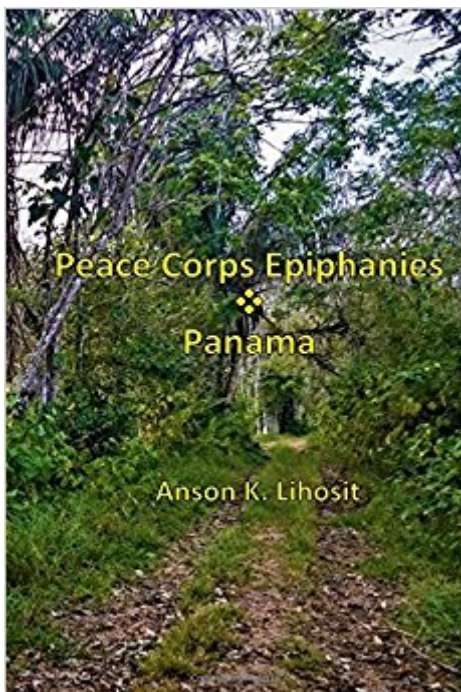


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Peace Corps Epiphanies: Panama



Synopsis

"The essence of the Peace Corps experience." Eric Kiefer, author of *The Soft Exile*. "A wry sense of humor...almost poetic." Will Lutwick, author of *Dodging Machetes*. "Makes me want to visit Panama." Tony D'Souza, author of *Whiteman*. Peace Corps Volunteer Anson K. Lihosit opened his sports bag on the fringes of a Panamanian Este softball field and told the locals, "I want to play." And he does- for two years (2015-2017). He describes his adventures playing, teaching and most importantly, adapting as a stranger in a strange land.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book portrays the different expectations of what a Peace Corps Volunteer is to the locals. It's a subtle way to add culture notes. It contains very good sensory details throughout, so absolutely essential to a Peace Corps book. I enjoyed the book. It is very cool. However, don't read this book unless you're the sort of person who would enjoy placing bets on a cockfight held in the middle of the jungle, or dodging venomous snakes, or using a toothbrush to scour your infected legs until they bleed. -Eric Kiefer Panama ain't for amateurs. -Lawrence F. Lihosit Excellent! This book documents today's life experience that would vanish without these efforts. -Pat Malloy

One of President Kennedy's signature achievements was the founding of an international volunteer organization which resulted from an impromptu speech he made on October 14, 1960 at 2:00 am to a group of University of Michigan students. That speech launched a bold, new experiment in public service which we now know as the Peace Corps. In a subsequent speech about the Peace Corps,

President Kennedy articulated the vision for what is known as the Peace Corps's Third Goal; to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people, or in Kennedy's words, "The logic of the Peace Corps is that someday we are going to bring it home to America." Anson Lihosit's book "Peace Corps Epiphanies: Panama" embodies that 3rd goal spirit and delivers it in abundance. He brings his experiences in Peace Corps Panama home to his readers. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras in the mid 70's, Lihosit's book brought back memories of my Peace Corps days which I had long forgotten. The book is well written, informative, humorous and engaging. I highly recommend it.

Anson Lihosit recalls his Peace Corps experience in a vivid and refreshing style in this new memoir from the son of a former Peace Corps volunteer. The author grew up hearing his father's Peace Corps stories and decided to try his own hand at volunteering in a foreign land. In addition to teaching English in a Panamanian village, Anson played softball, made many local friends, fell in and out of love, and he came close to losing his leg in an unfortunate accident one night. Readers will find inspiration, be entertained, and be grateful to this young man for participating in one of America's finest qualities, volunteerism.

I highly recommend this locally-colorful account by returned Peace Corps Volunteer Anson Lihosit. After graduation from college and a year in the work world, Lihosit joins the Peace Corps, lands in Panama and deals with spiders, bats, snakes, local politicians and other stumbling blocks, figurative and literal (one inflicts a gash on his leg that takes months of excruciating self-treatment to heal). There's more. He also faces isolation in a jungle village and the indifference of those he wants to help: the teachers in a local school where he is sent, in theory, to teach English. In common with many other Volunteers, Lihosit fulfills his Peace Corps duty to promote world peace and friendship largely through "unofficial" channels: the relationships he slowly but surely forms with his neighbors in the pursuit of common interests, especially sports. It's an often grueling but ultimately heart warming journey. Take it.

Written in poignant vignettes, Peace Corps Epiphanies: Panama immediately pulls the reader into the protagonist's experience. The Peace Corps is not hanging out at resorts and doing typical tourist activities. The author shows the audience the life of a Peace Corps volunteer interspersed with a

picture of modern day, rural Eastern Panama. The heart of the book is the friendships in town and with other peace corps volunteers forged over the 2 plus years of service. These connections allow for culture exchange and ultimately leave the biggest impact. The epiphanies move chronologically so the reader gets a better idea of Peace Corps service and the understated style emphasizes humor and the reality of being transplanted to a foreign country all alone. The descriptions will make you want to visit Panama and have your own adventure, and thanks to reading Mr. Lihosit's keen first book you'll be more knowledgeable about the country's culture and history.

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