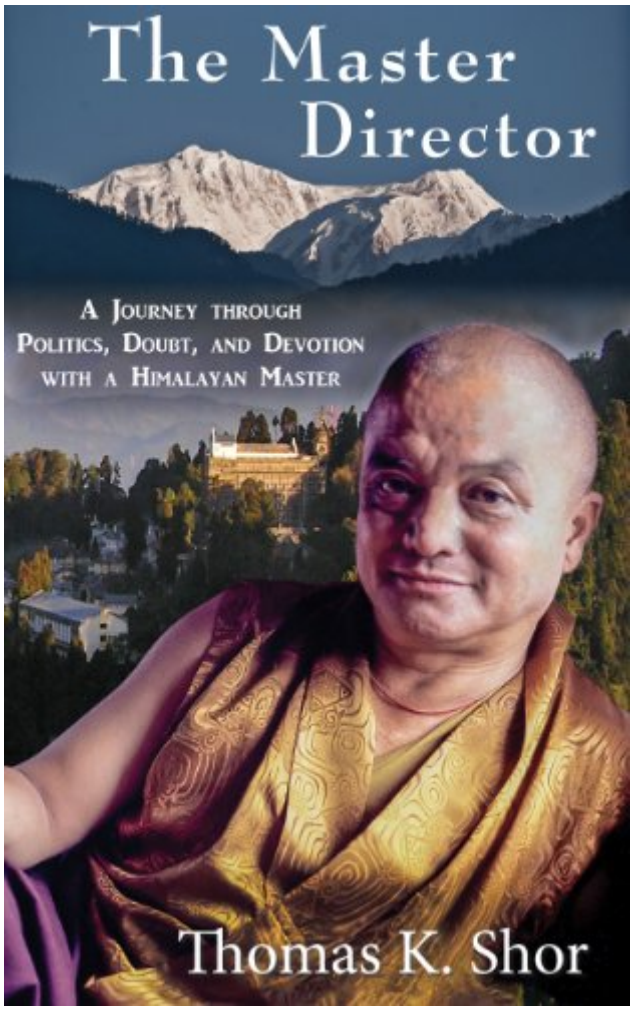
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The Master Director: A Journey Through Politics, Doubt And Devotion With A Himalayan Master



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Ëœ Maybe you shouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t go back to Darjeeling. It might not be safe for youÃ¢â ¬Â¦Ã¢â ¬â„¢ The lama was in the next room. It was 2 a.m. He was trying to calm his attendants. I think the boys wanted to kill me. This was my last day with Gurudev. In this riveting true story, when Thomas K. Shor, an adventuring American writer with an ear for unusual stories, wanders into a Himalayan mountain village and into the life of an enigmatic spiritual master known as Gurudev he has no idea of what he is getting into. As Gurudev, a Tibetan Buddhist lama, lavishes the author with presents and invites him into his inner circleÃ¢â ¬â •thereby offering him, and us, a unique glimpse into a masterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life and his teachingsÃ¢â ¬â •it seems destiny is at work. But what happens when it turns out the master has close ties with the local dictator and his henchmen and Shor finds himself being hosted at some of their houses? How is he to reconcile the religion of love with the violence of politics? GurudevÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬Ëœengaged BuddhismÃ¢â ¬â„¢ not only stretches common notions of morality, but also spins ShorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s moral compass. Ultimately, the author flees Darjeeling under physical threat and abandons the writing of this bookÃ¢â ¬â •until now. The Master Director, richly illustrated with over 60 photos, probes the limits of charisma and scepticism, devotion and doubt. And throughout, ShorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s captivating story treads the fine line of openness without credulity, and questioning without prejudice. While the warnings are many against mixing religion and politics, they combine in this entertaining tale set in the politically tumultuous foothills of IndiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eastern Himalayas to reveal profound insights into the nature of both the human and the divine.

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Customer Reviews

Fascinating story of the authors experience with an unusual guru. I liked the questions he raises as he attempts to understand this seemingly loving guru who gives away nearly everything he receives to others and yet allows his devotees to deify him and also allows corrupt political officials and thugs into his inner circle. How can this be? Is there something more sinister beneath the surface? Is this Guru a sham or political pawn or is he a selfless reincarnated Tulku who works within the society he is part of? On the way the reader gets a picture of a land far from western perspectives. I also enjoyed the authors other books: "A step away from Paradise" and "Windblown Clouds." Perceptive writer with a great visual gift for the terrain, and an understanding of Tibetan Buddhism and Hinduism.

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