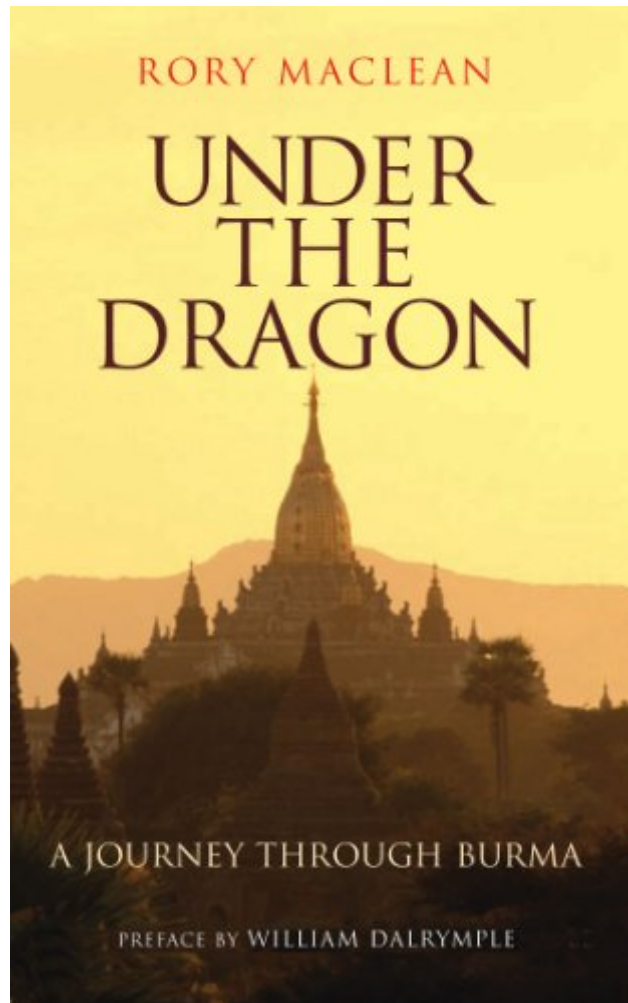




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Under The Dragon: A Journey Through Burma



Synopsis

After the brutal suppression of an unarmed national uprising, which cost thousands of lives, Rory MacLean seized the chance to visit Burma. Travelling from Rangoon to Mandalay and Pagan, into the heart of the Golden Triangle, he heard stories of freedom fighters, government censors, basket weavers, farmers and lovers -- ordinary people struggling to survive under one of the most brutal and repressive regimes in the world. He met Aung San Suu Kyi, the most courageous woman of our time and the embodiment of all Burma's hope. On his journey MacLean exposed the tragedy of a hundred betrayals, giving voice to those too frightened to speak for themselves. In so doing he illuminated a nation of paradoxes woven together like a basket: love and hate, faith and hopelessness, freedom and slavery, kindness and cruelty, selflessness and greed. Under the Dragon is an important, perceptive, historical and heartbreaking portrayal of Burma in the days before the recent reforms, a golden land that was shot through with desperation and fear, but also "in even the darkest places -- with beauty and courage. About the Author Rory MacLean is one of Britain's most expressive and adventurous travel writers. His ten books, including UK best-sellers "Stalin's Nose" and "Under the Dragon", have challenged and invigorated creative non-fiction writing, and "according to the late John Fowles" are among works that "marvellously explain why literature still lives". He has won awards from the Canada Council and the Arts Council of England as well as a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, and was nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary prize. He has worked on movies with Marlene Dietrich and David Bowie, and written and presented over 50 BBC radio programmes. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Rory divides his time between London and Berlin.

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Customer Reviews

Part history, part travelogue, part memoir. I read this book as I traveled in Myanmar and could hardly put it down.

This book taught me more than I could dream it would. The writing, especially the character development, is on par with Hemingway. It is much more than a travel book, and it is a must read for anyone who hopes to understand today's Burma. Rory MacLean deserves a Nobel Prize for Literature this year.

A little smaller than I expected but very comfortable. A divine sleep.

Interesting story that I read while preparing for a journey to Myanmar. The book is well-written, and taught me a lot about the history and culture of the people.

Nicely written. This book presents a picture of oppressed still generous people of Burma. I hope the new democratic government will bring hope for the people.

Riveting story that weaves the history of Burma through the centuries as experienced in the daily lives of many Burmese and foreigners as well. I could not put my Kindle down until the book was finished.

This book is indisputably well written. But it taught me nothing about Burma I didn't already know and it was rather dull in much of the book. The author uses small stories about different characters to tell the story of Burma's recent history and repressive practices, but the stories just aren't that interesting in many cases. Captivating this book is not. I didn't find it to be travel literature or politically informative, and as fiction it was concise but lackluster. Paul

Loved every story! Enjoyed how every story fed into the narrator's own story. This book opened my eyes to the Burmese.

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