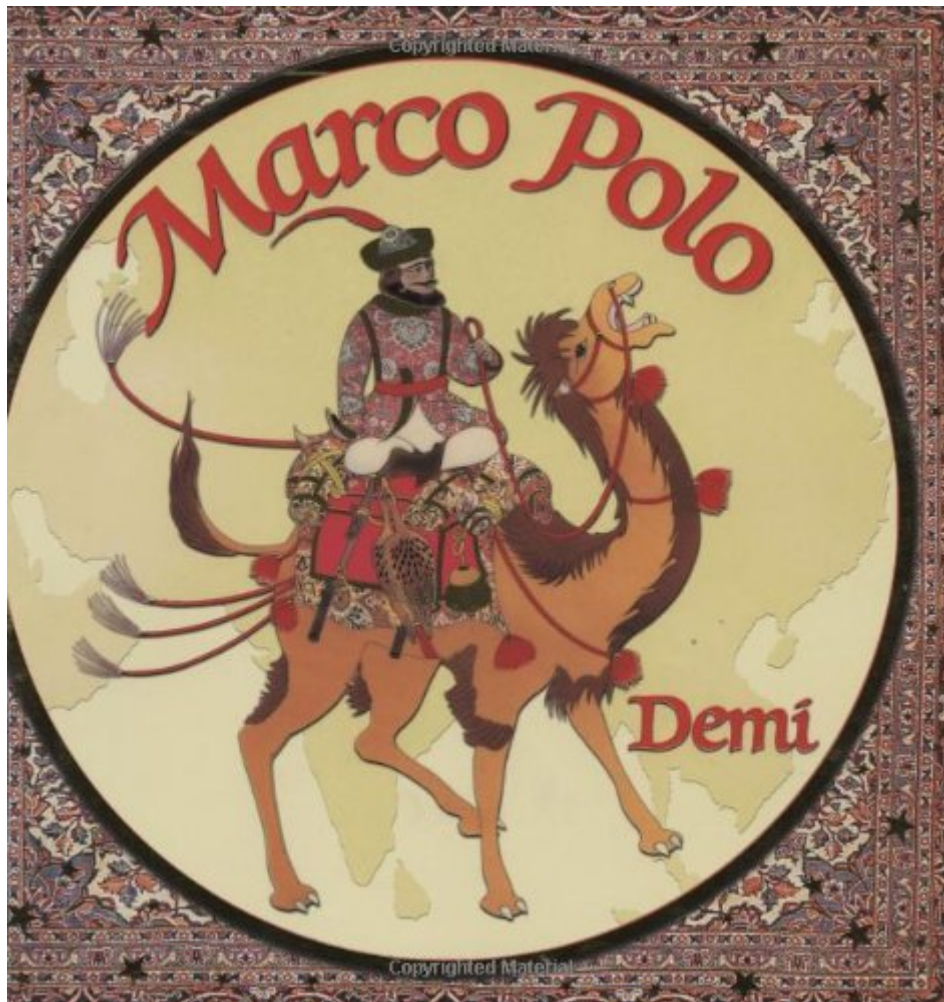


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Marco Polo



Synopsis

Many people say Marco Polo was the greatest explorer that ever lived, traveling 33,000 miles by land and sea from Venice, Italy, to modern-day Beijing, China. His famous book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, indicates that he was a man of extraordinary bravery, brilliance, and strength. With his uncle and father, he traveled across Turkey, Armenia, the Middle East, the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, and the hot Taklimakan Desert before finally reaching China in 1275. Welcomed by the great emperor Kublai Khan, Marco Polo was amazed by the inventions, riches, and religious tolerance of the great Khan's kingdom, where Marco remained for the next 2 years.

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Customer Reviews

****1/2"When a man is riding through this desert by night ...-falling asleep or anything else- he gets separated from his companions ..., he hears spirit voices talking to him as if they were his companions, sometimes even calling him by name. Often these voices lure him away from the path and he never finds it again,..." -- Marco Polo, straying off the path*Marco Polo, the son of a merchant who traded luxury goods, was born in Venice in 1254. Marco's father Niccolo was always away, during his childhood, traveling to far away lands, to buy silks that would sell for high prices in

Italy. When Marco was fifteen, his father and his uncle finally returned home. During their travels, they had visited Kublai Khan, the Mongolian emperor of distant China, who was interested in many things, and tolerant of religions. Two years after coming back, before they left Italy to acquire Kublai Khan's request, of holy oil from Jerusalem, they took seventeen year old Marco with them, this time. It took the Polos many years until they finally arrived at Kublai Khan's summer palace, after many adventures, during their silk road journey. However, their travels and adventures were not over, after Kublai Khan was delighted to see them again. The emperor was pleased with young Marco, having him by his side, and showing the brave lad the many wonderful things that Cathay (China) had to offer. Kublai Khan sent Marco on trips around China, and to India, Ceylon, and foreign lands as his own ambassador. Marco Polo's remarkable journey describes the thirteenth century Middle East with riches and inventions of Yuan dynasty' China. Demi, a talented artist and charming storyteller, gives a fascinating account of Marco Polo's journeys and the wonders he saw along the travel.

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