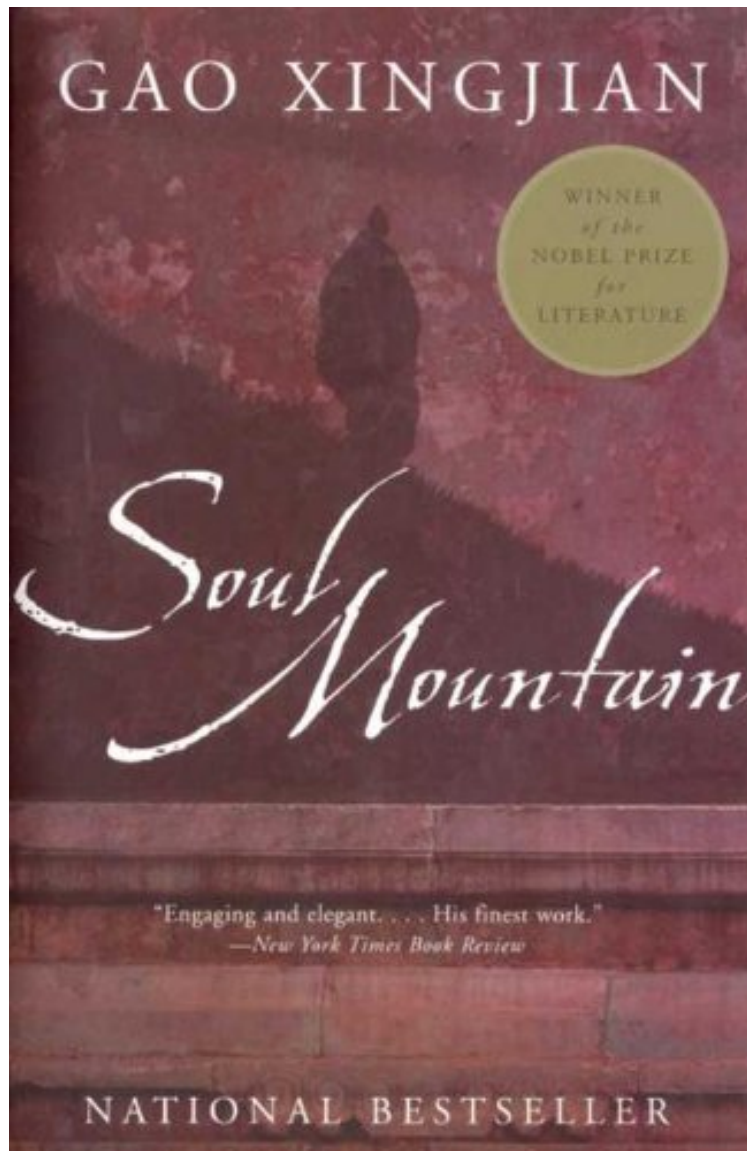


(Ebook free) Soul Mountain

Soul Mountain

Von Gao Xingjian

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Von Gao Xingjian : Soul Mountain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soul Mountain:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Narrow petit-bourgeois commonnessVon Roman NiesThe Chinese Nobel-prize-winner is depicting his journey to the Southwest of China. For him this means travelling back into the past. I visited the same places while reading the book. Hence I can state that the author understands to reflect very good the scenes of human co-existence.He does it with a

simple language which is concentrated on the essentials and offers no surprises. Everybody who wants to know what moves the people over there, which motivations, which pocket faith or superstition they practise, will not find a better book. But if you are no aficionado to be steadily confronted with the errors of the people, their vain toil for undefined fortune, their alleged little triumphs, which they have to give away in the very next moment, their illusions, incremented to the excess, their narrow petit-bourgeois bitchiness, their devilry, then finally you will start to feel bored. The occasional excursions into the intimate erotisms of the authors are not really helpful to change anything to the better. They are only filling the paper. Perhaps some readers are interested in the sexual life of the author. I do not belong to them. I put aside the book after increasing laborious reading when I reached the middle of the work. I am namely over the middle of my lifetime and have to configure the remaining time meaningful! 3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. reise durch china auf der suche nach sich selbst Von Ein Kunde Gao's Roman "Soul Mountain" erzählt die Geschichte eines Mannes der auf der Suche nach eben diesem Berg eine Reise durch China, die Geschichte und die Kultur dieses Landes, sowie eine Reise durch die eigene Vergangenheit hin zum eigentlichen Selbst unternimmt. Manchmal nicht ganz einfach zu verstehen wechselt er Zeit- Ort- und Realitzebene, verbindet Mystik, Religion und Wissenschaft zu einer komplexen Geschichte, die nicht einen durchgehenden, sondern viele parallel existierende Handlungsstränge hat und findet zum Schluss...

Kurzbeschreibung In 1983, Chinese playwright, critic, fiction writer, and painter Gao Xingjian was diagnosed with lung cancer and faced imminent death. But six weeks later, a second examination revealed there was no cancer he had won "a second reprieve from death." Faced with a repressive cultural environment and the threat of a spell in a prison farm, Gao fled Beijing and began a journey of 15,000 kilometers into the remote mountains and ancient forests of Sichuan in southwest China. The result of this epic voyage of discovery is *Soul Mountain*. Bold, lyrical, and prodigious, *Soul Mountain* probes the human soul with an uncommon directness and candor and delights in the freedom of the imagination to expand the notion of the individual self. As one of Gao Xingjian's characters remarks, if a fiction writer could know the true stories of the people he passes on the street, he would be amazed. Surely the Nobel laureate's own story, which forms the basis of *Soul Mountain*, is worthy of amazement. In 1983 Gao was diagnosed with lung cancer, the disease that had killed his father. At the same time, he had been threatened with arrest for his counterrevolutionary writings and was preparing to flee Beijing for the remote regions of southwest China. Shortly before his departure, however, the condemned man got at least a partial reprieve: a second set of x-rays revealed no cancer at all. On the heels of this extraordinary redemption, he began the circuitous journey that would lead him to the sacred (and possibly mythical) mountain of Lingshan--and to this daring, historically resonant novel. A destination chosen arbitrarily, at the suggestion of a fellow traveller, the elusive Lingshan becomes rich with meaning for the narrator of *Soul Mountain*. Meanwhile, the narrator himself shows a tendency to go forth and multiply. First he divides into You and I. Then You generates yet a third voice, a somewhat simple but intense young woman named She, followed by He--and none of these personae can resist the elemental lure of the sacred site. Indeed, the search for Lingshan becomes a metaphor for all spiritual striving: Would it be better to go along the main road? It will take longer travelling by the main road? After making some detours you will understand in your heart? Once you understand in your heart you will find it as soon as you look for it? The important thing is to be sincere of heart? If your heart is sincere then your wish will be granted? Along the way, I and You mourn the devastations of the Cultural Revolution, when thousands of monuments, temples, and graves were reduced to rubble. The obliteration of these reminders of the dead becomes a torment to the narrators of the novel, who struggle to assert their individuality--itself a proscribed act in Communist China--against what they see as a false and brutal ideal that has swept away history, literature, and tradition as decisively as it has destroyed the ancient forests. (At one point Gao describes the sad spectacle of the few remaining pandas, who wander a shrinking woodland wearing electronic transmitters.) Seamlessly translated by the Australian scholar Mabel Lee, *Soul Mountain* is a masterpiece of self-observation set against a soulful denunciation of "progress" and practicality. --Regina Marler.co.uk As one of Gao Xingjian's characters remarks, if a fiction writer could know the true stories of the people he passes on the street, he would be amazed. Surely the Nobel laureate's own story, which forms the basis of *Soul Mountain*, is worthy of amazement. In 1983 Gao was diagnosed with lung cancer, the disease that had killed his father. At the same time, he had been threatened with arrest for his counterrevolutionary writings and was preparing to flee Beijing for the remote regions of southwest China. Shortly before his departure, however, the condemned man got at least a partial reprieve: a second set of x-rays revealed no cancer at all. On the heels of this extraordinary redemption, he began the circuitous journey that would lead him to the sacred (and possibly mythical) mountain of Lingshan--and to this daring, historically resonant novel. A destination chosen arbitrarily, at the suggestion of a fellow traveller, the elusive Lingshan becomes rich with meaning for the narrator of *Soul Mountain*. Meanwhile, the narrator himself shows a tendency to go forth and multiply. First he divides into You and I. Then You generates yet a third voice, a somewhat simple but intense young woman named She, followed by He--and none of these personae can resist the elemental lure of the sacred site. Indeed, the search for

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