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By PEN/Robert W. Bingham award-winning writer Michael X. Wang, a grand and unflinching debut novel set against the backdrop of Mao's Long March and its aftermath

"In the best traditions of historical fiction, Michael X. Wang reimagines the Long March, a foundational epic of communist China, on an intimately human scale. His vivid rendering of the young men and women of Mao's army reminds me of Ha Jin."

— Peter Ho Davies, award-winning author of *The Fortunes*
and *A Lie Someone Told You About Yourself*

LOST IN THE LONG MARCH

A Novel

By Michael X. Wang

On sale: November 1, 2022



China, 1934: A naive orphan and shy gunsmith, Ping has fallen in love with Yong, a sophisticated veteran, skilled sharpshooter, and true believer in Mao and the Marxist ideology. Winning Yong's affections will take an ideological battle – something Ping does not at first understand.

As the Red Army begins its year-long tactical retreat, the Long March, Yong turns to Ping for comfort and companionship. Yong becomes pregnant, and soon their son is born. The Army can't retreat with a crying infant, so they leave the child with a village woman and promise to return once the war is won. . . When World War II breaks out and Japanese soldiers arrive in the village, their now twelve-year-old son enlists in the Japanese army to find his parents.

Deeply moving and rendered in spare, muscular prose, Michael X. Wang's marvel of a debut novel, *Lost in the Long March* (The Overlook Press; November 1, 2022; U.S. \$28.00; Hardcover), drives toward a shocking reunion and resolution. Following the characters to the China of the 1970s and Mao's Communist Party as it has evolved, Wang tells a story that masterfully contrasts the intimate with the political, brilliantly revealing how the history of a country is always the story of its people, even though their stories can be the first to be lost.

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Praise for Michael X. Wang's *Further News of Defeat*

"Further News of Defeat brilliantly explores the deepest themes inherent in every human being and in most great literature: our yearning for a self, for an identity, for a place in the universe. This is a remarkable debut by a gifted new artist." – **Robert Olen Butler**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*

"Michael X. Wang reveals a remarkable ability to move fluidly through time periods and points of view, all with such a clear and vibrant voice... then sing on a sentence level while also illuminating the world at large." – **Aimee Bender**, award-winning author of *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

"Michael X. Wang's *Further News of Defeat* is a collection of deeply researched and engrossing, wonderfully evocative and moving short stories about the people of a particular village in China and the migration of their descendants to urban centers and new lands. . ." – **Porter Shreve**, author of *The End of the Bo*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Michael X. Wang was born in Fenyang, a small coal-mining city in China's Shanxi province, and immigrated to the United States when he was 6. His collection, *Further News of Defeat*, won the 2021 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection and the 2022 Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award for Fiction and was a finalist for the 2021 CLMP Firecracker Award. Wang received his MFA in Fiction from Purdue University and PhD in literature from Florida State University. He currently lives in Arkansas.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Lost in the Long March: A Novel

By Michael X. Wang

The Overlook Press / November 2022

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