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Kingdoms in the Air: Dispatches from the Far Away

Bob Shacochis

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KINGDOMS IN THE AIR Dispatches from the Far Away



NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER
BOB SHACOCHIS

"What other American writer has put as much heart into his creations,
as much drive, as much history?"—*Los Angeles Review of Books*

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Bob Shacochis : Kingdoms in the Air: Dispatches from the Far Away before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kingdoms in the Air: Dispatches from the Far Away:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great... almost all the way throughBy Christopher RoweThe portion on Nepal was great, but some of the rest was a little preachy and self serving0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not up to Pico IyerBy bagomanI was hoping to read another Video Night in Khatmandu, but this was far less interesting. I found it to be glib and lacking in substance.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative

and PoeticBy SharonKathleenJohnsonShacochi's political analysis of developing nations is enlightening and complex at the same time. His ability to look into the contradictions and non sequiturs that abound at the crossroads of ancient culture and encroaching industrialization is acute; I came away fully convinced that I had visited and been immersed in these obscure and sometimes dangerous corners of the world. His descriptions of the island of Providence, as well as his musings on the American military-industrial complex at the end of this travelogue, were scintillating and some of the best prose I've ever read. And I'm an English Literature major! I don't have to board a jet and suffer through en route turbulence or breach dangerous war zones to travel the world--with this book, I can do that vicariously. And come away with a deeper more comprehensive knowledge of world politics at the same time!

Shacochis has extended his knowledge and imagination into places most of us have never ventured. Washington PostBest known for his sweeping international and political fiction narratives, including *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*, which won the Dayton Peace Prize and was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Bob Shacochis began his writing career as a pioneering journalist and contributing editor for *Outside Magazine* and *Harpers*. *Kingdoms in the Air* brings together the very best of Shacochis's culture and travel essays in one livewire collection that spans his global adventures and his life passions; from surfing, to his obsession with the South American dorado, to the time he went bushwhacking in Mozambique. In the titular essay *Kingdoms*, the longest work in the collection, Shacochis ventures to Nepal with his friend, the photographer, Thomas Laird, who was the first foreigner to live in Nepal's kingdom of Mustang as the forbidden Shangri-la prepared to open its borders to trekkers and trade. When the two men return a decade after Laird first lived there, Shacochis observes in brilliantly evocative prose both the current cultural and political landscape of the country and the changes that his friend has to reconcile with. Replete with Shacochis's signature swagger, humor, and crystalline wisdom, *Kingdoms in the Air* is a majestic and essential collection from one of our most important writers.

Praise for *KINGDOMS IN THE AIR*The pieces collected in *Kingdoms in the Air* are vivid portraits of iconoclasts and rugged individualists who have surrendered their Western comforts for adventure and higher purpose in the developing world . . . Shacochis evokes the pains and pleasures of [his] trek with lyrical prose. *New York Times Book*