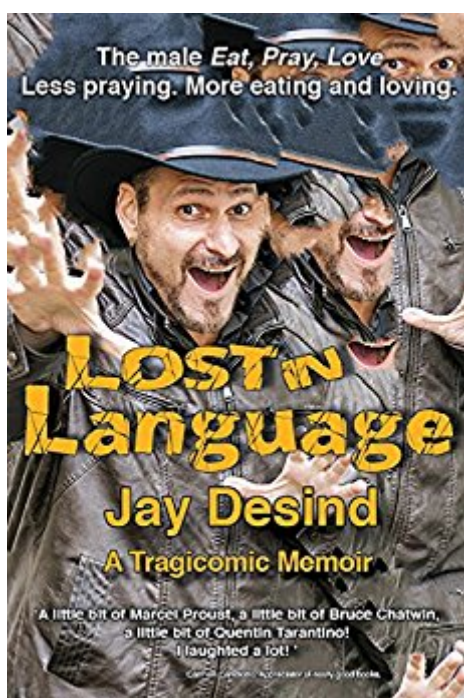


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# Lost In Language: A Tragicomic Memoir About How One Man Failed Language Class In Italy But Found His Voice



## Synopsis

The #1 bestselling memoir that has the adventuresome spirit and redemptive honesty of 'WILD' and the absurd hilarity of the best David Sedaris essay!! Already a top 20 book in several categories! "I admit it. I failed foreign language class in Italy."...So begins this rollicking comic adventure where nothing is exactly what it seems. Structured around twenty-four Italian language classes, poet and photographer Jay Desind invites you on a quest that goes backwards and forwards through time, surprises with unexpected humor, and shows an emotional range and honesty in a framework of quirky invention. It's a memoir about the consequences of loss and the powerful redemptive things that happen when you immerse yourself into the accents, idioms, and traditions of other cultures. In the end, it is nothing what you expect and once finished, everything you wish you had experienced for yourself in a comfortable travel outfit. Lost in Language shares the bravery and unflinching honesty of Eat, Pray, Love and Cheryl Strayed's Wild. It's also absurdly funny like the best David Sedaris essay. What holds it all together is a unique authentic voice that takes the essence out of memoir and tells a universal story of finding yourself even when no one else is looking for you in the first place. Editorial Reviews "Shocking, Funny, and Never Boring." Kathleen Jones, Author of the bestselling book Catherine Cookson: The Biography "A Wonderful read...Always entertaining and surprising." Karen Divine, artist and author of A Small Amount of Courage "Praise for this impossible-to-put-down read! A poetic, humorous, deeply authentic Jay accompanies the reader through the pages of this book. It was as though I was watching a painter create his self portrait...back and forth adding new strokes of color, some dark, some outrageously bright...to the present and the past..." Rosamund Clarke, artist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This memoir has a lot of emotions attached to it, from heartache, love, joy hilarity, passions, you name it, and is related to us in a very sincere if not sometimes bizarre way. Jay I want to thank you for making me laugh out loud through most of this book..After heartache, the author leaves his home in the USA and decides to travel to clear his mind and in doing so, we get wonderful stories of the places he visits, the people he meets, his views on the different cultures and a view of his world through his love of photography. The photography is something that I could relate to, as that is a passion of mine as well. The title refers to the authors attempts, to learn Italian and it become a kick off point to many memories both old and new, which is the way he tells us about his life, but always coming back to finish his thoughts off with a bit of his class and fellow students. I found this to be very cleverly done. So if you want to read something that will make you laugh or at times cry, or amazed, this is the book you should read.

Quickly, I was cut loose from plot and expectations. Adrift, I became Jay as he unwound and rewound, flopping me like a rag doll, capturing me in a snapshot wailing loss and tripping on cobblestones and misery. He had me yearning for love, pizza and connection, then pleading for space in distant lands. Yes, endings are indeed beginnings. Thanks for the ride on the wings of your tongue.

Jay Desind has written an amazing chronicle of his life's experiences. He is witty, engaging and interspective. We are swept into his daily life, but also gain an understanding of his past as he interweaves his experience in the present with the past. We can laugh and cry as we turn the page,

but always enjoy his keen vision of how a family truly loves and lives with one another. Definitely a must read. As we are lost in his language, he gives words to our thoughts and feelings.

Try to find out a lot about Jay Desind and about all you'll encounter is that he attended San Jose State University and is a poet, photographer and memoirist who just a few short years ago left the shores of his homeland and bought a one way ticket to Singapore. His intention was to travel for about a month and then return home. But the idea of home became a new elusive reality, and now, twenty countries later and counting, Jay has begun to share some of his adventures to an ever growing audience. At times funny, irascible, thoughtful and always sincere and genuine, Jay shares candid moments in his life and introduces a cast of characters from many different countries in his writing. But then really that is enough because his writing says it all. He is frank, handsome, incredibly hilarious and one of the finest comedic writers of the day. This reader is satiated with the one line reviews that summarize a book by stating (only) 'I just could put it down', but after starting to read LOST IN LANGUAGE that is precisely what happens (the book is to blame for starting daylight savings time with a sleepless night not bothering to mess with the clock duties). A particularly fine example of the 'can't put it...' you know, is his introduction, a part of which I'll quote here: 'This is a book about how we only know we are on a journey when we finally stop going someplace and write about it. It's also about getting antsy and thinking staying in one place provides answers and then realizing you have to get going again to find more questions. Don't worry. I like places that have nice bathrooms and springy beds, so you won't be uncomfortable. From time to time someone else is in bed with us, so scoot over. And if you like seafood, well, see you after dinner. I'll warn you in advance. I don't solve the quadratic equation or find a miracle cure for miracles. And though I'm touchy feely sometimes, I'm really not when it comes to pets, especially poodles--my luck because my boyfriend loves them. I guess if you force me to tell you what the payoff of this story is, I'd say that peanut butter and Nutella spread over a rice cake is both good for you and bad for you and therefore it's ok to have a few but not four. If Hugh Jackman is not available to play me in the movie, Sally Field is an acceptable stand in.' ....I also want to clear one other thing up since it's been asked. I never did take a shower with David Sedaris, hike a California trail with Cheryl Strayed (or sleep with her), catch scissors Augusten Burroughs threw my way (or sleep with him), but any day of the week I would Eat, Pray, Love Julia Roberts to the ends of the earth. Any resemblance to anything these people have written or starred in proves that there is nothing new to say, but we keep on trying to say it anyway. (Or get laid.)' What follows is some of the finest writing of the day - smart, intelligent (is that the same thing?), rich in observations of human

behavior, and deliciously funny. Oh the plot, yes: 'How one man failed foreign language class in Italy but found his voice'. For the rest of this memoir, read it yourself so it won't be spoiled Start it and see if you can stop. More than likely you will fall in love with Jay Desind - a hopeless addiction and a reason to grab his other works as fast as he offers them to us. He is up there with the best of them. Highly Recommended. Grady Harp, March 15

All I can say is wow for Jay's new book! I have known Jay all my life, and it has been amazing to watch him throw himself into something he loves so deeply, & create such wonderful things. When reading this book, you can feel all of his emotions, all of the things he has been through, all of the positive and negative experiences, & see how they have shaped his writing into something that makes you emotional as well. The emotional depth of this book is astounding. Jay makes you feel like you are right there with him through everything he is talking about. Jay has such a variety of expository writing, descriptive writing, narrative writing, and in a way he persuades you to keep reading by being to emotionally engaged (something that a lot of writer have a trouble with). This is Jay's best book, wait, who am I kidding, all of them are the best!"All you need to know about a book is if the last page stings your soul, if it does, your in for a great adventure. "

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