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The Adventures of Mao on the Long March

By John Updike

New Directions. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 144 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 5.2in. x 0.5in. A revolutionary comic masterpiece, an icon of literature as American pop art, and a book unlike any other, *The Adventures of Mao on the Long March* breaks all frames. Frederic Tuten's subversive, witty, and triumphant 1971 novel is caught somewhere between the clear-eyed rhapsodies of James Fenimore Cooper and Mao Tse Tung's own Address to the Yen-an Forum on Art and Literature. Tuten peppers his deadpan textbook narrative of Mao's long march with loving parodies of Hemingway, Kerouac, Dos Passos, and Malamud. As John Updike comments, the book includes: twenty-seven pages of straight history of the Long March and thirty-six and a half pages of quotations in quotation marks, from unidentified sources (such as, diligent research discovers, Hawthorne's *Marble Faun*, Walter Pater's *Marius the Epicurean*) and twenty-six pages of what might be considered normal novelistic substance: imaginary encounters and conversation. For example: Chairman Mao is in his tent, after the strain of the Tatu campaign. He hears the rumble of a tank: A tank, covered with peonies and laurels, advances towards him. Mao thinks the tank will crush him, but it clanks to a halt. The turret...



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Reviews

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