

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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The Road to Sleeping Dragon: Learning China from the Ground Up.

Meyer, Michael (Author)

Oct 2017. 320 p. Bloomsbury, hardcover, \$28. (9781632869357). 951.06.

China Hand Meyer, whose nonfiction *The Last Days of Old Beijing* (2008) and *In Manchuria* (2015) have won universally high praise, along with travel-writing awards, details his beginnings in then-tiny Neijiang, China—in Sichuan Province—in 1995 as a Peace Corps volunteer so callow that he must implore his mother in an early letter to send him boxes of Stridex acne pads. After his requisite two years, Meyer would make his way to Beijing, “where the news was made” and where he would meet his future Chinese wife. Their charming, twisting story proceeds all the way to the 2008 Beijing Summer Games. Meyer has a sharp eye both for the details of two such contrasting cities, but also for the seismic changes China would undergo in a mere 20 years. There’s neither outsize pride, nor false modesty, here, but instead a humility gained from an immersion that finds him continually off-balance, which creates its own sort of wisdom.

— *Alan Moores*