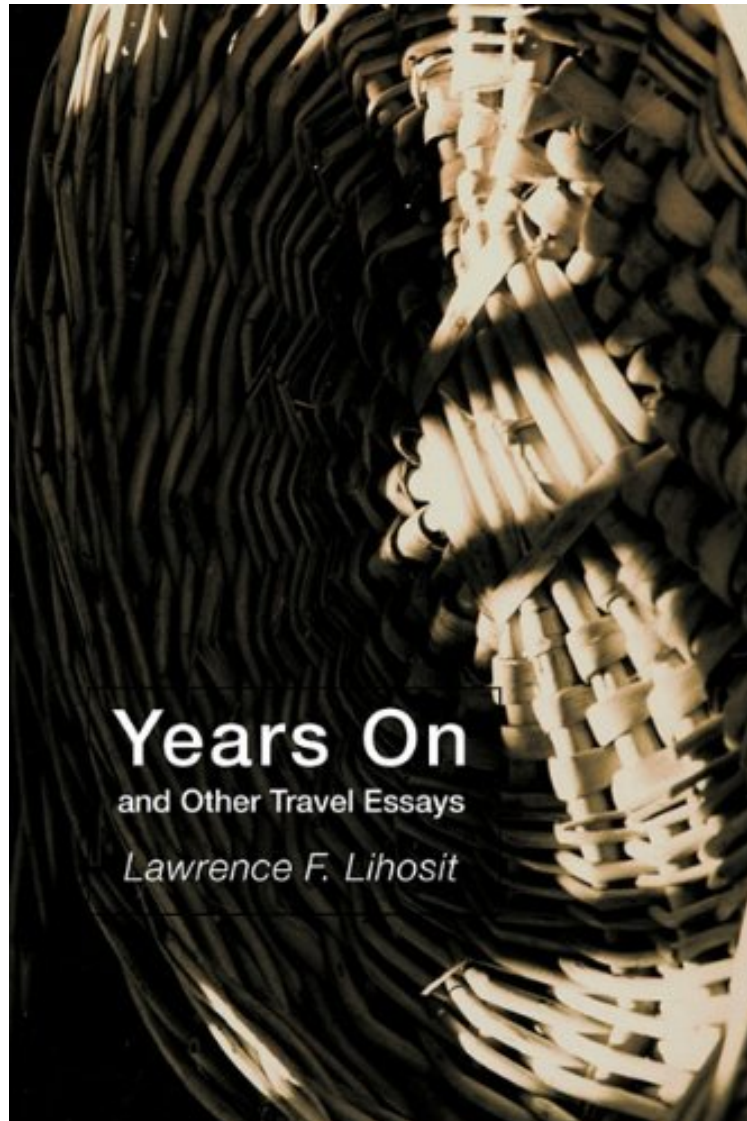


[Ebook pdf] Years on and Other Travel Essays

Years on and Other Travel Essays

Lawrence F. Lihosit

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Lawrence F. Lihosit : Years on and Other Travel Essays before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Years on and Other Travel Essays:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Stuff from LihositBy Bryant WienekeWhile I don't read a lot of essays, I know Larry Lihosit as a fellow returned Peace Corps Volunteer and fellow writer. Thus, I ordered "Years On and Other Travel Essays" from .com and am pleased that I did. Larry Lihosit has at least two things going for him: he's had some truly extraordinary experiences, and he can write. His experiences are personal, but in his telling, they

become universal. For instance, in the essay "Hitchhiking," Lihosit's description of hitchhiking in Arizona took me right back to my own hitchhiking experience in California, where boredom was interspersed with excitement and the adventure was peppered with potential perversity. In "Brad and the Chicago Boys," it's the details and descriptive writing that make the events come alive: "For the rest of the afternoon I took refuge at a tiny park next to the docks. The wooden fishing boats creaked as they tugged at their anchors. Local men and women circled the park, eyeing one another. The breeze caressed my face and I tasted the salt suspended in air. At dusk, a special army honor guard stiffly marched out and lowered the Mexican flag as teenagers flirted and old men threw crumbs to the sea gulls. All around us, metal window and door covers clanked as they were rolled up to expose cozy restaurants with fish painted on the windows. The sun caught the ocean's overcast haze to turn the sky orange and a full moon was already visible on the still light horizon." While reading Lihosit can feel like going home to a place you've never been, it can also take you to places you never hope to go. The essay "Years On" takes the reader to a Mexican prison. The tension is palpable as Larry's progress toward visiting a prisoner is measured in handshakes and bribes. As in many of Lihosit's essays and stories, the journey is the important thing, and the medium is at least part of the message. Larry's Lihosit is a writer who is able to share his quirky journey through life in an entertaining and provocative way. It's a journey well worth taking, and hard to forget.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny, Poignant, International
By Moira Farrelly
This is for the post-hippy generation, all grown up. Many of us are well-travelled and fluent in other languages. This is a story of moving among different cultures..
Besos, Moira
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The True Tales of a Unique Adventurer
By Will Lutwick
Lawrence Lihosit has a very detailed and descriptive writing style. He takes great care to describe scenes that others might not even remember, much less so photographically. At times his description is quite poetic. He's like an artist at his easel, picking just the right elements and colors. This really immerses the reader in the setting and evokes a very visual portrayal. These descriptive details enabled me to feel like I was in the immediate scene, watching Lawrence's daring ride in exotic and offbeat locales with an always interesting contingent of amigos. As the book covers decades of his life, we watch him transform from a geographically challenged, English-only young cowboy from Scottsdale into a mature, fluent, bilingual trekker who marries himself to Latin American lifestyles and a Mexican bride (with some Japanese ancestry). Everywhere he goes, he plunges head-first into the local culture in ways that few travelers dare. These true stories vary from a few standard travel memoirs/essays to more intense adventures, particularly when Lihosit lives and works in the places he visits. Each story is unique, so I will describe some of them individually to give you a feel for the variety of the episodes in the life of this man who, even when he travels to a place for just a few days, still amazingly manages to meet many local people and gets involved with their challenging lives. In "Hitchhiking" he is first introduced to life south of the border. Cars pass him by as the young man leaves his Arizona home where hitching is illegal. So he finds himself playing a lot of hide-and-seek finding his way to Mexico. Somehow he manages to get across the border and down to the Mexican coast for a wide-eyed, fun time in a foreign land, learning how different and exciting even the simple things in this new world can be. He has been bitten by the Mexican travel bug and we sense he'll never be a homebody again. "Brad and the Chicago Boys" continues in that vein of young bachelor turista exploration. "Check the Water" finds our hero performing in the Peace Corps as an urban planner, working with a Honduran small town mayor to study city services, particularly water quality. But really it is a story of the town itself, its culture, buildings, the scenery and of course it's people. "Roads and Light Rail" is a lengthy story that takes place a few years later in Mexico City when Lawrence is a graduate student. We first find him also working for a contractor that has been commissioned by the government to do an extreme makeover of Mexico's populous capital, adding several grand boulevards and an extensive rail system. He soon realizes his employer wants to evict thousands of people, most of them poor, in the city's Santa Anita section, an area Lihosit knows well. Meanwhile a less disruptive alternative exists, but his employer has no concern for the residents. Lihosit quits and finds himself advising the other side, the distraught residents, on how to fight the government. Unlike his other stories, this one sticks to a reporting of the procedural facts, more like a news report than an essay. There is minimal scenic description, analysis, or commentary. It's rather dry at first, but it's worth sticking through it, because the last part is quite dramatic and represents great payback for the reader's patience. It builds into a classic anatomy of the process that seemingly powerless people have to go through in dealing with a bureaucratic police state that runs on bribes, ego, and violent intimidation. The story describes courageous impoverished Mexicans who risk, and sometimes lose everything fighting for their rights. Yet the author is never judgmental. Lihosit also emerges as a fearless young man who is willing to put his butt on the line for a cause he believes in. I found myself rooting for him and his compadres. more and more intensely as the stakes kept getting higher. The book's title story, "Years On," is in a similar vein, though a little more personalized, as it dissects the process of what should be a simple visit to a man in prison. Again bribes play a big role, as Lihosit and his friend wend their way through a bureaucratic, corrupt system. I really liked the sadness and humanity that emerges from the bleak prison setting. "Carnaval," as the title suggests takes place during the Latin celebration week in Quito, Ecuador and though it starts like a typical travel essay, the author befriends a local priest who gives him an inside look at some of the more interesting tourist sites around town. And then Lihosit tells this man's very unique story as to how he became a priest. "Peruvian Folk Tale" finds our hero on a bus at 13,000 feet in the Andes where he listens to a charming folk

tale involving a farmer who is tricked into hell by Satan where he meets a helpful donkey. In the last story, "Dating Lesson," we find the author visiting Tikul in the Yucatan, but now he is older and has his sons with him. Yet he still approaches this place with the wide-eyed enthusiasm he showed when he first ventured south of the border. And his sons approach their tourist and dating adventure with that same gusto after some insightful advice from dad. Lawrence Lihosit fittingly passes the baton of adventure on to another generation. Lihosit has lived an adventurous life up and down the Americas and has demonstrated the writing chops to take us along on his escapades and share the experience.

Will Lutwick is the author of the critically acclaimed seriocomic memoir "Dodging Machetes: How I Survived Forbidden Love, Bad Behavior, and the Peace Corps in Fiji."

2011 PEACE CORPS WRITERS TRAVEL AWARD WINNER "A unique collection. The insights that the author has...make for an original travel book." Scott Donald, Hungry Feet Magazine "A Moritz Thomsen-like 'path less traveled,' a Pete Hessler-esque possession of language and culture... the best and rarest of ex-pats: the Yankee gone native." Tony D'Souza, author of the critically acclaimed Whiteman Years On and Other Travel Essays describes how the author hitchhiked along bleak Arizona highways, hacked a path through Honduras mountains in search of water, avoided caiman while riding bulls across flooded Bolivian savannah and grizzlies as he hunted caribou in bush Alaska, ran for his life after getting embroiled in Mexico City politics and more. These include twelve polished travel excerpts from four books and three pamphlets by the author, an unique glimpse of other lands from someone who lived and worked there.

Edited by Hungry Feet Magazine "Holy crap! A real live cowboy.' The author's style really takes you by surprise. This is a unique collection of essays...and a book well worth reading." From the Author Excerpt from Peace Corps Writers interview with John Coyne Why do you write? Each project has a different reason to be born. Like siblings, they each have different personalities. The personal experience essays are like pleasant American ballads. Once in an art class, a white haired woman asked the instructor why her drawings all had a certain look, no matter what she did. Jim, the teacher, nodded and said, "You can experiment with paper, pencils, strokes, but your personality will always shine because we are all different." My writing is like that. From the Back Cover "Where you headed?" asked the man in a pick-up. Lihosit should have answered, "High adventure."