

Comrade Lost and Found: A Beijing Memoir

By Peter Hessler

Comrade Lost and Found is a memoir by Peter Hessler, an American journalist who lived in Beijing from 1996 to 2001. The book chronicles his experiences living in China during a time of great social and economic change.



A Comrade Lost and Found: A Beijing Memoir by Jan Wong

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1111 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 338 pages

Lending : Enabled



Hessler arrived in Beijing in 1996, just as the city was beginning to experience the effects of China's economic reforms. He quickly found himself drawn into the lives of the city's residents, and he soon began to develop a deep understanding of Chinese culture and society.

One of the most striking things about Comrade Lost and Found is Hessler's ability to capture the everyday lives of ordinary Chinese people. He writes about the struggles and triumphs of his neighbors, his students, and his friends. He also writes about the challenges of living in a foreign country,

and he candidly shares his own experiences of culture shock and loneliness.

Comrade Lost and Found is a beautifully written and deeply moving memoir. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in China, and it is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to understand the human experience.

Themes

- **Identity:** Hessler explores the theme of identity throughout Comrade Lost and Found. He writes about his own struggles to find his place in China, and he also writes about the challenges that Chinese people face as they navigate the rapidly changing world around them.
- **Culture:** Hessler provides a fascinating glimpse into Chinese culture and society. He writes about the traditional values that still hold sway in China, as well as the new ideas and values that are emerging in the wake of China's economic reforms.
- **Friendship:** Hessler develops close friendships with a number of Chinese people during his time in Beijing. These friendships help him to understand China on a deeper level, and they also provide him with a sense of belonging in a foreign country.

Characters

- **Peter Hessler:** The author of Comrade Lost and Found. Hessler is an American journalist who lived in Beijing from 1996 to 2001.
- **Wang Qinghua:** A Chinese farmer who becomes Hessler's friend and mentor. Wang is a kind and generous man who helps Hessler to

understand Chinese culture and society.

- **Zhang Hongyan:** A Chinese student who becomes Hessler's friend. Zhang is a bright and ambitious young woman who is eager to learn about the world.
- **Li Jing:** A Chinese teacher who becomes Hessler's friend. Li is a dedicated and passionate teacher who is committed to helping her students learn.

Setting

Comrade Lost and Found is set in Beijing, China. Beijing is a vibrant and rapidly changing city. It is home to a diverse population of people from all over China. The city is also a center of culture and learning.

Style

Comrade Lost and Found is written in a clear and concise style. Hessler uses vivid language to bring his experiences to life. He also uses humor and irony to create a memorable and engaging narrative.

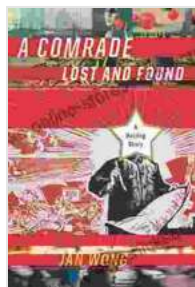
Critical Reception

Comrade Lost and Found has received widespread critical acclaim. The book has been praised for its insights into Chinese culture and society, its vivid characters, and its beautiful prose.

Awards

Comrade Lost and Found has won a number of awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction and the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction.

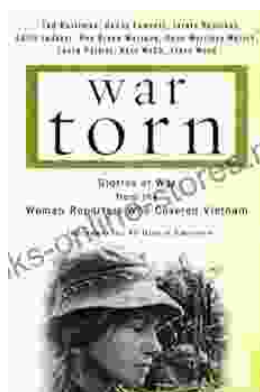
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