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KARTIKA REVIEW

MEDITATIONS ON "HOME"



ED LIN

I moved around so much as a kid, I never felt secure in whatever house, apartment or hotel room we were living in at the time. I always knew we'd have to pick up and leave sometime soon. One of the reasons why I'm so into music is that it was essentially my safe space growing up. Husker Du's "Zen Arcade" was my life.

After I was done with college and living in New York City, my housing situations were transient again and for the most part worse than ever. One year I lived in a puny studio that got more light at night than during the day. It was at the bottom of an air shaft and at 6 PM a floodlight would go on in the shaft. Later, when I lived in Brooklyn, my kitchen ceiling sagged with collected water from pipe leaks, and then collapsed entirely. But no matter where I lived, I always had the same six milk crates of records.

Now, I still have nearly all those records and I probably listen to music more than ever, but my home is with my wife.



Ed Lin is the author of *Waylaid* (Kaya Press, 2002), *This Is a Bust* (Kaya Press, 2007), and *Snakes Can't Run* (Minotaur Books, 2010). Lin's works have been widely praised

by critics, and he is the first author to win two Members' Choice Awards in the Asian American Literary Awards. Lin lives in New York with his wife, actress Cindy Cheung.