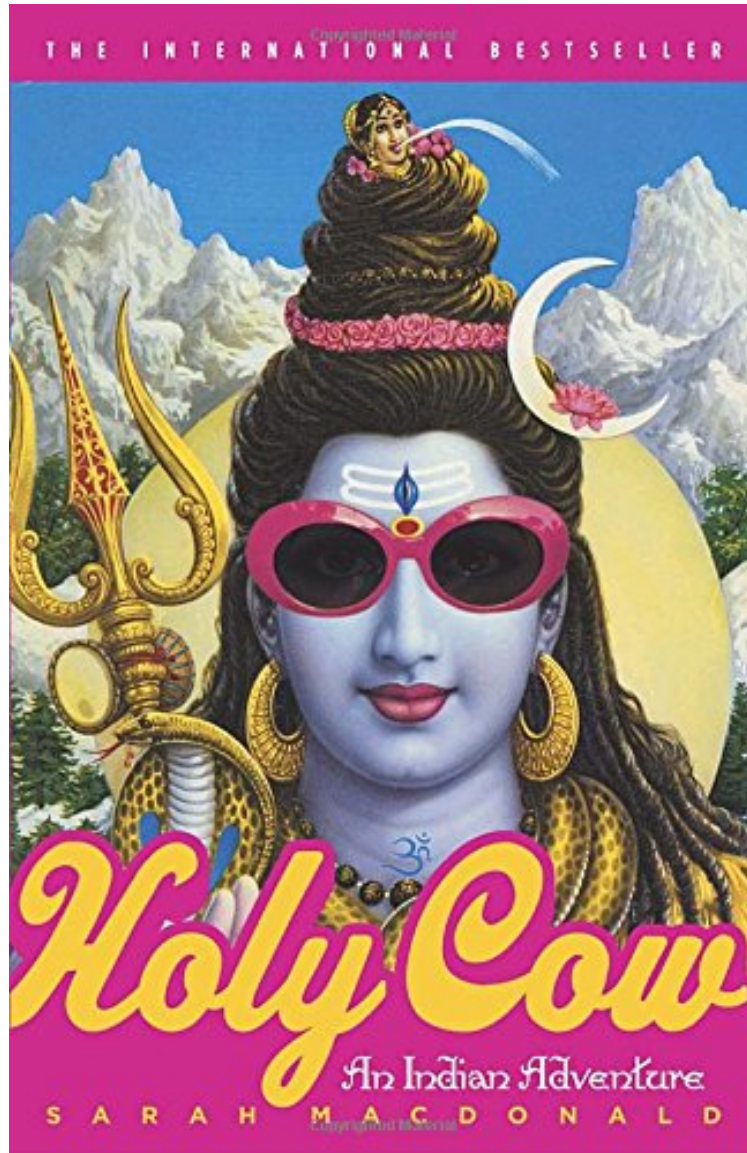


[Mobile book] Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure

Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure

Sarah Macdonald

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#205202 in Books Broadway Books 2004-04-13 2004-04-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .68 x 5.181, .63 #File Name: 0767915747291 pagesGreat product! | File size: 71.Mb

Sarah Macdonald : Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Engaging and Readable Personal Story - A JOY to readBy CameronI had such fun reading this book - as I hope the author had writing it. She paints a colourful and engaging look at India and at her own exploration of her spirituality.I felt privileged to literally be an armchair traveler with her as she

explores ins and outs of Indian life and many different facets of a variety of spiritual / religious paths she examined. This is neither a treatise on Indian Religions, nor on Indian Culture but a very personal, honest discussion of her own time living in India. As such it is at times funny, at times heart felt, at times poignant and at ALL times, Captivating. It was a real "Page Turner" for me, not in the sense of being a thriller, but in the sense that I was entirely fascinated her her life. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fun read with interesting insights into spirituality in India. By Amanda I picked up *Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure* after it was recommended to me by a fellow India traveler during my most recent trip to the country. I thought it was a great read: witty, lighthearted, and at times touching. Having traveled to many of the same places, and even attending some of the same spiritual retreats, I thought it gave a very honest look at India and spirituality. So when I logged on to after finishing it, I was really surprised to see so many negative reviews. But after skimming all the one stars, I realized that they were mostly written by Indians who felt the book insulted their country. Given that I'm not Indian and have never lived in India, I can only say that they are certainly entitled to their opinions. But I will note that many of the Indian reviewers said that they picked up the book to get a perspective on how western travelers view their country, and in that regard I think they got what they asked for. I recently spent several weeks in India, as have many of my friends, and I think the author provides an accurate description of the culture shock many of us feel when we arrive. Delhi is overcrowded, there is extreme poverty, the pollution is worse than anywhere else I've traveled, and there continues to be significant sexism. While there did seem to be some embellishment for the sake of the storyline (or maybe it seemed that way to me because her adventure began 10-15 years before mine), overall I could really relate to the author's experience. Moreover, critics should note that the author grows to love the country and all its eclectic religious practices, ultimately sobbing as she finally leaves for good. I would encourage readers to keep an open mind and try not to take it too seriously. This is just one woman's perspective on her time in India, and like it or not many other western reviewers have indicated that they can relate to it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A year of discovery in India. By David Yaffe. This book was recommended to me by an Indian colleague as a way of introduction before my trip to India. *Holy Cow* is part travelogue, part story of self discovery in a land of tremendous variety and a billion people looking for spiritual health through innumerable religious entry points. Her initial suspicious engagement with India to pursue a romantic relationship becomes a search for keys to her soul. This book only heightened my anticipation for my trip to encounter an ancient and modern country that apparently defies easy description.

In her twenties, journalist Sarah Macdonald backpacked around India and came away with a lasting impression of heat, pollution and poverty. So when an airport beggar read her palm and told her she would return to India and for love she screamed, Never! and gave the country, and him, the finger. But eleven years later, the prophecy comes true. When the love of Sarah's life is posted to India, she quits her dream job to move to the most polluted city on earth, New Delhi. For Sarah this seems like the ultimate sacrifice for love, and it almost kills her, literally. Just settled, she falls dangerously ill with double pneumonia, an experience that compels her to face some serious questions about her own fragile mortality and inner spiritual void. I must find peace in the only place possible in India, she concludes. Within. Thus begins her journey of discovery through India in search of the meaning of life and death. *Holy Cow* is Macdonald's often hilarious chronicle of her adventures in a land of chaos and contradiction, of encounters with Hinduism, Islam and Jainism, Sufis, Sikhs, Parsis and Christians and a kaleidoscope of yogis, swamis and Bollywood stars. From spiritual retreats and crumbling nirvanas to war zones and New Delhi nightclubs, it is a journey that only a woman on a mission to save her soul, her love life and her sanity can survive.

From Publishers Weekly. Australian radio correspondent Macdonald's rollicking memoir recounts the two years she spent in India when her boyfriend, Jonathan, a TV news correspondent, was assigned to New Delhi. Leaving behind her own budding career, she spends her sabbatical traveling around the country, sampling India's "spiritual smorgasbord": attending a silent retreat for Vipassana meditation, seeking out a Sikh Ayurvedic "miracle healer," bathing in the Ganges with Hindus, studying Buddhism in Dharamsala, dabbling in Judaism with Israeli tourists, dipping into Parsi practices in Mumbai, visiting an ashram in Kerala, attending a Christian festival in Velangani and singing with Sufis. Paralleling Macdonald's spiritual journey is her evolution as a writer; she trades her sometimes glib remarks ("I've always thought it hilarious that Indian people chose the most boring, domesticated, compliant and stupidest animal on earth to adore") and 1980s song title references (e.g., "Karma Chameleon") for a more sensitive tone and a sober understanding that neither mocks nor romanticizes Indian culture and the Western visitors who embrace it. The book ends on a serious note, when September 11 shakes Macdonald's faith and Jonathan, now her husband, is sent to cover the war in Afghanistan. Macdonald is less compelling when writing about herself, her career and her relationship than when she is describing spiritual centers, New Delhi nightclubs and Bollywood cinema. Still, she brings a reporter's curiosity, interviewing skills and eye for detail to everything she encounters, and winningly captures "[t]he drama, the dharma, the innocent exuberance of the festivals, the intensity of the living, the piety in playfulness and the embrace of living day by day...--he drama, the dharma, the innocent exuberance of the festivals, the

intensity of the living, the piety in playfulness and the embrace of living day by day." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Australian MacDonald didn't fall in love with India her first time there, at age 21. So when her boyfriend, Jonathan, a reporter for ABC, is sent there for work, she reluctantly follows after a year of separation. At first, life in India is as bad as she remembered it-- overcrowded, smoggy, disturbing. A serious bout of pneumonia puts her in an Indian hospital, but as she recovers, she begins to make friends in India and to understand the culture. She finds herself attending lavish Indian weddings and trying to comfort her friend Padma, whose mother commits suicide after Padma marries without her permission. MacDonald makes an effort to understand the many diverse religions of the area, including taking a 10-day sojourn in a Buddhist temple and discussing religion with Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, and even a group of visiting Israelis. With Jonathan, she takes a trip to war-torn Kashmir, an area that is at once achingly beautiful and devastatingly dangerous. A lively, snappy travelogue. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A wonderfully honest and soul-searching book . . . Macdonald writes with clarity and humor about India and its many paths to enlightenment. Travel (Australia)