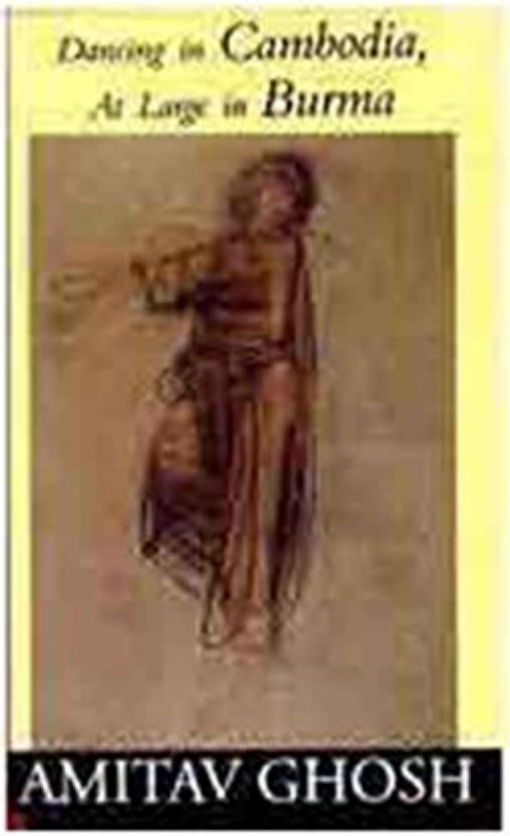
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# Dancing In Cambodia At Large In Burma




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## Synopsis

Dancing in Cambodia, At Large in Burma.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dancing in Cambodia, At Large in Burma.

What is exciting to me is reading stories of when an author has actually met up with old Burmese residents who were there when the country radically changed and have lived long enough to share their first hand memories. Although the piece (one of three in the slim book) was written 16 years ago, it’s at the forefront now with Burma finally opening up after being shuttered by the "authorities" for over half a century. Burma, once grand, is now one of the world’s most impoverished. The truth is here for all of us to read, as unbelievable as it is. By the end of the piece, the author expresses quite a discouraging change in attitude toward Aung San Suu Kyi noting her careful choice of words now and lack of spontaneity. He uses the word "politician" in a less-than-positive way. Perhaps he spent too much time speaking with Ma Thanegi, her former friend. Just why would he expect Suu Kyi to reveal her strategies in brief conversations when everything is in flux and he couldn’t possibly see the whole picture as she does? His brief dip into the camp of the rebel Karenni is interesting and beautifully described, but incomplete because of the brief time spent there.

This is a classic book. Get your hands on it if you can. It transports you to a different world both in prose and in vision. Ghosh writes clear and evocative prose. It is a true pleasure. We used his book

as a meta guide for our trip to Cambodia.

Retired CIS officer Ken Knaus spent 40 years following the history of Tibet, during which time he got to know the brother of the Dalai Lama very well and has since met the Dalai several times, so he was a witness to history of the Chinese takeover.By the time my wife and I on a Distant Horizens tour of Mongolia and Tibet arrived in 1997, the Chinese were in full charge and clearly we could witness in one major mining operation how the Chinese were exploiting, without apparent environmental concerns Tibet's natural resources.We traveled however seemingly unrestricted around Tibet in a rickety old bus and saw many sights of interest such as their monasteries, many being rebuilt after the Chinese had destroyed thousands of them. Our stop in Lhasa the capitol was of course a chance to visit the huge monastery which rises above the city to 13000 feet and contains huge Buddha shrines. The streets when we were there were thronged with people seemingly unfazed by their new overlords, but of course there was much blood shed in those intervening years.So the Chinese overpowered Tibet and Author Knaus gives us the opportunity to learn from his first hand observation the facts and nuances of this chapter in Tibet's long and fascinating history, but also takes us back to the beginnings of US relations there, a history previously very little covered. An interesting read by a thorough scholar.

The book comprises 3 pieces: 2 of them based in Cambodia (Dancing in Cambodia and Stories in Stones) and 1 in Myanmar/Burma (At Large in Burma). Like some of his other novels (In an antique land) and Amin Malouf's novels, 2 episodes separated by passage of time are inter-woven but linked a common thread; "Dancing in Cambodia" talks about the first ever visit of Cambodian Dance Troupe to France in 1906 and the authors quest for the remnants of this ancient art in the early 1990s in a country that was devastated by one of the worst holocausts of the present times "the Pol Pot Years". Irony is that some of the closest family members of Pol Pot or Saroth Sar, as he was known amongst friends and family; had to under-go the same ordeal as thousands of others. "They were sent off to a village of `old people', long-time Khmer Rouge sympathizers, and along with all other `new people', were made to work in the rice-fields."Stories in Stones look looks at Angkor Wat in context with the present day Cambodia.At Large in Burma, talks about contemporary political process in Burma where outsiders often give judgements before they understand the true nature of the country. Raked by civil war since its independence, Burma is almost a forgotten country on the world map. A country divided today as Myanmar of Yangon influence and of insurgent's territories; Burma is trying to find a future amongst the debris of the ethnic diversity of South-East Asia. "As in

many families - rebellion and violence are aspects of intimacy rather than a distance".

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