



## A Chinese Life

By Philippe Ôtié

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*A Chinese Life* is an astonishing graphic novel set against the backdrop of the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This distinctively drawn work chronicles the rise and reign of Chairman Mao Zedong, and his sweeping, often cataclysmic vision for the most populated country on the planet. Though the storyline is epic, the storytelling is intimate, reflecting the real life of the book's artist. Li Kunwu spent more than 30 years as a state artist for the Communist Party. He saw firsthand what was happening to his family, his neighbors, and his homeland during this extraordinary time. Working with Philippe Ôtié, the artist has created a memoir of self and state, a rich, very human account of a major historical moment with contemporary consequences. Mao said, "The masses are the real heroes," but *A Chinese Life* shows those masses as real people.

Praise for *A Chinese Life*:

"This is an absorbing book—all 700 pages of it—reminiscent at times of Zhang Yimou's epic Chinese history film *To Live*, and reminiscent at others of George Orwell's *1984*, recast as non-fiction." —*The Onion's* A.V. Club

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## Editorial Review

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*\*Starred Review\** This poignant graphic memoir is an intimate yet sweeping account of the convulsive development of modern China, as seen through the pen of Li, a longtime artist for a Communist Party newspaper in Yunnan, and in collaboration with French writer Ôtié. Li was a youngster in the late 1950s when his country embarked on the Great Leap Forward, resulting in millions dying of starvation, followed by the Cultural Revolution, when millions more were persecuted, imprisoned, relocated, or, like Li's father, sent away for reeducation. The deprivations the nation faced during those turbulent two decades make China's subsequent turn to unfettered capitalism—which Li depicts in all its crass rapaciousness—all the more remarkable. Motivated by the twisted patriotism that gripped the nation, Li joined the military, which led to his becoming a government propaganda artist and then cartoonist for a provincial party newspaper. His engrossing, affecting chronicle introduces the West to a masterful graphic storyteller; his expressive drawings and command of narrative effectively and movingly convey this extraordinary epoch. Much has been written about China's devastating postwar era and its recent modernization, but the vividness of the comics medium, especially in the hands of as skilled a practitioner as Li, gives this rendition a unique power. --Gordon Flagg

About the Author

**Li Kunwu** has had more than 30 of his comics published in the three decades he's worked as a state artist. He lives in Kunming, Yunnan, China. **Philippe Ôtié** is a French diplomat who lives in Wuhan, China.

## Users Review

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This A Chinese Life book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This particular A Chinese Life without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry A Chinese Life can bring if you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even telephone. This A Chinese Life having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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