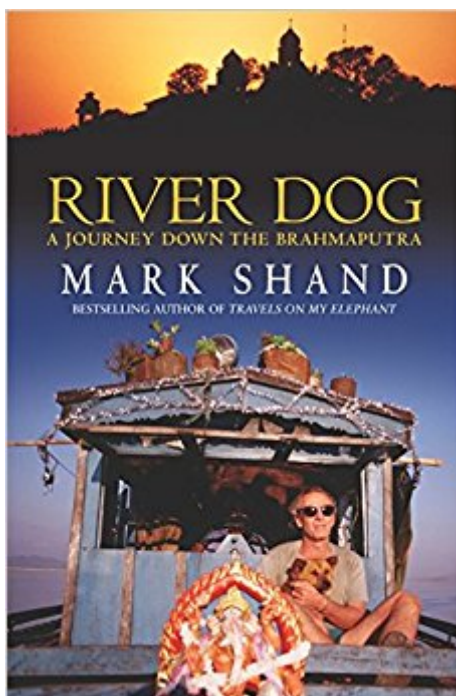




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River Dog: A Journey Down The Brahmaputra



Synopsis

The Brahmaputra is one of the world's great rivers. Beginning as a tiny glacial stream in Western Tibet it flows through India and Bangladesh before gushing out into the Bay of Bengal. Unable to reach the northern part of the river due to Chinese intransigence, Mark Shand nonetheless set out to attempt what no foreigner had ever done: complete the huge journey from the unexplored jungles of the Indo-Tibet border to the largest river delta in the world. "River Dog" is a chronicle of that journey, a story encompassing sublime landscapes - in Assam where the River begins to broaden into its full majesty - and rather odd encounters - including a bizarre group of identical-looking gay monks in Majuli (the largest river island in the world). But it is also a celebration - of a river that flows with mystery and legend, the men who have set out to discover it and a rather charming canine travelling companion called Bhaiti.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mark Shand has worked at Sotheby's and as a jackaroo in Australia, has completed the London-Sydney motor-race and been shipwrecked in the South Pacific. In 1991 he received the accolade Travel Writer of the Year at the British Book Awards for TRAVELS ON MY ELEPHANT.

I found 'River Dog' to be a touching moving and at times quite funny travelogue. It could be easily argued that the main focus of the book is not shand himself but rather his adorable companion, bhaiti , the hunting dog. This loveable mutt, which amazingly turns out to be an ancient pedigree breed is initially rescued from the back streets of india and is then launched on an amazing journey

with shand both hiking and sailing down the mighty brahmaputra river. The dog repays shand by literally saving him from a horned viper. shand then has an extensive opium fuelled conversation with bhaiti which the author notes, quite rightly, as being....really weird! Shand is an effortless travel writer, transporting your imagination to bamboo forests, sacred mountains and gentle currents with consummate ease. The various characters that he introduces soon feel like your best friends. Gamma the permanently stoned captain of the riverboat is a real stand out, and the entire journey comes across as a boys own adventure. You can actually find yourself reminiscing about the epic trek even though you weren't really there. And finally does anyone know where I can buy one of those indian hunting dogs. I really want one. you will too after you read 'river dog'

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