



SO CLOSE TO HEAVEN

THE VANISHING BUDDHIST
KINGDOMS OF THE HIMALAYAS



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BARBARA CROSSETTE

So Close To Heaven The Vanishing Buddhist Kingdoms Of The Himalayas

Kevin Grange



So Close To Heaven The Vanishing Buddhist Kingdoms Of The Himalayas:

So Close to Heaven Barbara Crossette,1996-06-25 A travelogue of Bhutan and its neighbors in the Himalayas that introduces readers to a world that has emerged from the middle ages only to find itself peering into the abyss of modernity For anyone with a serious interest in Buddhism it s essential reading Washington Post Book World For more than a thousand years Tibet Sikkim Ladakh and Bhutan were the sanctuaries of Tantric Buddhism But in the last half of this century geopolitics has scoured the landscape of the Himalayas and only the reclusive kingdom of Bhutan remains true to Tantric Buddhism

So Close to Heaven Barbara Crossette,2011-08-03 A travelogue of Bhutan and its neighbors in the Himalayas that introduces readers to a world that has emerged from the middle ages only to find itself peering into the abyss of modernity For anyone with a serious interest in Buddhism it s essential reading Washington Post Book World For more than a thousand years Tibet Sikkim Ladakh and Bhutan were the sanctuaries of Tantric Buddhism But in the last half of this century geopolitics has scoured the landscape of the Himalayas and only the reclusive kingdom of Bhutan remains true to Tantric Buddhism

Buddhism Observed Peter Moran,2003-09-02 This anthropological study examines the encounter between Western travellers and Tibetan exiles in Bodhanath on the outskirts of Kathmandu and analyses the importance of Buddhism in discussions of political cultural and religious identity

Yak on Track Heather McNeice,2018-08-28 It seemed like a good idea to Heather at the time organise a challenging trek to raise funds for the education of young Bhutanese girls Heather had walked in the Himalayas before so how hard could it be on the trail to Lunana Bhutan s most remote plateau On the 240 kilometre trek she discovers that hard doesn t even come close Along with her friend Krista like minded lover of mountains and margaritas a team of eccentric guides and far too many horses Heather sets off into a landscape of savage beauty where yetis are feared and only yaks feel at ease As the team face blizzards avalanches altitude sickness and snow blindness their reward is a rare glimpse of life in the last Shangri La At its heart this book is a love song to Bhutan and its people an intimate portrait of the only remaining Buddhist kingdom of the Himalayas Yak on Track is a delightful story about losing yourself but not losing your way Heather is donating a portion of her royalties from the sale of this book to the Australian Himalayan Foundation in support of a scholarship program for disadvantaged children in Bhutan

Modern China Xiaobing Li,2015-11-23 Providing an indispensable resource for students educators businessmen and officials investigating the transformative experience of modern China this book provides a comprehensive summary of the culture institutions traditions and international relations that have shaped today s China In Modern China author Xiaobing Li offers a resource far beyond a conventional encyclopedia providing not only comprehensive coverage of Chinese civilization and traditions but also addressing the values issues and critical views of China As a result readers will better understand the transformative experience of the most populous country in the world and will grasp the complexity of the progress and problems behind the rise of China to a world superpower in less than 30 years Written by an author who lived in China for three decades this

encyclopedia addresses 16 key topics regarding China such as its geography government social classes and ethnicities gender based identities arts media and food each followed by roughly 250 short entries related to each topic All the entries are placed within a broad sociopolitical and socioeconomic contextual framework The format and writing consistency through the book reflects a Chinese perspective and allows students to compare Chinese with Western and American views

Going Places Robert Burgin,2013-01-08 Successfully navigate the rich world of travel narratives and identify fiction and nonfiction read alike with this detailed and expertly constructed guide Just as savvy travelers make use of guidebooks to help navigate the hundreds of countries around the globe smart librarians need a guidebook that makes sense of the world of travel narratives *Going Places A Reader's Guide to Travel Narratives* meets that demand helping librarians assist patrons in finding the nonfiction books that most interest them It will also serve to help users better understand the genre and their own reading interests The book examines the subgenres of the travel narrative genre in its seven chapters categorizing and describing approximately 600 titles according to genres and broad reading interests and identifying hundreds of other fiction and nonfiction titles as read alike and related reads by shared key topics The author has also identified award winning titles and spotlighted further resources on travel lit making this work an ideal guide for readers advisors as well a book general readers will enjoy browsing

Monarchies and decolonisation in Asia Robert Aldrich,Cindy McCreery,2020-06-05 With original case studies of a more than a dozen countries *Monarchies and decolonisation in Asia* offers new perspectives on how both European monarchs who reigned over Asian colonies and Asian royal houses adapted to decolonisation As colonies became independent states and European countries and other colonial powers lost their overseas empires monarchies faced the challenges of decolonisation republicanism and radicalism These studies place dynasties both European and native at the centre of debate about decolonisation and the form of government of new states from the sovereigns of Britain the Netherlands and Japan to the maharajas of India the sultans of the East Indies and the white rajahs of Sarawak It provides new understanding of the history of decolonisation and of the history of modern monarchy

Beneath Blossom Rain Kevin Grange,2011 In a remote kingdom hidden in the Himalayas there is a trail said to be the toughest trek in the world twenty four days 216 miles eleven mountain passes and enough ghost stories to scare an exorcist In 2007 Kevin Grange decided to acquaint himself with the country of Bhutan by taking on this infamous trail the Snowman Trek He was thirty three at a turning point in life and figured the best way to go at a crossroad was up Against a backdrop of Buddhist monasteries and soaring mountains Grange ventured beyond the mapped world to visit time lost villages and sacred valleys In the process recounted here with a blend of laugh out loud humor heartfelt insight and acute observation he tested the limits of physical endurance met a fascinating assortment of characters and discovered truths about faith hope and the shrouded secret of blossom rain *Beneath Blossom Rain* Grange's account of his journey packs an adventure story a romantic twist and a celebration of group travel into a single entertaining book The result is the ultimate journey for any traveler armchair or

otherwise Along with high adventure it delivers an engaging look at Bhutan a country that governs by a policy of Gross National Happiness and that many regard as the last Shangri La *Fly Solo* Teresa Rodriguez Williamson,2007-02-06 There s a whole big world out there Here s how every woman can get out and conquer it solo This is an inspiring guide for women who want to fly solo yet stay safe sane and solvent during their travels With candid advice and insider s secrets about some of the most exciting places on earth readers will find A quiz to help determine what sorts of trips best suit one s personality interests and goals The essential female friendly spots every woman should visit Why each destination is perfect for solo travelers important foreign phrases what to pack what shoes to wear special events historical facts where to meet the global glitterati and a list of the top ten things women must do while visiting Where to eat meet party people watch sunbathe soul search shop spa frolic photograph and more Whether surfing in Hawaii strolling the cobblestone streets of St Petersburg drinking in Dublin or swimming with dolphins in the Caribbean women can take on the world and create lasting memories with the best travel companion ever themselves The Princeton Anthology of Writing John McPhee,Carol Rigolot,2021-09-14 In 1957 long before colleges awarded degrees in creative nonfiction and back when newspaper writing s reputation was tainted by the fish it wrapped Princeton began honoring talented literary journalists Since then fifty nine of the finest most dedicated and most decorated nonfiction writers have held the Ferris and McGraw professorships This monumental volume harbors their favorite and often most influential works Each contribution is rewarding reading and collectively the selections validate journalism s ascent into the esteem of the academy and the reading public Necessarily eclectic and delightfully idiosyncratic the fifty nine pieces are long and short political and personal comic and deadly serious Students will be provoked by William Greider s pointed critique of the democracy industry eerily entertained by Leslie Cockburn s fraternization with the Cali cartel inspired by David K Shipler s thoughts on race unsettled by Haynes Johnson s account of Bay of Pigs survivors and moved by Lucinda Frank s essay on a mother fighting to save a child born with birth defects Many of the essays are finely crafted portraits Charlotte Grimes s biography of her grandmother Blair Clark s obituary for Robert Lowell and Jane Kramer s affecting story of a woman hero of the French Resistance Other contributions to savor include Harrison Salisbury on the siege of Leningrad Landon Jones on the 1950s Christopher Wren on Soviet mountaineering James Gleick on technology Gloria Emerson on Vietnam Gina Kolata on Fermat s last theorem and Roger Mudd on the media Whether approached chronologically thematically randomly or as the editors order them more intuitively each suggests a perfect evening reading Designed for students as well as general readers The Princeton Anthology of Writing splendidly attests to the elegance eloquence and endurance of fine nonfiction *Radio Shangri-La* Lisa Napoli,2012-04-03 Lisa Napoli was in the grip of a crisis dissatisfied with her life and her work as a radio journalist When a chance encounter with a handsome stranger presented her with an opportunity to move halfway around the world Lisa left behind cosmopolitan Los Angeles for a new adventure in the ancient Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan said to be one of the happiest places on earth

Long isolated from industrialization and just beginning to open its doors to the modern world Bhutan is a deeply spiritual place devoted to environmental conservation and committed to the happiness of its people in fact Bhutan measures its success in Gross National Happiness rather than in GNP In a country without a single traffic light its citizens are believed to be among the most content in the world To Lisa it seemed to be a place that offered the opposite of her fast paced life in the United States where the noisy din of sound bite news and cell phones dominate our days and meaningful conversation is a rare commodity where everyone is plugged in digitally yet rarely connects with the people around them Thousands of miles away from everything and everyone she knows Lisa creates a new community for herself As she helps to start Bhutan's first youth oriented radio station Kuzoo FM she must come to terms with her conflicting feelings about the impact of the medium on a country that had been shielded from its effects Immersing herself in Bhutan's rapidly changing culture Lisa realizes that her own perspective on life is changing as well and that she is discovering the sense of purpose and joy that she has been yearning for In this smart heartfelt and beautifully written book sure to please fans of transporting travel narratives and personal memoirs alike Lisa Napoli discovers that the world is a beautiful and complicated place and comes to appreciate her life for the adventure it is

High Erika Fatland, 2023-01-03 An ambitious and magnificent new travelogue by bestselling and prize winning author Erika Fatland The Border and Sovietistan on a journey along the Himalaya The Himalaya weave through five very different countries where the world religions of Islam Buddhism and Hinduism are mixed with ancient shamanic religions Countless languages and vastly different cultures live in the secluded mountain valleys Modernity and tradition collide while the great powers fight for influence We have read about mountain climbers on their way up Mount Everest and about travellers on the spiritual quest for Buddhist monasteries But how much do we know about the people living in the Himalaya Fatland invites us into close encounters with the many peoples of the region and at the same time takes us on a dizzying journey at altitude through incredible landscapes and dramatic unknown world histories all the way to the most volatile human conflicts of our times

The Blessings of Bhutan Russ Carpenter, Blyth Carpenter, 2002-10-31 A captivating and splendid account of a complex nation on the cusp of tradition and modernity Bhutan is distinctive from its social structures to its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness The Blessings of Bhutan is based on extensive travel and interviews Written in an accessible style the authors blend narrative about the country's history religion arts and governance with lively personal anecdotes It is an excellent contribution to the study of contemporary Bhutan that will appeal to laymen and scholars alike Karma Ura Director of the Centre for Bhutan Studies The blessings of Bhutan are many including the appearance of this lyrical account of the country's many unique and fascinating aspects Because they are among the Westerners most familiar with Bhutanese life Blyth and Russ are able to penetrate well beyond the Shangri la myth and show that while parts of such an otherworldly myth apply this Himalayan Kingdom is brimful of surprises contradictions and modern dilemmas K E S Kirby Dorji writer editor United Nations consultant longtime resident of Bhutan

The Faces of Buddhism in America Charles S. Prebish, Kenneth K. Tanaka, 2023-11-15 Buddhism is the fastest growing religion in the United States with adherents estimated in the several millions But what exactly defines a Buddhist This has been a much debated question in recent years particularly in regard to the religion's bifurcation into two camps the so called imported or ethnic Buddhism of Asian immigrants and the convert Buddhism of a mostly middle class liberal intellectual elite In this timely collection Charles S Prebish and Kenneth K Tanaka bring together some of the leading voices in Buddhist studies to examine the debates surrounding contemporary Buddhism's many faces The contributors investigate newly Americanized Asian traditions such as Tibetan Zen Nichiren Jodo Shinshu and Theravada Buddhism and the changes they undergo to meet the expectations of a Western culture desperate for spiritual guidance Race feminism homosexuality psychology environmentalism and notions of authority are some of the issues confronting Buddhism for the first time in its three thousand year history and are powerfully addressed here In recent years American Buddhism has been featured as a major story on ABC television news National Public Radio and in other national media A strong new Buddhist journalism is emerging in the United States and American Buddhism has made its way onto the Internet The faces of Buddhism in America are diverse active and growing and this book will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding this vital religious movement Buddhism is the fastest growing religion in the United States with adherents estimated in the several millions But what exactly defines a Buddhist This has been a much debated question in recent years particularly in regard to the religion's bifurca

The Dragon Run Tony Robinson-Smith, 2017-09-19 Tony Robinson Smith his wife Nadya and ten Bhutanese college students set out to run 578 kilometres 360 miles across the Kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalayas Joined by a stray dog they slogged over five mountain passes bathed in ice clogged streams ate over log fires and stopped at every store restaurant guesthouse and dzong to raise money for the Tarayana Foundation The Tara thon was the first endeavour of its kind and gave 350 village children the chance to go to school En route the Long Distance Dozen met a Buddhist lama a royal prince a Tibetan renegade and a matriarch who told them the secret to long life On arrival in Thimphu they were decorated by Her Majesty the Queen In this contemplative memoir Tony describes Bhutan in rich detail at a transformative period in its history and reflects on tradition belief modernization and happiness See the book trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVsWAbTHAQ>

Under the Holy Lake Ken Haigh, 2010-03-01 A child's face a forgotten scent or a distinctive flavour engages memory and inspires longing Ken Haigh brings us tantalizingly close to his own vision of longing for a place a people a time as he revisits those all too fleeting years as a young school teacher in the remote Himalayan village of Khaling Bhutan These experiences in an exotic country will leave you yearning for ancient Buddhist temples winding mountain trails and a simpler way of life This memoir will captivate the vicarious traveller in each of us

The Rough Guide to Nepal (Travel Guide eBook) Rough Guides, 2018-02-01 Discover this fascinating country with the most incisive and entertaining guidebook on the market Whether you plan to wander through Krakow's magnificent medieval Old Town hike in

the Tatra Mountains or relax on the Baltic coast The Rough Guide to Poland will show you the ideal places to sleep eat drink shop and visit along the way Independent trusted reviews written with Rough Guides trademark blend of humour honesty and insight to help you get the most out of your visit with options to suit every budget Full colour maps throughout navigate the cobbled alleys of Lublin or Warsaw s New Town without needing to get online Stunning images a rich collection of inspiring colour photography Things not to miss Rough Guides rundown of Poland s best sights and experiences Itineraries carefully planned routes to help you organize your trip Detailed regional coverage whether off the beaten track or in more mainstream tourist destinations this travel guide has in depth practical advice for every step of the way Areas covered include Warsaw Mazovia and L dz the Bay of Gdansk and the Wisla Delta Torun Mazuria and Podlasie Lublin Zamosc the Polish Carpathians Krak w and Malopolska the Tatras and the Pieniny Upper Silesia Wroclaw and Lower Silesia Wielkopolska Pomerania Attractions include the Mazurian Lakes wooden churches near Zakopane Auschwitz Birkenau Malbork Castle Kazimierz Dolny Slowinski national park Wieliczka Salt Mine Bialowieza national park Bieszczady national park Rynek Gl wny Krak w and much more Basics essential pre departure practical information including getting there local transport accommodation food and drink health the media festivals sports and outdoor activities and more Background information a Contexts chapter devoted to history books music and film plus a handy language section and glossary Make the Most of Your Time on Earth with The Rough Guide to Poland

Travelers' Tales Nepal Rajendra S. Khadka,1997 Gathers stories by Peter Matthiessen Jimmy Carter Diane Summers Broghtonoburn Meg Lukens Noonan and Jan Morris describing their adventures inepal *The Rough Guide to Nepal* Dave Reed,James McConnachie,2013-11-07 Now available in ePub format The Rough Guide to Nepal is the most passionate and knowledgeable guidebook to this inspiring country It offers an insider s guide to Kathmandu from its Tantric temples to its lively bar scene It details all the finest Himalayan treks with practical up to date and expert advice on when and where to go and what to take It covers all the National Parks offering advice and information on everything from tracking wildlife to hiring elephants Dedicated chapters are devoted to mountain biking white water rafting and other adventure sports and there is unrivaled detail on Buddhism Hinduism and the many ethnic groups that make Nepal a unique destination For ex pats and visitors alike the advice on health and cultural etiquette is second to none The Rough Guide to Nepal also contains scores of detailed maps that have been checked by hand on the ground covering everything from Pokhara and the Chitwan National Park to the Everest Base Camp trek Make the most of your time with The Rough Guide to Nepal

Sikkim Andrew Duff,2015-05-14 A history of larger than life characters and the demise of the tiny Himalayan kingdom nestled between India and China This is the true story of Sikkim a tiny Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas that survived the end of the British Empire only to be annexed by India in 1975 It tells the remarkable tale of Thondup Namgyal the last King of Sikkim and his American wife Hope Cooke thrust unwittingly into the spotlight as they sought support for Sikkim s independence after their fairytale wedding in 1963 As tensions between India and China spilled

over into war in the Himalayas Sikkim became a pawn in the Cold War in Asia during the 1960s and 1970s Rumors circulated that Hope was a CIA spy Meanwhile a shadowy Scottish adventuress the Kazini of Chakung married to Sikkim's leading political figure coordinated opposition to the Palace As the world's major powers jostled for regional supremacy during the early 1970s Sikkim and its ruling family never stood a chance On the eve of declaring an emergency across India Indira Gandhi outwitted everyone to bring down the curtain on the 300 year old Namgyal dynasty Based on interviews and archive research as well as a retracing of a journey the author's grandfather made in 1922 this is a thrilling romantic and informative glimpse of a real life Shangri La Praise for Sikkim A remarkable piece of detective work Fascinating human stories a very valuable addition to how the Cold War played out in South Asia and to the history of the foreign policies of China India and the U S Michael Burleigh author of The Best of Times the Worst of Times

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