



Host of Memories: Tales of Inevitable Happenstance

Peter Rupert Lighte

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Peter Rupert Lighte is a natural storyteller, and *Host of Memories* collects short stories from throughout his life to form a memoir. Some of the childhood memories are as simple as searching for supplies for a family gathering or rushing to get home after spending time with friends, but Lighte is able to enhance those experiences with vivid detail and a real sense of how a child would approach those situations. A housesitting gig in graduate school prompts a great yarn about the complicated rituals of the cat who comes with the house.

Lighte conveys how an opportunity to meet a scholar in his field of study had the same impact as meeting a celebrity, and he relays the experience of meeting the actress who played the Wicked Witch of the West during a visit to his mother's hospital ward. Lighte's banking career and Chinese language skills take him around the world, but *Host of Memories* is more concerned with the personal interactions he has throughout his journey, and that approach creates stories that feel relatable no matter how far flung the setting.

JEFF FLEISCHER (Fall 2015)

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