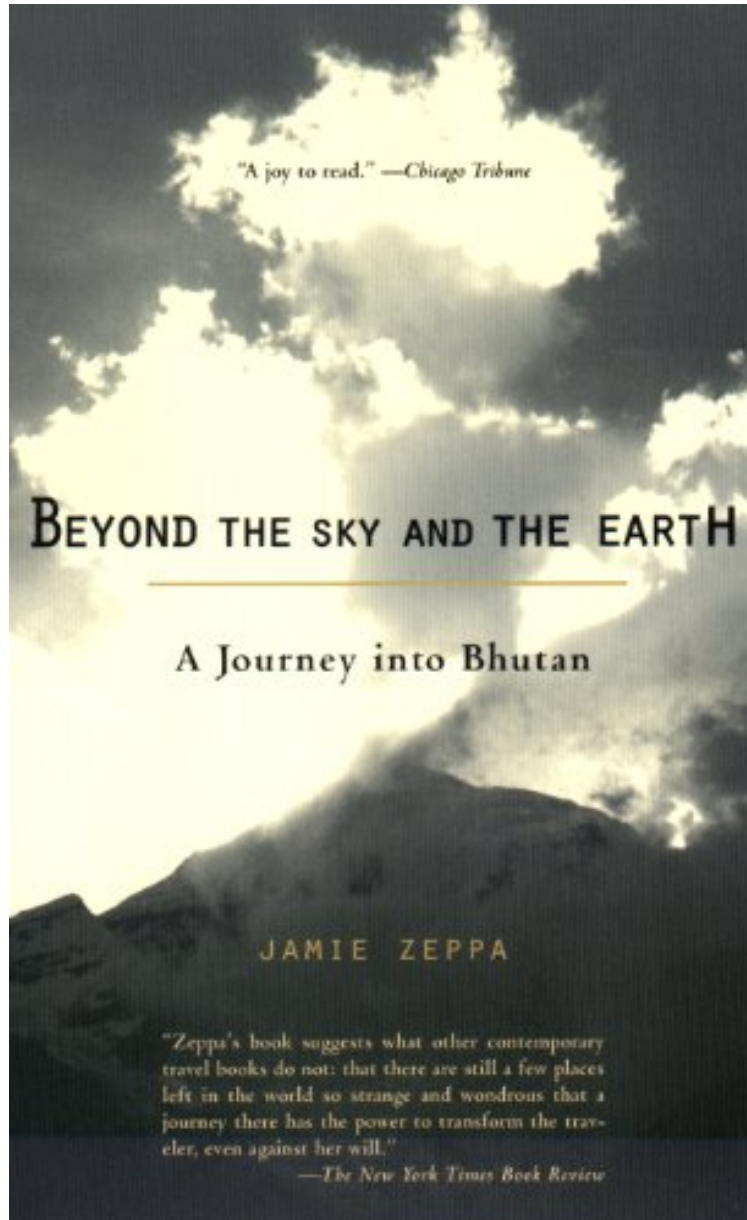


[Ebook pdf] Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan

Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan

Von Jamie Zeppa

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Von Jamie Zeppa : Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not what I was expectingVon Ein KundeGranted, this isn't quite what I had in mind. I was hoping for a book about the

country of Bhutan from the standpoint of its culture, society, history, its people, and its place in a world that it has, in large part, intentionally shut itself off from. Instead this book is more a personal memoir in which the nation of Bhutan serves as a backdrop to the authors thoughts, experiences and philosophy. This is not to say that the book isn't quite interesting at times. The first half of the book, especially, does bring in some of the elements I was looking for, and the author is to be commended for her willingness to not paint an overly sentimental portrait of the Himalayan kingdom as when she openly discusses, in the second half the ethnic tensions that have at times resulted in violence in Bhutan. Perhaps the 'west' does not have a monopoly on ethnic cleansing after all. But more often than not the author makes herself the center of the book with Bhutan acting as an observer rather than the other way around. I was really not interested in how many of her students she slept with or with her excessive hand wringing over whether or not to return to Canada. While I'm sure her ultimate conversion to Buddhism is most sincere, too often she comes across as just another of the many privileged westerners who are helping to turn Buddhism into the latest the latest trendy fad. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bhutan through the eyes of a self-centered writer Von Ein Kunde Jamie Zeppa joined the Canadian equivalent of the Peace Corp to experience life as a teacher in Bhutan. We see the experience through her eyes--the culture shock, followed by her enchantment with these innocent, nonmaterialistic people. Then, she's transferred from a remote elementary school to a college (actually more of a secondary school), where she becomes aware of the ethnic and religious conflict (Buddhist vs Hindu). Some of her students are taken by the police in the night for questioning and worse. However, it's hard to like this writer. It's surprising that she's unaware of the Hindu-Buddhist conflict until page 190 of the book. She unthinkingly gets involved in a religious protest; she ignores her closest friend during the friend's personal crisis. She has sex with two of her students, but this doesn't seem to bother her because she sees her desires as pure. One wonders what would happen to a secondary teacher in her hometown that decided to sleep with students, but Zeppa gives little thought of how her actions affect others. She gets pregnant, married, and separated. The book is an interesting introduction to Bhutan, but the author seems unaware of how badly she comes across. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Some of these reviews are thoughtless Von Paul Stiles Before criticizing an author who has undoubtedly poured years of sweat and toil into her first book, some of these reviewers should look a little closer at themselves. A memoir--and this book IS a memoir--is "self-centered" by its very nature. It is about one person's experience, and their particular view of the world through that lens. To criticize a memoirist for writing too much "about herself" is like criticizing a biographer for writing too much "about someone else." If you wanted a travel guide, to Fodor's with you. Instead what you got is a very honest description of a young woman's trials and tribulations in a very foreign country. Some of this took courage to write, too, and we should respect that, rather than trying to use some of that honesty (some brief passages about her sex life, for example) against her.

Kurzbeschreibung Jamie Zeppa was 24 when she left stagnant life at home and signed a contract to teach for two years in the Buddhist hermit kingdom of Bhutan. Much more than just a travel memoir, *Beyond the Sky and the Earth* is the story of her time in a Himalayan village, immersed in Bhutanese culture and the wonders of new and lasting love. Whether you're travelling to Bhutan, looking for the best travel writing around, or wishing to be transported to a culture, mindset, and spiritual ethos wonderfully different from your own, *Beyond the Sky and the Earth* is a joyous and lush memoir that will transform the way you think of faith, Western life, and love. de As a teacher of English literature, Jamie Zeppa would understand how the story of her journey into Bhutan could be fit into the convenient box of "coming-of-age romance," a romance with a landscape, a people, a religion, and a dark, irresistible student. An innocent, young Catholic woman from a Canadian mining town who had "never been anywhere," Zeppa signed up for a two-year stint teaching in a remote corner of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. Despite the initial shock of material privation and such minor inconveniences as giardia, boils, and leeches, Zeppa felt herself growing into the vast spaces of simplicity that opened up beyond the clutter of modern life. Alongside her burgeoning enchantment, a parallel realization that all was not right in Shangri-La arose, especially after her transfer to a college campus charged with the politics of ethnic division. Still she maintained her center by devouring the library's Buddhist tracts and persevering in an increasingly fruitful meditation practice. When the time came for her to leave, she had undergone a personal transformation and found herself caught between two worlds that were incompatible and mutually incomprehensible. Zeppa's candid, witty account is a spiritual memoir, a travel diary, and, more than anything, a romance that retraces the vicissitudes of ineluctable passion. --Brian Bruya.com As a teacher of English literature, Jamie Zeppa would understand how the story of her journey into Bhutan could be fit into the convenient box of "coming-of-age romance," a romance with a landscape, a people, a religion, and a dark, irresistible student. An innocent, young Catholic woman from a Canadian mining town who had "never been anywhere," Zeppa signed up for a two-year stint teaching in a remote corner of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. Despite the initial shock of material privation and such minor inconveniences as giardia, boils, and leeches, Zeppa felt herself growing into the vast spaces of simplicity that opened up beyond the clutter of modern life. Alongside her burgeoning enchantment, a parallel realization that all was not

right in Shangri-La arose, especially after her transfer to a college campus charged with the politics of ethnic division. Still she maintained her center by devouring the library's Buddhist tracts and persevering in an increasingly fruitful meditation practice. When the time came for her to leave, she had undergone a personal transformation and found herself caught between two worlds that were incompatible and mutually incomprehensible. Zeppa's candid, witty account is a spiritual memoir, a travel diary, and, more than anything, a romance that retraces the vicissitudes of ineluctable passion. --Brian Bruya