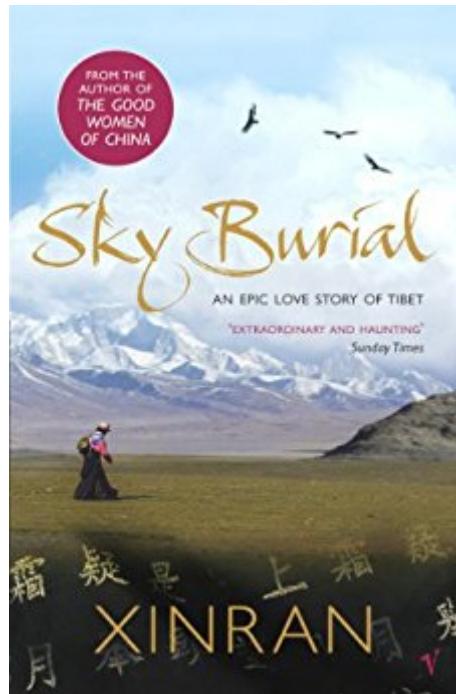


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# Sky Burial



## **Synopsis**

As a young girl in China Xinran heard a rumour about a soldier in Tibet who had been brutally fed to the vultures in a ritual known as a sky burial: the tale frightened and fascinated her. Several decades later Xinran met Shu Wan, a Chinese woman who had spent years searching for her missing husband who had been serving as a doctor in Tibet; her extraordinary life story would unravel the legend of the sky burial. For thirty years she was lost in the wild and alien landscape of Tibet, in the vast and silent plateaus and the magisterial mountain ranges, living with communities of nomads moving with the seasons and struggling to survive. In this haunting book, Xinran recreates Shu Wen's remarkable journey in an epic story of love, loss, loyalty and survival. Moving, shocking and, ultimately, uplifting Sky Burial paints a unique portrait of a woman and a land, both at the mercy of fate and politics.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 729 KB

Print Length: 226 pages

Publisher: Vintage Digital; New Ed edition (October 31, 2010)

Publication Date: October 31, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B0048EK3W4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #621,813 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

inÃ  Books > Travel > Asia > Tibet #934 inÃ  Books > Travel > Asia > General #1036

inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia

## **Customer Reviews**

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 you're 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's "The Third Eye." During this past year I've been immersed in Eliot Pattison's Inspector Shan Tao Yun series which starts with "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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