Restless Valley: Revolution, Murder, and Intrigue in the Heart of Central Asia

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Heart of Central Asia

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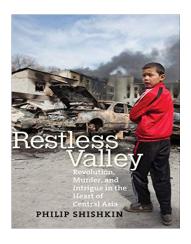
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This award-winning foreign correspondent's vivid account of Central Asia's recent history "reads like a novel but is the stuff of hard-won journalism" (Gary Shteyngart, author of Absurdistan).

Here are the stories of two revolutions, a massacre of unarmed civilians, a civil war, a drug-smuggling highway, brazen corruption schemes, contract hits, and larger-than-life characters who may be villains, heroes, or possibly both. Restless Valley is a gripping, contemporary chronicle of Central Asia from a veteran journalist with extensive experience in the region.

Both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have struggled with the challenges of post-Soviet, independent statehood, and both became entangled in America's Afghan campaign when the United States built military bases within their borders.

Meanwhile, the region was becoming a key smuggling hub for Afghanistan's booming heroin trade.

Through the eyes of local participants—the powerful and the powerless—Shishkin reconstructs how Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have ricocheted between extreme repression and democratic strivings; how alliances with the United States and Russia have brought mixed blessings; and how

Stalin's legacy of ethnic gerrymandering continues to incite conflict today.

"The weird, the strange, the corrupt, and the grand are all evident . . . [Shishkin] relentlessly pursues and then tells the stories of the most corrupt and powerful and also the most sincere and admirable characters who inhabit these mountains." —Ahmed Rashid, The New York Review of Books