

The book was found

# Serve The People: A Stir-Fried Journey Through China



## Synopsis

As a freelance journalist and food writer living in Beijing, Jen Lin-Liu already had a ringside seat for China's exploding food scene. When she decided to enroll in a local cooking school—held in an unheated classroom with nary a measuring cup in sight—she jumped into the ring herself. In *Serve the People*, Lin-Liu gives a memorable and mouthwatering cook's tour of today's China as she progresses from cooking student to noodle-stall and dumpling-house apprentice to intern at a chic Shanghai restaurant. The characters she meets along the way include poor young men and women streaming in from the provinces in search of a *decent bowl* (living wage), a burgeoning urban middle class hungry for luxury after decades of turmoil and privation, and the mentors who take her in hand in the kitchen and beyond. Together they present an unforgettable slice of contemporary China in the full swing of social and economic transformation. The accompanying reference guide is included as a PDF on this disc.

## Book Information

MP3 CD

Publisher: Audible Studios on Brilliance Audio; MP3 Una edition (June 21, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1522670505

ISBN-13: 978-1522670506

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,042,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #586 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Asian Cooking > Chinese #786 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese #1034 in Books > Travel > Asia > China > General

## Customer Reviews

The author is a Chinese American journalist living in Beijing. It should be noted that she is a fluent speaker of Chinese and it would not have been possible to do the research that she did without good Chinese language skills. I mention this because I think it adds credibility to her research and what she has to say. To be able to interview and interact with people without an interpreter I think is very valuable and will allow one to get stories that would otherwise be unlikely, if not impossible. The title of the book comes from the socialist slogan coined by Mao Zedong and popularized by the communist party: *wèi rén mín fúwù* (为 人 民 服 务), which literally means "for people

serve." When I first arrived in China in the early eighties you could find lapel pins all over the place with this slogan. Though it is used less these days, you still hear it once in awhile, probably more in official settings. This book is divided into four parts, 1) Cooking School, 2) Noodle Intern, 3) Fine Dining, and 4) Hutong Cooking. In the first part Lin-Liu describes her experience as a student in the Hualian Cooking School in Beijing, a three month course, Monday through Friday for two hours a day. In the second part of the book, Lin-Liu apprentices with a noodle chef from Shanxi Province. In Part Three she moves to Shanghai and works in a high end Shanghai restaurant on the Bund called The Whampoa Club. The book ends with a rather short section on Hutong cooking. A *hǎiāng* is an alley or lane and is used to identify many of the old Beijing neighborhoods characterized by courtyard houses and mazes of narrow lanes. I really enjoyed this book. Lin-Liu did an excellent job drawing the reader into the world of Chinese food and eating.

My mother returned from China with tales of duck tongue and fried chicken feet being offered up as authentic dishes for diners. Personally, I found this both fascinating and a little disgusting - it was this mix of wonder and dread that led me to pick up this book penned by Jen Lin-Liu, a Chinese-American journalist trying to find her culinary way in the cities and towns of China. Beginning in a Beijing cooking school where she struggles to be taken seriously, to a tiny noodle shop, to the kitchen of a famous fine dining establishment in Shanghai, Jen Lin-Liu provides a well-written account of her search to understand multifaceted, often obfuscated China. Our stomachs become the vehicle to uncover how China has changed politically, socially, economically, and gastronomically since its "liberation." The people introduced in this book have remarkable stories and the short *esposés* scattered throughout the text (on MSG among other things) demonstrate Lin-Liu's strength as a journalist. Her aptitude as a chef is evident through the inclusion of numerous recipes discussed in the body of her writing. There are a number of things to admire in this text as well and a few things that might turn the average American reader's stomach; Lin-Liu is induced to try a number of unappetizing things including dog meat and animal genitalia. If you can get beyond the "ick" factor of these brief encounters, this book has a great deal to offer in terms of its unique insight. The only time it fell short for me was near the very end when Lin-Liu falls in love and her writing moves from descriptive to mushy (a different type of "ick" factor). In my mind it took away from an otherwise polished story of self discovery set against the backdrop of cultural exploration.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Serve the People: A Stir-Fried Journey Through China My Yonanas Frozen Treat Maker Recipe

Book: 101 Delicious Healthy, Vegetarian, Dairy & Gluten-Free, Soft Serve Fruit Desserts For Your Elite or Deluxe Machine (Frozen Desserts & Soft Serve Makers) China: History of China - History of an Empire: A Historical Overview of China, & East Asia. Including: Ancient China, Communism, & Capitalism (Chinese ... Medicine, Mao Zedung, Confucius Book 1) Easy Fried Chicken Cookbook: 50 Delicious Fried Chicken Recipes Wok This Way - 50 Asian Style Recipes - Wok Recipes - Stir Fry Recipes - (Asian Stir Fry Cookbook, Asian Wok Cooking, (Recipe Junkies - Wok Recipes) Stir-Fry Yourself Skinny (Low Fat, Stir-Fry Diet Recipes, Lose Weight Healthy Without Diet Pills Book 1) The Rise of China in Asia: Security Implications - Senkaku Islands, Taiwan, North Korea on the Brink, Chinese Threat to Neighbors, India's Response to China, South China Sea How To Analyze People: Mastering Analyzing and Reading People: (How To Read People, Analyze People, Psychology, People Skills, Body Language, Social Skills) Journey Through Denmark (Journey Through series) UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES & MISSING PEOPLE.: MISSING PEOPLE CASE FILES; UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES; MISSING PEOPLE. (UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES : MISSING PEOPLE Book 2) The Cheese Lover's Cookbook and Guide: Over 150 Recipes with Instructions on How to Buy, Store, and Serve All Your Favorite Cheeses Milk. Made.: A Book About Cheese. How to Choose it, Serve it and Eat it. Serve to Win: The 14-Day Gluten-Free Plan for Physical and Mental Excellence My Yonanas Frozen Treat Maker Recipe Book: 101 Delicious Healthy, Vegetarian, Dairy & Gluten-Free, Soft Serve Fruit Desserts For Your Elite or Deluxe ... and Frozen Dessert Cookbooks) (Volume 1) China and Pottery Marks Traditions and Old China - Illustrated and Annotated Green Innovation in China: China's Wind Power Industry and the Global Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy (Contemporary Asia in the World) La psique en la medicina china: Tratamiento de desarmonías emocionales y mentales con acupuntura y fitoterapia china (Spanish Edition) China's Cosmopolitan Empire (History of Imperial China) China's Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty (History of Imperial China) China's Last Empire (History of Imperial China)