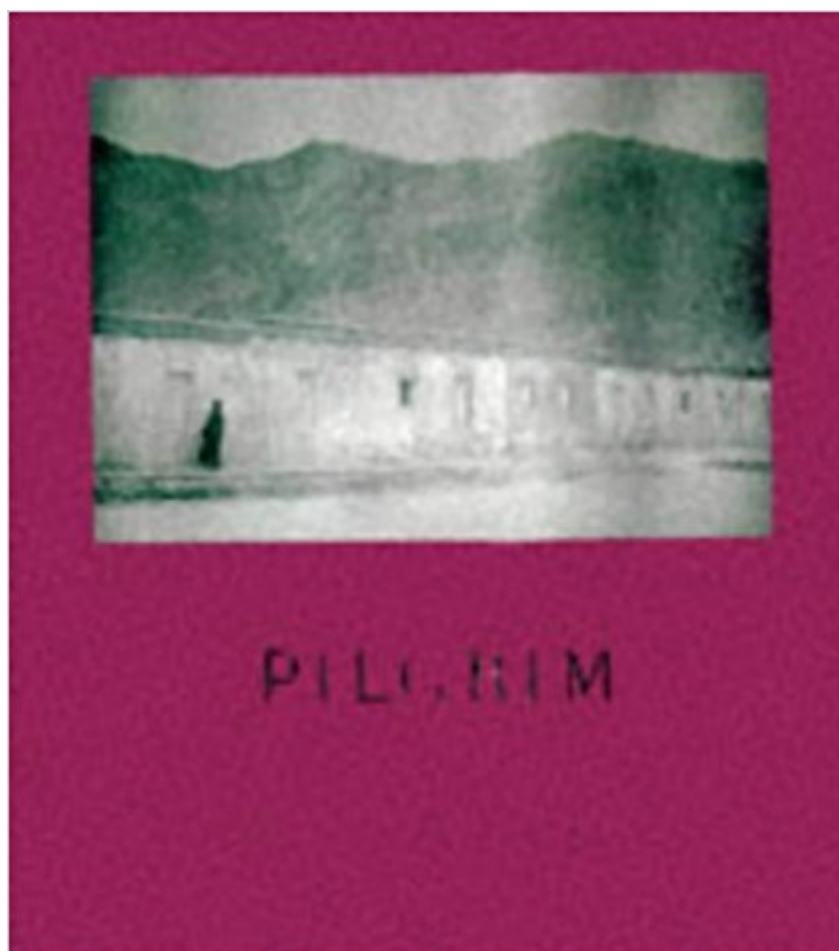


The book was found

Pilgrim



Synopsis

Richard Gere has pursued and developed an interest in photography since childhood. This is a volume of the photographs he has taken in the last 15 years of his friendship with and study under the Dalai Lama. They document his trips through India, Nepal and Tibet, and his own spiritual journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gere is the most conspicuous of the so-called celebrity Buddhists, a position he has used to make known the suffering of Tibet under Chinese oppression and the tragedy of Tibetan exiles, including his friend and teacher, the Dalai Lama, but it will come as a surprise to many that Gere spends an equal, if not greater, amount of time behind the camera as he does in front. His haunting black-and-white photographs are presented with much fanfare in this beautifully produced volume, and they do not disappoint. Just as Gere's travels throughout India, Nepal, and Tibet determined his subject matter, his spiritual practice served as the source of their unusual and evocative energy. Gere's painterly photographs capture the motion that occurs even in stillness, and they possess surprising depth; the longer you gaze at them, the more you see. Some are detailed; others explore the stark contrast between shadow and light, and all subtly evoke the contrast between the cruelty of the Chinese army and the compassion of Tibetan Buddhists. Donna Seaman

Superb images and the print quality of the book largely make them justice. Richard Gere definitely as

a sharp eye, his images are very poetic. I've also learnt a few facts about China's doing in Tibet, this is saddening and eye opening at the same time. A very recommended book.

The forward and introduction to this book is quite sobering. The photos depict a way of life that seems to be on its way out if the Tibetans are not liberated from the oppressive regime that is the Chinese government. The photos are in black and white but I see color. I am captivated by the stark landscapes, the warm smiles and quiet resolve of the people in these photos. Beautifully done!

Though I hope to visit Tibet one day in person, Pilgrim gave me an intimate look. I especially liked that the photo captions were not under each photo, but rather at the very end of the book. This gave me freedom to see everything without my mind attributing facts. There is more to say, but then your mind might think of what I have written here when you turn the pages of Pilgrim.

very moving

I only recently discovered this book and feel fortunate to have found a copy in excellent condition. Its 12"x13" size makes it feel like a friend sharing an album of photos that are very important to him. For me, viewing the photos first and then reading the descriptions in the back of the book made it quite a meaningful experience. The words of the Dalai Lama and Mr. Gere's eloquent introduction helped me to better understand and empathize with the people of Tibet. I am thankful for his compassion and will keep this book available in my home to share with others.

Richard has access to places most people do not. Take, for example, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness is not accessible to you and I on the level that Richard has. Richard shares private photos, such as plate 63 where His Holiness is in meditation. The photo alone portrays a depth of intensity that the experience offers. Richard also has a true sense of the tragedy of the Tibetan people and can deliver that in a light that few people can ever grasp, even after several trips to the region. Richard is the Pilgrim and we are fortunate to be able to see things in a way he does. Very few photographers can say that of their work. Perhaps it is due to his experience in film, perhaps as a result of his practice as a buddhist, maybe just because the openness of his sharing is felt in his work, regardless of the medium. Thank you my friend for sharing your life with us and a wonderful book.

I cannot look at this book without crying. It is very beautiful yet pierces my heart with sadness, I believe that the plight of Tibet is the canary of our planet. This book is about an amazing and gentle people and my hope and prayer is that it will generate more compassion . The text is very direct and simple and is not next to the photos but at the back. One quote stuck in my mind, "It's all ego." You can see these photos with your heart and they will melt it, if you are open.

The pictures are not supposed to show images but meanings. That's exactly what they do. They are visual metaphors, inviting us to see what is not visible. The first one, more than any other, in its deep beauty, allows us to catch a glimpse of a spiritual state or an epiphany. If I had taken it I would feel forced to share it with everyone, as Mr. Gere kindly did.

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