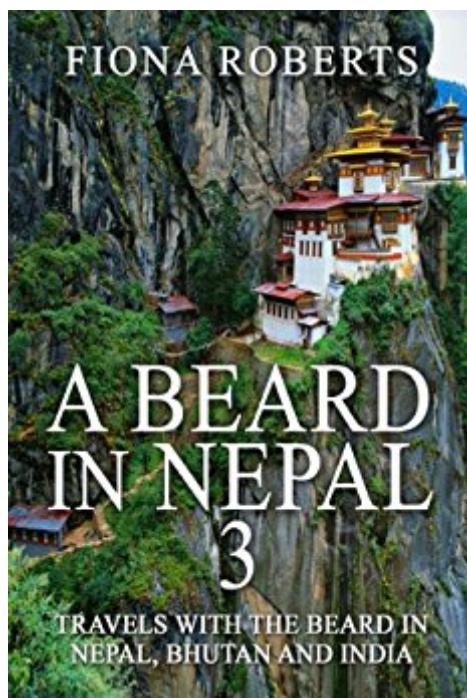


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A Beard In Nepal 3: Travels With The Beard In Nepal, Bhutan And India



Synopsis

Tod and Fiona visit Nepal for a third time, and meet up again with their friends who live in the small, isolated village of Salle, high up in the remote Everest Region of the country. Although this is the third book in the series, the reader does not have to have read the first two books in order to follow and enjoy the account and descriptions of this visit. It is an emotional and highly enjoyable trip, despite the presence of a massive spider and unspecified rodent in their room, and the couple catch up with Kalyani and her family, Molly, the village children, and Lucky the cockerel. This time Tod and Fiona also visit the tiny country of Bhutan, and climb up to the spectacularly beautiful Tiger's Nest Monastery, 10,000ft up in the Himalayas. Following a nerve jangling, rip roaring drive through part of India, they spend time in Darjeeling, and ride on the famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway - the Toy Train. Then it's a twenty hour, non stop drive back through India, across Nepal, and up into the Himalayan mountains at night, driving through blazing forests, until they reach Kathmandu again. A fast moving, humorous read, recommended not only for the hardened, intrepid traveler, but for the armchair variety too.

Book Information

File Size: 3710 KB

Print Length: 158 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1497541263

Publication Date: April 2, 2014

Sold by:Ã ª Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00JFUQOTW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,175,739 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #69

inÃ ª Books > Travel > Asia > Bhutan #74 inÃ ª Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction >

Travel > Asia > Nepal #189 inÃ ª Books > Travel > Asia > Nepal > General

Customer Reviews

Here's what I learned: Nepal has a lot of icky leeches; people in Nepal treat dogs badly; there are a lot of flies and trash; they grow a lot of pot in Chitwan; drivers and driving is crazy; people like foreigners' beards; it is really hard to walk up mountains when you are out of shape. There are hints of a more complex, interesting world: the author talks about a Buddhist cemetery, but then she later says most people have pictures of Hindu gods in their homes. There is no explanation about these two religions--who celebrates one and who the other, or why, or what sorts of tensions might accompany those divisions. There is just, well, nothing. Not only can I not believe this was actually published, but even more incredible are the positive reviews this "book" received. Basically, this is an extended version of a 6th-grade "What I Did For My Summer Vacation" essay. And now, I see volumes 2 and 3. Witlessness is apparently no obstacle to success. If you want something actually worth reading, then try *While the Gods Were Sleeping*. You might pick up some Nepali, and maybe even have a slightly better understanding of politics and social relations. But then again, you won't learn anything about beards . . .

Fans of the intrepid Fiona and Tod will delight in their new adventures in "A Beard in Nepal 3", and a real treat lies in store for new readers. Although our travelers are dismayed to see the deterioration since their last visit to Kathmandu, a two-day general strike does allow time for a restorative visit to the Garden of Dreams, a quiet haven in the noise and dust and chaos of that city. And then it's off to check in with Kalyani and her family, and former students and friends, in the village of Salle, a mere 12-13 hour bus ride away. After bidding Kalyani a tearful farewell, Fiona and Tod venture further afield. Along the way we encounter a yogic swan, a rural brick factory, a Tibetan pharmacy where a fit of giggles caused our friends to be banished to the outdoors to wait their turn, frogs that walk on water, a curious 5 hour 15 minute time difference and the Tiger's Nest Temple; a step back in time to visit the colonial vacation city of Darjeeling and take a ride on the old Darjeeling Railway, finishing with a rollicking ride through India. Through all of this, Fiona's descriptions and keen eye for local color and characters keep us turning the pages, eager to know what could possibly happen next. "A Beard in Nepal 3" is accessible to all, but readers unfamiliar with the earlier volumes will surely be tempted to go back to the beginning and I urge them to do so.

I bought this book because I had just traveled to Nepal and hiked through many of the villages and areas the author talks about. I really enjoyed her accurate description-- both good and bad points-- of Kathmandu and the villages. I think I most enjoyed her tales of travels on the incredibly poor

roads; roads we westerners can not even imagine having to traverse!! Her touching descriptions of the wonderful, friendly people was really great to read as we had much the same experiences. It's possible I enjoyed it more because I could get a good picture of all the things she described but I think even someone who hasn't been there can enjoy the book. It will just be more difficult to imagine some of the scenarios she describes but, believe me, they are spot on!! I'm looking forward to reading the 2nd book about their return to Nepal.

This is a diary of a British couple who went to Nepal to teach children in a remote village. The author does a great job describing nature, conditions, living habits of Nepalese people, etc. - everything with a warm personal touch. I really started to love Nepal after reading this book! I hope that my expectations will be matched after I visit this country (I am in fact planning such a trip and this is the main reason why I decided to read this book). The narration of the book follows no pre-defined pattern, for example, it describes the habits of children in the school in the very end of the book, even though teaching was the primary purpose of visiting this village, so it'd possibly make more sense to talk about teaching somewhere in the beginning. So, it seems that the author writes about whatever comes to the head, and this is probably not too bad. This is why the book looks more like a live chat with the travellers, rather than a traditional novel book. And yes, you'd really want to read it from cover to cover non-stop.

The author of this memoir and her husband Tod (the guy with the beard) volunteered to teach in the mountains of Nepal, not far from the Everest Base Camp. Their adventures with children, dogs, villagers, mountains, buses, and bureaucracy are told with humor and with affection for Nepal. I read this memoir just after returning from Nepal and found it rang true, although Fiona's and Tod's living conditions were far more primitive and their experiences in Kathmandu more frustrating and chaotic than my own experiences protected by a tour guide. I admired their determination. Their learning experiences and adventures were interesting, and the book was easy reading.

Although this was an enjoyable travel memoir, I found it all too easy to put down for a couple of months. This book helped to dispel my romanticized views of Nepal and Tibet. The writing is very accessible and peppered with bits of British humor! I am surprised that the author didn't see/discuss really any Hindu or Buddhist things. [Specific rating: 3.5 / 5 stars]

Especially if you have been to India or Nepal, you will be TOTALLY immersed in the whole

experience...all over again. You know you are not in Kansas, Toto. My only complaint is I would liked to have learned more of their effectiveness in the teaching of the children.

Fiona Roberts went to Nepal to teach the children in a mountain village. She tells her story and her husband's in a humorous way, but takes you to Nepal and it's traditions. You feel like you are really there. It is cold, steep roads, hard beds, and a loving people so interested in a Westerner. No where does she go without an audience. A wonderful read, and there is a sequel too!

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