head. This latest adventure changes everything that I know about the world around me. There is more to life than we can imagine.

And this colony that I call home, I am just beginning to realise its true significance. It is like a city that shines brightly for the world to admire. And therefore all sorts of people are drawn here to seek their fortune: heroes, villains, alchemists, pirates, saints, thieves, inventors, dreamers, and others.

Stop wasting your time telling silly jokes, or playing foolish games, or standing in front of the mirror and trying to dance like a zombie.

Pay attention, for I have seen the Scroll of Greatness with my own eyes. And I have heard about visitors from a distant planet.

CHAPTER 2

On the day this whole affair started, I was waiting in Chinatown for my friend Aisha at the street corner across from where the exhibition was held.

It was a part of Chinatown that I wasn't familiar with. My own home lies closer to the east boundary, where the older mansions are, and where most of the clan halls are located.

This place, on the other hand, was all the way over in the north section, an area filled with big warehouses and private courtyards.

Everyone here looked strangely unfamiliar. The men dressed in long coats, with silk vests and tight caps on their heads, while the women wore padded jackets and powdered their faces so thickly that often you couldn't make out any of their features; only the dainty blacks of their eyes could be seen.

I was getting anxious because my friend Aisha was supposed to meet me at that spot, but she was very late.

For just one afternoon, the Scroll of Greatness would be on display right here in Singapore, in the very mansion across the street, before they shipped it to Penang.

It's also sometimes called the Great Scroll, and it explains the secret techniques they used to build the Great Wall of China.

I had read a number of books about this legendary Chinese wonder, and my tutor,

Miss Priya, recently showed me a map of it that was drawn by a French traveller a hundred years back.

I remember staring at that map for hours, asking her endless questions, trying to picture it all in my head.

How on earth could any human being have come up with such an ambitious scheme to construct this magnificent wall?

It would surely take a person of tremendous intelligence and mastery over the many elements of this world.

I remembered reading somewhere that the ancient pyramids of Egypt might have been built by visitors from another planet, where the methods of construction were significantly more advanced. I asked Miss Priya about this but she only gave me a funny look.

And so I waited and waited, playing with the two crimson marble balls that Miss Priya gave me for my birthday, tossing them in the air and trying to juggle them, but dropping them on my feet so often – and once even on my head, hard, and I almost fainted. But still there was no sign of Aisha.

My father, the popular physician Master Hong, had refused to visit this exhibition. When I heard this, I was astonished. Didn't he want to examine the Scroll himself?

But later I learnt why. The organiser, Master Chun, had been dismissed from the local Chamber of Prosperity because he had brought in the Scroll of Greatness from China without first seeking their consent.

Pa was a senior member of the Chamber of Prosperity, and he did not want to be seen supporting Master Chun. The Chamber

of Prosperity was one of the more powerful organisations in the colony, and Pa often needed their help.

As I stood there contemplating all this, sometimes bending down to make funny sketches in the sand with my index finger, the wind got stronger and the shadows on the ground grew a little longer.

Aisha! Where could she be?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Don Bosco describes himself as “geeky, cheeky and magicky”. His books include the *Sherlock Hong* series and the *Time Talisman* series. These stories are full of fun, adventure and mystery, all inspired by Asian history and culture. Don is also the author of the bestselling *Lion City Adventures*. He lives in Singapore. To find out more, visit his website: <http://www.SuperCoolBooks.com>