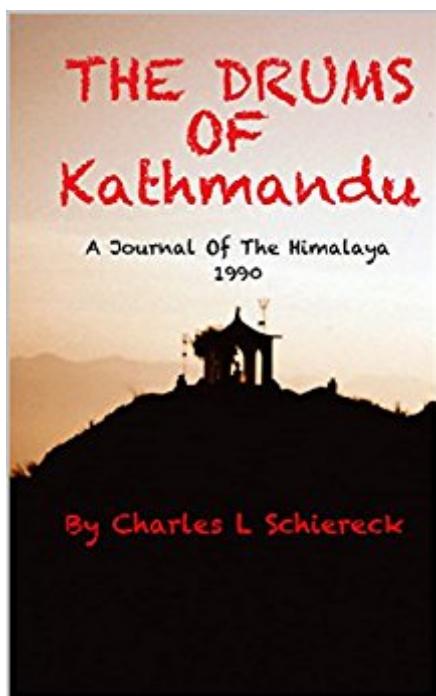


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The Drums Of Kathmandu: A Journal Of The Himalaya - 1990



Synopsis

April 1990: Whatever was brewing in Kathmandu that spring was flying well below the radar. We'd come to hike among the Himalaya, photograph the scenery and experience the mountain cultures as we made our way to the Everest Region. However Nepal was in the throes of a rapidly degenerating political crisis that no one saw coming; the start of the Nepalese Civil War would take us all by surprise. At the time, Kathmandu was considered one of the world's most remote destinations, physically and spiritually. "Going to Kathmandu" was a euphemism for disappearing. Bob Seger and Cat Stevens sang about it but they both got the spelling wrong. Ruled by a king, an absolute monarch, it seemed as if Nepal would be forever anchored in the past. However, winds were blowing, and walls were coming down. Those same winds were about to blow us in; strangers with strange ideas come to see the wonders. Willing to travel, to put up with hardships, and to pay the high cost, two men from the future would arrive from the sky, and like more intrepid explorers before them, were unprepared for what they'd find. Scrambling to get out of a city that was quickly burning its bridges, our new destination was the Langtang Valley "Nepal's first National Park. Remote and rarely visited, we were well compensated by the staggering beauty, empty trails, and the cultural isolation as we climbed up into the Langtang Himal. A massive earthquake in 2015 obliterated much of what we saw there; thousands died or are still unaccounted for. The village of Lang Tang, high up in the valley was swept away with no survivors. While hardly "Shangri-La", we'd spent a long afternoon in the sun and a memorable night in a quiet snowfall. These are haunting memories that darken this journal.

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Customer Reviews

The Drums of Kathmandu is a terrific follow-up to the author's first travel memoir, *Alone in the Wind*, which recounts a motorcycle trip across America. Mr. Schiereck again takes us back in time, this time to 1990, and then hundreds of years still further back in time, as his travels through the Far East unfold. The story is amusing, informative, and incredibly poignant. But rather than clinging to the side of some jagged cliff, the story is peppered with laugh-out-loud anecdotes regarding the latest meal cooked up by the team's chef, and the mechanical ingenuity and gyrations necessary to keep their transport vehicle moving. And yet, scenes of incredible beauty are brought to life by Mr. Schiereck, who has an eye for seeing, in the simplest things, that which joins us all together in humanity. If you're looking to read about someone conquering Everest, this may not be your story. But if you'd like to experience, firsthand, a slice of life you'll likely never see but are curious to understand, this look at late 20th century Nepal, before tourism took hold and spoiled it, or at least changed it forever, this book may be your ticket. Bravo!

Loved it! This is one man's journalistic writings of a time captured while traveling in a country most of us will never see, but we have all heard about at one time or another. Historically informative, his narrative drew me in and I felt like I was walking (or "trekking") alongside of him. The numerous photographs enhanced the reading material and further drew me in to the story. I also appreciated the Appendix Notes that gave further testimony, resources and information relevant to Kathmandu, Nepal. In reading this book, I learned things I never knew about a country, its culture and its people. A good read!

A truly great read. Through his writing and photography Schiereck has captured what it was like to travel in a place seemingly frozen in time. While reading it I really felt a sense of what it was like to be there. The quotes at the chapter beginnings and all the historical references were great elements that added a lot of perspective. You will love this book!

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