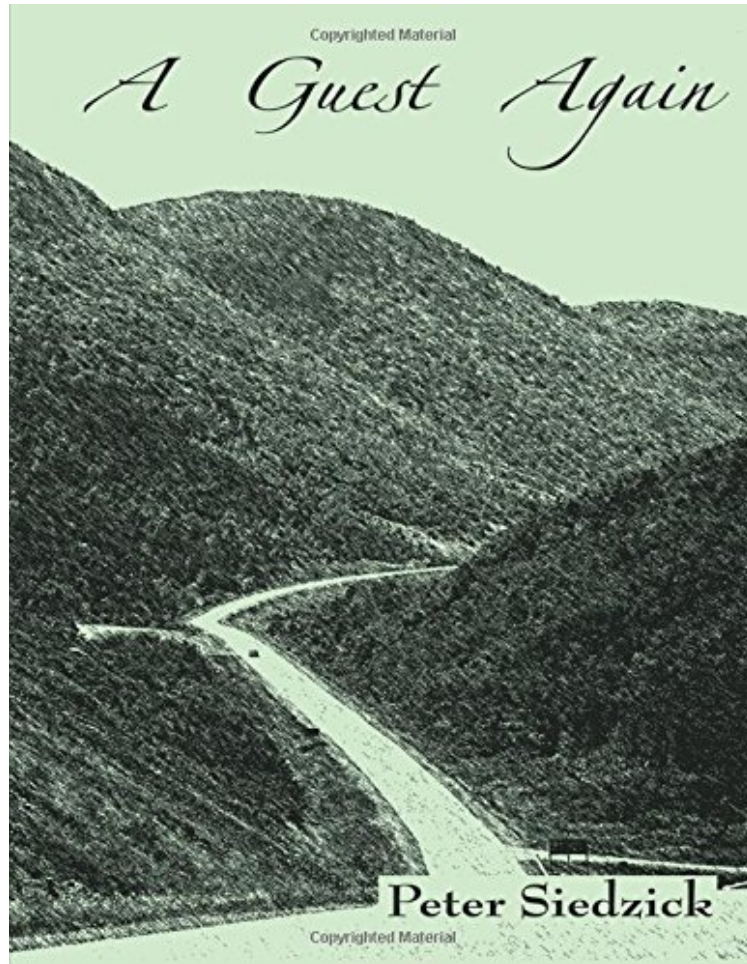


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A Guest Again

Peter Siedzick

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Peter Siedzick : A Guest Again before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guest Again:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Dr, Whooh well0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The journey, not the destinationBy David J. PhillipsI knew the author pretty well while we were cadets at West Point, as well as you could know someone with whom you attended several classes six days a week. I liked him then and like him even more now, having read "A Guest Again." I have not laid eyes on him since June 6, 1962, our graduation day, and was truly disappointed when he did not attend the class' 45th reunion recently. The book is part journal, part memoir, part "how to" move the grieving process along. Peter lost his wife to cancer and was not doing well by himself in Bandon, Oregon, in his home on the ocean. He embarked on a 12,000 mile car trip around the US, visiting friends and relatives mostly, but occasionally staying in motels and sightseeing. He makes several references to William Least Heat Moon's "Blue Highways," a book I did not enjoy as much as Peter's. He provides less detail on

the stops and more on the travel; the process is the whole point here. He does it with skill, writing short paragraphs that usually end with a sardonic (disdainfully or skeptically humorous) comment about what he just wrote or a wry (cleverly and almost ironically humorous) connection to his life. He is mostly self-deprecating, but don't be fooled; the man stood 6th in class his first year, 2d in Russian, and 11th in math. Think of it: several hundred paragraphs, most of which end with an interesting and/or amusing punch line. Hard. Very hard. I doubt Peter expects to sell a lot of copies of "A Guest Again," but, again, it was the writing of it that was the point for him. You out there who are grieving: this one is for you.

Newly retired and newly widowed, the author sets out on a cross-country trip to help erase some bad memories. Along the way, he observes America, reminisces and learns much about himself.

About the Author Peter Siedzick is a native New Englander who moved west in 1975, and has lived in Colorado, California and Oregon, with short stays in Arizona and Nevada. A West Point graduate, he has been a soldier, engineer, salesman and part-time gold miner. Now, he is spending his retirement as a self-styled "crabbist" in a quaint fishing village on the Oregon coast. "Crabbing is an art," he says, "And its all in the wrist."