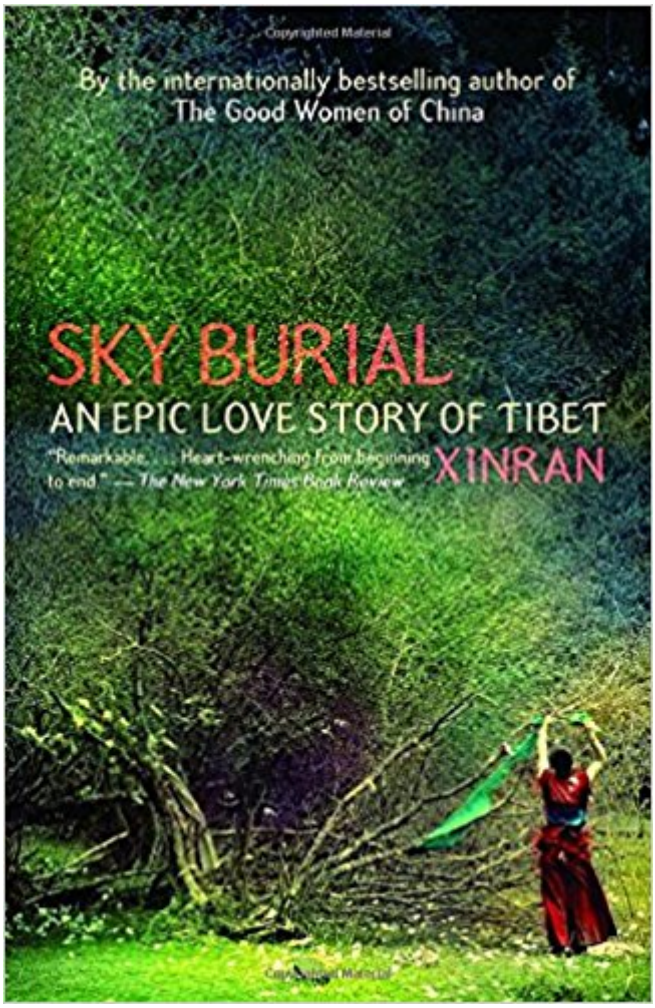
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Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story Of Tibet



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Synopsis

It was 1994 when Xinran, a journalist and the internationally acclaimed author of The Good Women of China, received a telephone call asking her to travel four hours to meet a woman who had just crossed the border from Tibet into China.Xinran made the trip and met the woman, called Shu Wen, who recounted the story of her thirty-year odyssey in the vast landscape of Tibet. In Sky Burial, Xinran has re-created Shu WenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey, painting an extraordinary portrait of a woman and a land, each at the mercy of fate and politics. It is an unforgettable, ultimately uplifting tale of love, loss, loyalty, and survival.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Inspired by a brief 1994 interview with an aged Chinese woman named Shu Wen, Beijing-born, London-based journalist Xinran (The Good Women of China) offers a delicately wrought account of Wen's 30-year search for her husband in Tibet, where he disappeared in 1958. After less than 100 days of marriage, Wen's husband, Kejun, a doctor in the People's Liberation Army, is posted to Tibet and two months later is reported killed. Stunned and disbelieving, 26-year-old Wen is determined to find Kejun herself; a doctor also, she gets herself posted to the isolated Tibetan area where Kejun had been. There, as one of the few women in the Chinese army, she endures much hardship and rescues a Tibetan noblewoman named Zhuoma. After being separated from her fellow soldiers in the wake of an ambush by Tibetan rebels, Wen, accompanied by Zhuoma, sets off on a trek through the harsh landscape. Years later, after going native with a tribe of yak herders, Wen learns the circumstances of Kejun's death and understands that her husband was caught in a fatal

misunderstanding between two vastly different cultures. Woven through with fascinating details of Tibetan culture and Buddhism, Xinran's story portrays a poignant, beautiful attempt at reconciliation. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In China these days, Tibet is all the rage: Beijing hipsters lounge in bars festooned with yak horns, pop divas sing ballads about Lhasa, and tourists mob the rooftop of the world. This novel, by a Beijing journalist now living in London, plays into the fantasy of the region as a Wild West populated by noble savages, with much to teach the cosmopolitan Chinese. Purporting to be a fictionalized account of a true story, it tells of a Chinese woman whose husband dies while on an Army expedition in Tibet, in 1958. She heads out west to learn the truth about his death, and winds up living with nomads for three decades, conveniently missing out on the Cultural Revolution. For American readers, the urge to mythologize the frontier will be familiar; but here there are no bad guys, only misunderstandings. Copyright Ã Â© 2005 The New Yorker --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the third book I've read by Xinran and I just ordered two more because this author writes like an angel. Her words are chosen with simplicity and meaning to create good, clear storytelling which actually requires a great deal of skill to pull off. The people spring to life and our emotions are stirred as we learn their life stories. In this particular book, I wonder what happened to Shu Wen after the tale is told. Did she find her family? Go to Beijing to rejoin her friends? Return to Tibet? I'm guessing most readers would love to know. Thank you, Xinran, for mastering your art and craft, and for sharing the fruits of your labors with all of us.

Probably the best book I was required to read since junior high, and that was The Outsiders. I am college now to give you an idea of how long that has been. The plot itself wasn't what made me like this but actually how much it talked about the Tibet culture and everything I learned about it as I knew nothing before hand. So from that standpoint I loved the book, the plot was an added bonus to me.To me it was quite interesting reading something that had a plot but so packed full of information and how it was written you can't help but to learn something new every time you read it, that is something I never experienced before outside of a textbook.

If your going to the Chinese Tibet border and want to learn about that area through reading a

fictional story this is a wonderful way to do it. It captures beautifully what life is like in the mountains of Tibet

I have been an avid reader since a child, and I would put this book in the top 5 of the best books I have read. Just an incredible story that even now is still fresh in my mind. And the author has written it so well, truly talented writer. I cannot say enough good things about this book, so dive right in for a very pleasant surprise.

I first read about Sky Burials back in the 1960s in Tuesday Lopsang Rampa'sÃ Â The Third Eye. During this past year I've been immersed in Eliot Pattison's Inspector Shan Tao Yun series which starts withÃ Â The Skull Mantra (Inspector Shan Tao Yun Novels). Both authors offer immense glimpses into the life & times & spirituality of Tibet.Xinran takes us to that Tibet through a new set of eyes: female, & seen from a young Chinese bride's point of view & her lifelong search for her husband. Along the way, she grows up & witnesses a change in how she feels & sees the world.Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet is told in simply lyrical language that will stir women's hearts & souls... & make you want to find what else this author has written.Very well done!

A very interesting book giving insights into Tibet.

This book makes me want to go to Tibet and journey through the holy mountains to look for the answers of all the unanswered questions. Truly beautiful.

I enjoyed reading Sky Burial. It's a fast read and the story is very interesting. The life of one chinese women and her love and loyalty to her husband is refreshing. At times unbelievable the story is compelling. Reading about Tibet and its people, the animals, and the family traditions is both educational and gives new understandings. The ending demonstrates a Buddhist tradition that I was unaware of, but it certainly expressed an understanding of many of the Buddhist precepts. Love gives meaning to our life, following one's heart 'no matter what' renders a life well lived.

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