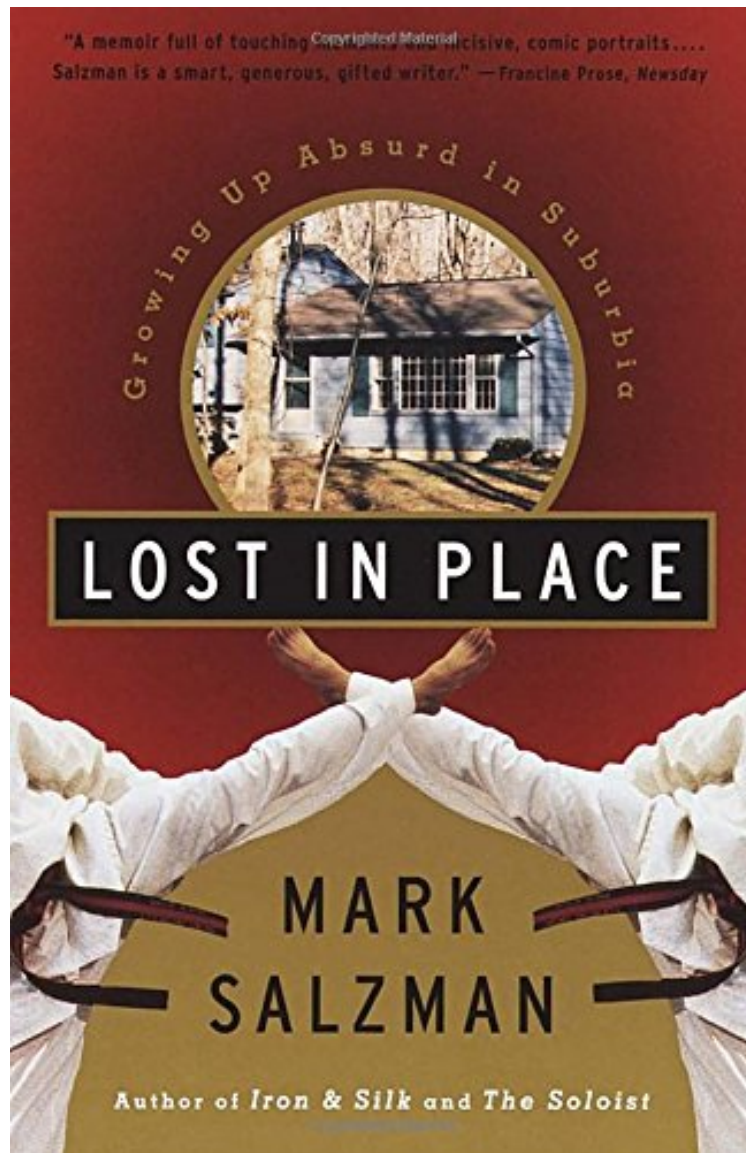


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Lost In Place: Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia

Mark Salzman

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Mark Salzman : Lost In Place: Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost In Place: Growing Up Absurd in Suburbia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He might have been lost, but he ended up finding what he needed. By grandma julie This is a wonderful book about adolescence and identity, about a family in which wonderful parents handle their children with love and patience and skill, transmitting values, and teaching the importance of discovering what you care most about. It is hilariously funny at times, deeply moving at others, and filled with wisdom and

insight. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hysterically funny but lots of depth
By J. B. Perkins
From the first page I was laughing out loud. I loved the descriptions of his early attempts at kung fu and his initial understandings of eastern philosophy. He is able to laugh at all of it, especially himself, which is all funnier knowing that he ultimately did not abandon either of them. I can remember beginning studying Zen and later yoga philosophy and being frustrated that I wasn't enlightened yet after a few years. He brought that all back in such a delightful way. His recollections of his conversations with his parents, primarily his father, were so heartwarming and filled with affection even as he was attempting to go to great extremes to not be like them. All of his experiences, including his playing the cello and spending a period of time stoned on pot, were filled with his search for the meaning of life and his unhappiness at not finding it immediately. Doesn't sound funny? Wrong! He makes it all very funny and very human. The last few pages where he sums up much of what he learned are priceless. I would say that his view of himself as mediocre was greatly mistaken. He's a gifted writer for sure and sounds like a fascinating person.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Coming-of-Age in the 70s
By KCA
Although this humorous memoir should please many readers, it will especially appeal if you grew up in the 70s. Young Mark Salzman is one of those kids who, when he develops a passion, goes into it heart and soul. In this book, those passions are kung fu, the cello, and Chinese culture -- not your typical fare for an undersized, oversensitive kid from Connecticut. Why does the book work? Contrasts. There's Mark's maniacal kung fu instructor, for instance, Sensei O'Keefe -- a ripped, hard-drinking, pot-smoking sadist who verbally and physically abuses his charges as he exhorts them to live life like the stoic Eastern masters of old (a classic, "Do as I say, not as I do" guy). Also key is the wry resignation of Mark's dad. The two are close, and Dad's pithy quips on life are dry, wise, and as funny as Bob Newhart (and if you remember Newhart, then you DID grow up in the 70s). Toward the end, as Salzman attends Yale, the book skips about a bit and comes to a hasty conclusion, but overall it's an enjoyable voyage. In tone and style, Salzman is somewhat like Tom Perrotta, whose book of stories, *BAD HAIRCUT*, is similar to this. If you enjoyed that book, check this one out (and vice versa). Recommended.

From the author of *Iron and Silk* comes a charming and frequently uproarious account of an American adolescence in the age of Bruce Lee, Ozzy Osborne, and Kung Fu. As Salzman recalls coming of age with one foot in Connecticut and the other in China (he wanted to become a wandering Zen monk), he tells the story of a teenager trying to attain enlightenment before he's learned to drive.

.com The author of *Iron and Silk* looks back to his tortured youth with self-deprecating humor and wistful fondness. The oldest child in a middle-class household in Connecticut, the son of a piano teacher and a social worker, by age six the author was an eccentric with enormous aspirations - none of them ever fulfilled - who stood out not only from his more conventional parents and brother and sister but from everyone else in his suburban neighborhood. A hilarious memoir in the tradition of Russell Baker's *Growing Up*.
From Publishers Weekly
Salzman's memoir of his Connecticut childhood tells of his early adolescent devotion to Zen and Kung Fu. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From School Library Journal
YA? As a youth, Salzman was remarkably self-directed and came from a loving and supportive family. At 13, he saw his first kung fu movie with actor Bruce Lee and decided on the spot to become a "wandering Zen monk." His parents allowed him the freedom to pursue this new interest. After much meditating and practicing at home, he enrolled in a martial-arts school. Soon the boy's interest in Asian philosophy and mysticism led him to study the Chinese language, which in turn led to practicing and learning the art of Chinese brush painting. All of these interests are described as adventures, some of which are frightening; others are simply wonderful fun. All are interesting. Readers come away from this memoir refreshed and inspired by this young person's quest to become "someone" and to discover himself. This very different journey through adolescence is a delight to read, and is one that many YAs will relate to and enjoy.
?Helen Lazar, Kings Park Library, Fairfax County, VA
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