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Double Happiness: One Man's Tale of Love, Loss, and Wonder on the Long Roads of China

Tony Brasunas

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Tony Brasunas's award-winning debut memoir is a portrait of life in China and a groundbreaking story of coming of age in today's era of globalization.

In a classroom in sultry Guangzhou, having never before left the United States nor taught a class on anything, armed only with a beginner's grasp of the language, Brasunas confronts thirty-seven expectant ninth graders in white uniforms. When he fails repeatedly -- often humorously -- in the tense classroom, an intrinsic curiosity about Chinese culture and about himself springs from within and drives him not only to keep trying with his ninth graders, but to trust his instincts in the dishonest streets as well, and ultimately to make new friends from all walks of life.

When the school year ends, Brasunas sets off with just a backpack across the vast hinterlands of China, along the Silk Road in the north, and to the edge of ancient Tibet in the west. His intrepid odyssey brings him face to face with a rich tapestry of people -- from Muslim political dissidents in Linxia to monks in mountainous Tibetan monasteries -- and also plunges him into unexpected peril, torturous romance, and wild twists of fate that transform his basic understanding of right and wrong, beauty and truth, suffering and happiness.

Bold and inspiring, ***Double Happiness*** is a vivid journey across China and through the soul of a young American.

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