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Imaginary Cities: A Tour of Dream Cities, Nightmare Cities, and Everywhere in Between (Paperback)

By Darran Anderson

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. For as long as humans have gathered in cities, those cities have had their shining--or shadowy--counterparts. Imaginary cities, potential cities, future cities, perfect cities. It is as if the city itself, its inescapable gritty reality and elbow-to-elbow nature, demands we call into being some alternative, yearned-for better place. This book is about those cities. It s neither a history of grand plans nor a literary exploration of the utopian impulse, but rather something different, hybrid, idiosyncratic. It s a magpie s book, full of characters and incidents and ideas drawn from cities real and imagined around the globe and throughout history. Thomas More s allegorical island shares space with Soviet mega-planning; Marco Polo links up with James Joyce s meticulously imagined Dublin; the medieval land of Cockaigne meets the hopeful future of Star Trek. With Darran Anderson as our guide, we find common themes and recurring dreams, tied to the seemingly ineluctable problems of our actual cities, of poverty and exclusion and waste and destruction. And that s where Imaginary Cities becomes more than a mere--if ecstatically entertaining--intellectual exercise: for, as Anderson says,...

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