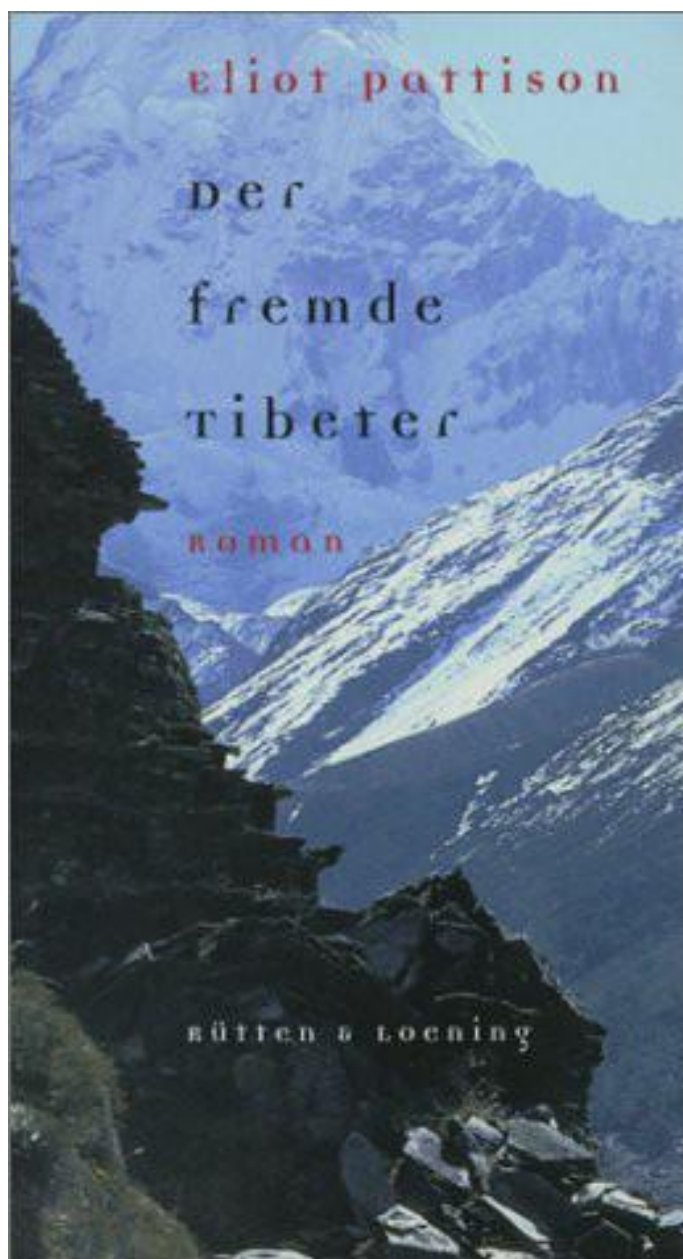

Eliot Pattison

Der fremde Tibeter (Inspector Shan #1)



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Description

Tibet unter chinesischer Herrschaft. Schauplatz der Handlung ist das Arbeitslager 404 hoch in den Bergen des Himalaya, das mit dem Bau einer Straße durch das Hochgebirge beauftragt ist. Hauptsächlich Mönche der aufgelösten und zerstörten tibetischen Klöster verrichten hier Zwangsarbeit, aber auch Shan, vor Jahren hoher politischer Funktionär und Ermittler in Korruptionsfällen, der der Konterrevolution beschuldigt worden war, ohne sich eines Vergehens bewusst zu sein. Shan hat Freunde unter den Mönchen gefunden, hat sich mit deren Lebensweise beschäftigt und steht seinem bisherigen Leben distanziert gegenüber.

Eine Leiche ohne Kopf wird von den Häftlingen gefunden. Das fehlende Stück findet sich schließlich in einem buddhistischen Schrein und legt offen, dass es sich bei dem Toten um den chinesischen Polizeichef der Region handelt. Shan wird vom Befehlshaber des Arbeitslagers von seinen dortigen Aufgaben entbunden und mit der Aufklärung des Falles beauftragt. Doch als man ihm einen Schuldigen in Gestalt eines tibetischen Mönchs präsentiert, wird Shan endgültig misstrauisch.

Insightful reviews

Joyce Lagow: 1st in the Inspector Shan Tao Yun series, set in contemporary Tibet.[return][return]Shan, a former inspector in the Ministry of Justice in Beijing, is now a prisoner in a hard labor brigade in Tibet, having suddenly fallen out of favor with the Minister. He is the only Chinese in a work gang of Tibetan Buddhist monks. After 4 years with the monks, learning from them as they continue to teach and practice their religion, Shan himself is more Tibetan than Chinese.[return][return]But after the discovery of the decapitated body of the prosecutor for Lhadrung County, Colonel Tan, who is in charge of the military forces of the labor camp, pulls Shan out of the brigade and puts him to work investigating the murder. Shan agrees only because a monk is accused of the murder, which Shan knows to be impossible. The Tibetans believe that it is the work of Tamdin, a protective demon, who has been awakened by the road construction on a sacred mountain. The investigation inevitably, in Chinese Communist-run Tibet, takes on an ugly political dimension, making Shan's task more difficult and more dangerous since he seems to be competing against opposing political factions.[return][return]A debut novel, this is an uneven book, as much of the earlier part of the plot is confusing. What saves the story is Pattison's depiction of Tibet and its suffering under Chinese rule. Pattison gives an especially powerful and sympathetic--one could call it empathetic--view of Tibetan Buddhism, the role it plays in the lives of ordinary Tibetans, and the courage of the Tibetan monks to continue to uphold their values in the face of daily persecution and degradation. [return][return]The plot itself is good, involving as it does Tibetan beliefs as an integral part of the story. It's a rather straightforward police procedural with no real twists, but good enough to sustain the plot. The real story is, of course, Tibet.[return][return]The weakest part of the plot involves Americans who are operating a boron mine in the area. They and their motives do strain credulity, but in the end, they are the least important aspect of the book; the most important is Tibet, its people, and the fidelity of those people to an ancient way of life.[return][return]A promising start, with an unusual protagonist and an exotic locale.

Monica: Interesting to read the mixed reviews about this book, which I freaking LOVED and blew through in three nights.

The Tibetan setting is fascinating and beautifully rendered, and I learned an enormous amount about the Buddhist religion. I also liked that while the Chinese regime is depicted as horrifically brutal as most oppressive regimes are, Pattison has still created sympathetic, human Chinese characters and resisted the easy temptation to reduce the Tibetan vs. Chinese struggle into a cartoonish us-against-them situation.

Even though I loved this book, I'm debating reading the others in the series. I think the conclusion of the story was perfect, and I may prefer to leave it as it is.

J: BEWARE OF SPOILERS. I DON'T HIDE OR PROMOTE MY REVIEWS.

How can one book be so bleak and so uplifting?

I've not studied Tibet, so I don't independently know whether Pattison got the land and culture right (except for broad political outlines in recent Tibetan history, which I am familiar with.)

But it sure seems as though the author spent years absorbing the environment.

The hero, Shan -- an independent-thinking political prisoner who's ethnic Chinese -- is plucked from his Tibetan work camp to use the skills acquired in his pre-disgraced life as an anti-corruption investigator in China proper.

Shan is brilliant but humble. Kind. Stubborn. Almost impervious to the criticism of others, but self-condemning.

He's got mere days to figure out a suspicious death that threatens to make the prison's director and assorted other bigwigs look bad. He also has to deal with the natural distrust of the Tibetans towards the Chinese.

Shan's not willing to produce a white wash just to please the bigwigs. But if he doesn't solve the crime, the director has said Shan's fellow inmates will be killed.

Shan is intuitive as well as a keen observer. Not only of obscure or seemingly trivial facts that, together, point toward the truth about the crime. But, also, of the tragedies and failures in the lives of those he comes across.

That covers the prison official who forced Shan onto the case, his fellow prisoners, corrupt officials, lowly peasants, Tibetan priests of iron character, American engineers on a local mining project, and one fallen priest.

Most of the book, I felt at least two steps behind Shan. To a certain extent -- and I'm embarrassed to say this -- I had a hard time keeping straight which exotic Chinese or Tibetan name belonged to which character. That confusion sometimes hampered my understanding of

the story.

But at other times I was thinking that Pattison, more than some authors, really does skip some segments of the lines he's drawing, which forces the reader to either connect the dots herself or to proceed reading in a faith that eventually more will make sense. I did a bit of both.

Toward the end, however, I did correctly anticipate a few things. That Jao's secretary would be dead, and that perhaps Kinkaid(spell?) was involved in something shady.

I loved the way the indigenous Tibetan prisoners used traditional mudras (Buddhist hand positions) almost like gang signs, to communicate with each other when the guards aren't paying attention. But I'm probably imposing some Western conceit on the behavior, as Pattison portrays these Tibetans as living their spirituality in everyday routines, down to the hand gestures.

I'm glad this series has other books about Shan already waiting for me!

HBalikov: a firstclass mystery! A chinese language political prisoner, now on a street gang in Tibet unearths himself compelled to enquire a beheading whilst the corpse turns up at the building site. I realized much approximately Tibet background and its people, and nearly as a lot approximately Buddhism. Pattison does this whereas now not breaking the plot. He has a superb feel of characterization and, on the end, you do not doubt that issues occurred within the approach they did. One query remains: How quickly do I decide up one other of his books?Aside: these things is usually an issue of taste. i've got learn many of the different experiences and may reply during this way:There isn't any major torture defined even though there's adequate implied. i'm usually get rid of through the hole scenes within the television series, Bones, yet this used to be no longer of that point of description or visualization.The argument that this ebook resembles a few of Tony Hillerman's, aside from location, turns out valid. rather within the conflict of 2 cultures. Hillerman's books weren't all on the related point of storytelling. when you like Hillerman, you may take pleasure in this as well.Another evaluation famous that Shan is an identical personality to Martin Cruz Smith's Akady Renko. this can be really actual within the similar feel as a vintage Philip Marlowe. we've got the crusading knight out to find the reality - it doesn't matter what the cost. Like Renko he has to conflict a frequently adversarial bureaucracy. if you happen to loved Polar Star, you may take pleasure in this as well.

Orinoco Womble (tidy bag and all): I had was hoping to take pleasure in this booklet way more than I did. It began enticing and interesting, yet then below midway via it turned convoluted, diffuse and confusing. a part of that could be that i am spoiled by way of the books of writers like Qiu Xiaolong--people who truly grew up in China/Asia/the tradition they're writing about, and will translate that (literally) into the English secret novel medium. one other half should be that this can be a first novel, and if Pattison already expected a sequence (and all of them appear to, those days) he could have fallen into the temptation to pack as a lot history as attainable into the 1st volume. Or indeed, he could be a seeker in Buddhism himself, i have no idea. For these of his readers who're not, it may be a section extraneous. i would quite wish to get an Asian/Sino-american's response to this book. or perhaps a Tibetan's. yet i'm wondering if many

have learn it. whilst a state of affairs will get difficult, Pattison's answer turns out to be--start a brand new paragraph and speak about whatever different. a bit like these priests who preserve showing and disappearing. Too many threads, too many characters, an excessive amount of wandering and wondering--fine in its place, however the solution of the secret was once anticlimactic and did not appear to be hooked up to all that went before. The "bad guy" after all seems to be one of many "good guys"--or probably he by no means was once either. many of the overseas phrases are defined, quite the tools touching on temple worship, yet loads of them are only left--and the context does not let you know what the observe means. now not good, given that few Western readers have entry to an English/Tibetan dictionary. Is the discerning reader "supposed" to understand already? a bit an excessive amount of soap-boxing, by means of all people however the monks, or even then Yeshe... i used to be left dissatisfied, feeling that with a bit extra enhancing and a spotlight to constitution (not detail, there is some distance an excessive amount of element already) the writing might have been tightened up and made for a great page-turning read. Will I learn one other Pattison novel? Maybe, yet he will need to seize my awareness and carry it, and never simply wander off.

Yvonne: 3.5 Stars the most character, Shan Tao Yung, a former inspector, has been in a gulag in Tibet for the earlier three years engaged on street development within the mountains. Shan is the lone chinese language prisoner among the Tibetans simply because whereas investigating a crime, he forgot quickly in regards to the basic rule of now not offending the Beijing Communist party. yet even supposing Shan is initially considered with suspicion via the Buddhist prisoners, via being taken below the wings of the spiritual chief within the felony and securing via shrewdpermanent ability the discharge of an aged prisoner, he is adjusted and permitted as one in all them. whilst a headless physique is came upon in the course of one of many paintings info of the prisoners on the 404th, Shan is taken apart through a country reputable and given transitory freedom to run an research into this murder. whilst a hermit Buddhist priest is taken in that Shan is familiar with did not do that crime, he races opposed to the clock to resolve this by way of offering them with one other suspect, whereas making an attempt desperately to determine no damage involves all his fellow inmates who have instituted a piece stoppage because of this death. they won't paintings till a few form of exorcism is performed. And all that being said, I may still right this and say that the most personality is actually the folks of Tibet and a number of non secular orders spoken approximately all through this book. it is a very advanced story--maybe too complicated as it really is occasionally a clutter to get through. Shan is a smart character, smart, cautious and courageous as he isn't keen to simply sweep issues below the rug as he is careworn to do from numerous sides. it is a solid secret however it has loads of international phrases and personality names, either chinese language & Tibetans, and such a lot of other kinds of spiritual figures, clergymen & clergymen & demons that it is simple to lose track. if you are accustomed to Buddhism & Tibet you possibly can have a bonus and be capable of inform if the writer will get issues correct or wrong. however it does get issues for making you think that of the in poor health therapy & discomfort of the folks in Tibet at the hands of the chinese language government. It loses issues for no longer having a thesaurus of terms. I went with the move for the main half simply because i do not take notes whilst i am interpreting for fun, and used to be in a position to get pleasure from so much of it whereas most likely false impression a few of it. i will test yet another booklet within the sequence to work out if i need to proceed it.

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