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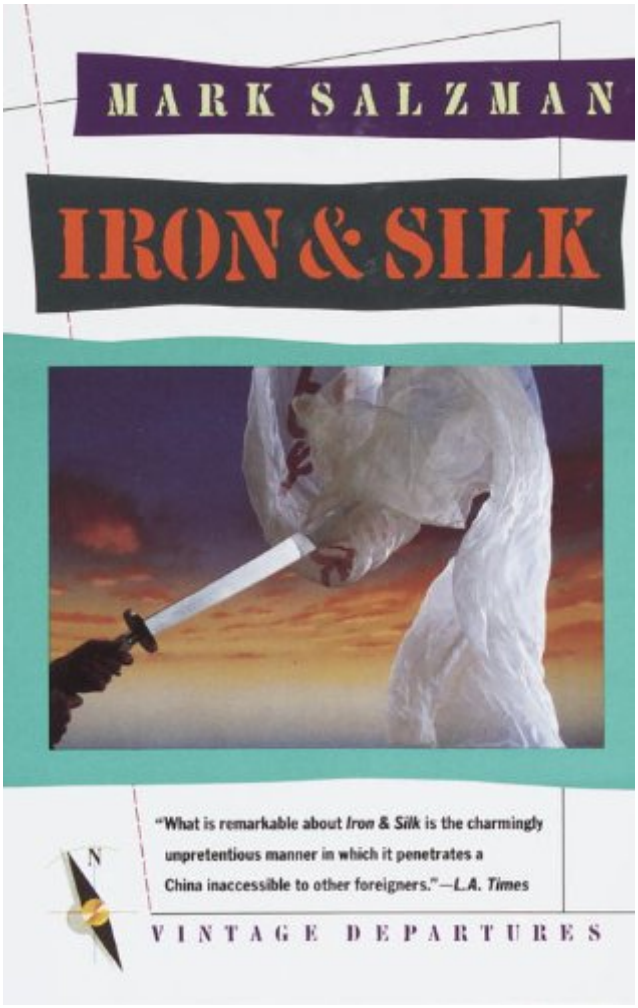
# Iron And Silk (Vintage Departures)

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## Synopsis

Salzman captures post-cultural revolution China through his adventures as a young American English teacher in China and his shifu-tudi (master-student) relationship with China's foremost martial arts teacher.From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you traveled, or would like to travel to China and be immersed with its culture, then this book will enhance that travel experience.If your interest for the martial arts is because you appreciate the performing arts, then this book will contribute to that appreciation.And if you ever taught ESL or learned English as a second language, then you will easily relate to the students' struggles and the sometimes amusing irregularities of English grammar, pronunciation and idioms.Iron and Silk is on my list of ten books I would take on a desert island. Salzman's writing style sparkles with enthusiasm and the energy of youth; a feeling of discovery for whatever is newly learned; and a view of everyday life experiences with a feel for adventure, a conversion of the mundane into the extraordinary. Salzman not only mastered wu-shu, but he also mastered the written language that

emits sparks on every page. Even his daily meditations reverberate with intensity.This is an ideal book for a young adult who lacks motivation or skills to move onward.

...is must reading for those with an interest in Chinese martial arts and culture. The author describes his journey through China, the people he meets on the way including the legendary Teacher Pan. Quite a bit of the book describes his enounters with ordinary Chinese people and how be comes to appreciate the culture through his experiences. In essence, Salzman learnes to see things with Chinese eyes--including his martial arts training in Wushu.I also recommend the pre-quel to this book, "Lost In Place", Salzman's second autobiographical book, before or after this one. The two volumes go well together and provide a fascinating portrait of academic and martial growth. PERFECT for young people who are interested in martial arts as a lifelong pursuit, or anyone with an interest in Chinese culture & living in China to study.

This book is the stuff of legends! 'Iron and Silk' one of a triad of books by Americans teaching in China. As a group, these books together clearly illustrate the blind men and the elephant that is China. The other two books are 'River Town' by Peter Hessler and 'Pretty Woman Spitting' by Leana Adams.During eight years managing foreign teachers in China, the concept of a "Karmic Magnet" was my only way to account for the wide range of experiences that each teacher encountered. On that basis, Mark Salzman has proven himself to be an extraordinary individual. I can only envy him his enlightenment and his experiences. My only caution would be that the China that Salzman experienced may well be vanishing.

Liked the story from its release. While it details Salzman's experience going from a kung-fu movie lover who learns Mandarin and then heads out on an adventure/experience of a lifetime learning from a wushu master. It also gives light on little cultural differences learned which makes it most memorable.

Mark Salzburg operates through a serious of vignettes to detail the culture, customs, and friendship he learns through his travels throughout China. In a format like this, it might have been easy to drift into a serious of one sided generalizations contrasting American experience with Chinese experiences. Instead Salzmen opens himself up to the Chinese experiences and how they clash with the Chinese experiences. With equal parts of light-hearted humor and serious soul searching with patches of sorrow, this American offers the reader this glimpse into a previously unopened

window to China. Above all, its' a personal narrative written about piano teachers, fisherman, and martial arts teachers because these are the people of China that exist underneath the surface of the iron man Communist party. It also reads quite quickly, I finished in six or eight hours, so its' ideal for the all day car ride.

I met a classmate of the author while on a plane ride recently. I was talking to the passenger next to me about leaving to teach English in China for a year and he told me that he had a classmate at Yale who wrote a book about that exact experience in the 80's. So on his advice I ordered the book. I read it while on vacation in Japan before getting to China and found it to be a very easy book to read. The "chapters" are broken down to very short segments that allowed me to read while waiting for a train or sitting on one. The book only took me a few days to read because of this and how enjoyable it was. He really did a lot of things and made the most of his time helping to motivate me to hopefully do the same.

Great

Being a martial artist who practice kung and tai chi I appreciate his description and love for the art.Also having been to China on a kung tour I had seen the Chinese training vs American been to place mention in the book etc. Mark describe the Chinese people and place in the sAme way I experienced it and he loves the culture

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