



# A Chinese Life

*Philippe Otie*

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## **A Chinese Life** Philippe Otié

*A Chinese Life* is an astonishing graphic novel set against the backdrop of the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This distinctively drawn work chronicles the rise and reign of Chairman Mao Zedong, and his sweeping, often cataclysmic vision for the most populated country on the planet.

Though the storyline is epic, the storytelling is intimate, reflecting the real life of the book's artist. Li Kunwu spent more than 30 years as a state artist for the Communist Party. He saw firsthand what was happening to his family, his neighbors, and his homeland during this extraordinary time. Working with Philippe Ôtié, the artist has created a memoir of self and state, a rich, very human account of a major historical moment with contemporary consequences. Mao said, "The masses are the real heroes," but *A Chinese Life* shows those masses as real people.

Praise for *A Chinese Life*:

"This is an absorbing book—all 700 pages of it—reminiscent at times of Zhang Yimou's epic Chinese history film *To Live*, and reminiscent at others of George Orwell's *1984*, recast as non-fiction." —*The Onion's* A.V. Club

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