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Bag Of Meat On Ball Of Dirt (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Every day, hundreds of human beings board long-haul flights to India on an extended break from their everyday lives, in search of something seemingly easy to find: themselves. That quixotic quest for understanding has drawn much of the world's population eastward ever since Buddha first assumed the lotus position, and writer Mara Altman needed to know why. So she flew around the world in search of an answer not only to that mystery, but also to the deeper questions that plague all who yearn to define the meaning of life. What Altman found in her wild, comic 18-day reporting trek across India – a journey that took her on a laborious, 37-hour cross-country train trip, onto a mystical flat rock by the ocean in Pondicherry, and eventually into the emergency room of a cut-rate Bangalore hospital – will make you laugh, learn and ponder. By the end of her epic odyssey, it will also take you unexpectedly and thrillingly close to the pulsing heart of human existence. After graduating from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Mara Altman worked as a staff writer for The Village Voice. In 2009, HarperCollins published Altman's first book, *Thanks For Coming: A Young Woman's Quest for an Orgasm*, which was optioned as a comedy series by HBO. She has published seven bestselling Kindle Singles, including the #1 bestseller *Bearded Lady*, and has also written for New York Magazine and The New York Times. Cover design by Adil Dara

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Customer Reviews

What a great find. I have gone on a similar journey searching for myself (israel) and leaving 6 months later dissatisfied with my search for God and the meaning of life. I like how mara asks many different kinds of people about their search for meaning in India and the conclusions she makes. It made my inability to find truth make a lot more sense.

In Bag of Meat on Ball of Dirt, Altman follows her curiosity around the phenomenon of traveling to a distant place to find oneself. She's an ideal guide for this journey: she's not wrapped up in an existential crisis of her own, she's a seasoned writer well-equipped to handle the complexities inherent in meaning making and, most importantly, she's a captivating storyteller (I sat down to read this and only got up once because I really had to pee). One of the most refreshing aspects of BMBD is that it's not about the age-old trope of a woman finding meaning through her relationship to a man (Altman is happily married and her husband is chilling back in NYC while she's on this quest). Rather, Altman transcends gender through charting her own heroic journey: a quest to unravel the universal desire to understand what it means to be human. And she does so in a way that is relatable, honest and hilarious. I highly recommend!

I read this single over 2 lunch breaks and had a grand time. The author is funny as hell sharing her adventures in India exploring the "spiritual tourist" phenomenon. As a spiritual seeker I really appreciate the hilariously clear mirror in this story. It helped remind me to celebrate the sheer perversity of existence.

I loved this story. It is so full of vivid imagery and interesting observations about traveling in India and the battle to figure it all out. The parade of characters whom the author encounters is endlessly entertaining. They made me feel, and truly believe, that finding oneself is really hard work, but a noble and worthwhile pursuit nonetheless.

Mara Altman has a wonderful way of bringing her experiences to the forefront of your own mind. Not only do we get to know what India must be like, but also the characters who live there. What we find in the end, is that each person's point of view about the same question makes complete sense....until you hear and understand the next point of view.

Mara is one of those rare authors whose got it all: Heart, mind and humor. I love her style. This book is a must read for anyone who has ever tried to find themselves. Which is everyone. So read it. You must! :)

Once again, Mara Altman's unique perspective and quirky neurosis have gripped me and have me laughing out loud. I love how she shares her first reaction to things and then immediately shares her judgement of her own reaction! HA!! Altman is brave with her writing, showing us exactly who she really is, and pulling us right into her world. It is so fun to see your own embarrassing "inner" thoughts right out on the page. YES. READ THIS SINGLE... and all of her other singles too, you will be glad you did.

This was a very enjoyable read, filled with insight, a great sense of place and the writer's self-deprecating humor. Mara Altman has a fantastic voice on the page. I laughed out loud at several points in this story. I look forward to reading more of her work!

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