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Walking The Gobi: A 1600-Mile Trek Across A Desert Of Hope And Despair



Synopsis

* The ultimate Baby Boomer adventure story!* The author is an icon among American women adventurers* By the bestselling author of *Polar Dream* (more than 40,000 copies sold) At the age of 63, Helen Thayer fulfilled her lifelong dream of crossing Mongolia's Gobi Desert. Accompanied by her 74-year-old husband Bill and two camels, Tom and Jerry, Thayer walked 1600 miles in 126-degree temperatures, battling fierce sandstorms, dehydration, dangerous drug smugglers, and ubiquitous scorpions. For more than 60 days Helen struggled to keep moving through this inhospitable terrain despite a severe leg injury. Without sponsors, a support team, or radio contact, hers is a journey of pure discovery and adventure. *Walking the Gobi* takes readers on a trip through a little-known landscape and introduces them to the culture of the nomadic people whose ancestors have eked out an existence in the Gobi for thousands of years. Thayer's respect and admiration for the culture of the Gobi and her gentle insights on the desert's natural history shine throughout this remarkable story. The author proves that Baby Boomers don't have to take life lying down -- their adventures have just begun.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The Gobi Desert is a barren stretch of Mongolia that runs north of China, south of Russia and far from everything; not an ideal place to visit, except by book. Fortunately, the daring Thayer, age 63, fights nature and common sense for us, giving readers a fascinating account of her 1,600 mile journey with her husband, Bill, 74. The aging adventurers lace up their boots, load two borrowed camels with supplies, and set out to survive an 80-day trek through temperatures in

excess of 120 degrees while wolves, scorpions and the Chinese border patrol stalk them. Encounters with smugglers and nomads add shades of character and culture; one hospitable nomad family enthusiastically serves them such uninviting fare as sour horse milk. The adventure ramps up when an angry camel rolls over their water containers, setting off a desperate search for hydration. Frightening skirmishes with heatstroke, sandstorms and wildlife take their toll, but the greater enemy is mental, which Thayer knows well (having skied to the North Pole with just her dog for company): "At all costs we had to avoid the mental trap of losing focus," a slippery step toward becoming "emotionally paralyzed." Despite the hardship, Thayer (Polar Dream) is a sure and steady guide; this harrowing travelogue reads like a nail-biting adventure, sure to enthrall fans of Jon Krakauer and Bill Bryson. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A tightly written and quick-moving account of [a] perilous journey." (The Herald, Everett , Wash.)"Walking the Gobi captures the determination, the exhaustion, the sublime beauties and the cruel realities of [Helen Thayer's] expedition, as well as discoveries that emerge from immersing [oneself] in a forbidding landscape" Throughout the book, Thayer writes of adventure on a page-turning scale that is simultaneously impossible to put down, but at times-almost too nerve wracking to continue reading." (Rocky Mountain Outlook)"Fortunately, the daring Thayer, age 63, fights nature and common sense for us, giving readers a fascinating account of her 1,600 mile journey with her husband, Bill" Despite the hardship, Thayer is a sure and steady guide; this harrowing travelogue reads like a nail-biting adventure, sure to enthrall fans of Jon Krakauer and Bill Bryson." (Publishers Weekly)"It's the stories of smugglers in the night, a camel temper tantrum that cost a week's worth of water, and sightings of a wild desert bear that make this book irresistible." (Deb Acord Rocky Mountain News)"Helen Thayer shows not only her sense of courage and adventure, but also her talent as a writer and, through her words, her love of the desert and the culture therein" Thayer deserves applause not only for her incredible life as an adventure, but also for her mastery of language that brings us on the journey with her" Thayer's writing pace turn this eighty-one day excursion into a journey readers can experience in just a few hours-preferably in the comfort of shelter, food and water." (Indigo Editing)"Thayer's book is wildly impressive" the story is incredible, almost too fantastic to be true." (Klamath Falls Herald & News)

Mostly interesting, but deteriorated into a weird "scared I'm going to be raped" scenario that was just

not.

In comparison to other books, such as *Walking Home from Mongolia* this book falls a bit short. The author and her husband were very well supplied and while they dealt with many physical challenges, most of them seemed to stem from their prior automobile accident. I'm confident the conditions were harsh, but the writing style for me never really captured those environmental challenges and eventually the book became a boring read. Kudos however to the author and her husband for their accomplishment.

an incredible and unforgettable story. However after a while it got tedious. I was very glad when she and her husband crossed the desert She was in her sixties and he in his seventies!

Miss Thayer and her husband walked across the Gobi desert, which sits on the border of Mongolia and China. This is all the more audacious because they're both in their 60's and 70's. They plan and practice for the trek and are by no means unexperienced at a trip like this. But the unexpected does arise and Thayer shares these with candor. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, feeling as if I'd made the journey with them. I'll always think of their two camels, Tom and Jerry, with fondness.

Great book. A real adventure type story in a place there isn't much written about. Well, not much written about that you would actually "want" to read. The one thing that frustrated me so much in this book, and has nothing to really do with the book itself as much as my relating to it, is the authors inability to let go of western schedule and thinking. To the point that they would take chances with their lives to stay on their "schedule". Having traveled to and been in situations like this, I have to say, stop. If something isn't working, than don't stand by it simply because that is what you do. Change it!!! Your in the Gobi desert. Schedules need to be very fluid and you need to have an "openmindedness" to change, especially if the consequences could be potentially life threatening. Totally frustrated me. Almost as if the author made it harder on herself. Other than that, great book. Very well written and held my interest throughout. Almost wish it was longer. Highly recommended.

Since I was in Mongolia last Sept. - Sept.2014 - and spent time on the Gobi Desert - rode my camel etc - this book was a MUST for anybody who travels and enjoys adventures...81 days it took them 1600 miles from West to East.A wonderful TRUE story.

This was a book club selection and I liked it so much, I bought it for a friend of mine who is a seasoned traveller. Of course, she travels first class, but this book makes one appreciate how far others go to "rough it." One wonders "why" when reading about all the problems they encountered, but it was a lifetime dream for the author and she fulfilled it in spite of some health issues.

After reading "Polar Dream" I knew "Walking the Gobi" would be good, but I couldn't imagine it could be as good. Well, I stand corrected--it was every bit as good, and what a journey by Helen and Bill. It's a good narrative of the cultures and hardships of the desert, as well as the determination of the couple to continue. Next is "3 Among the Wolves."

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