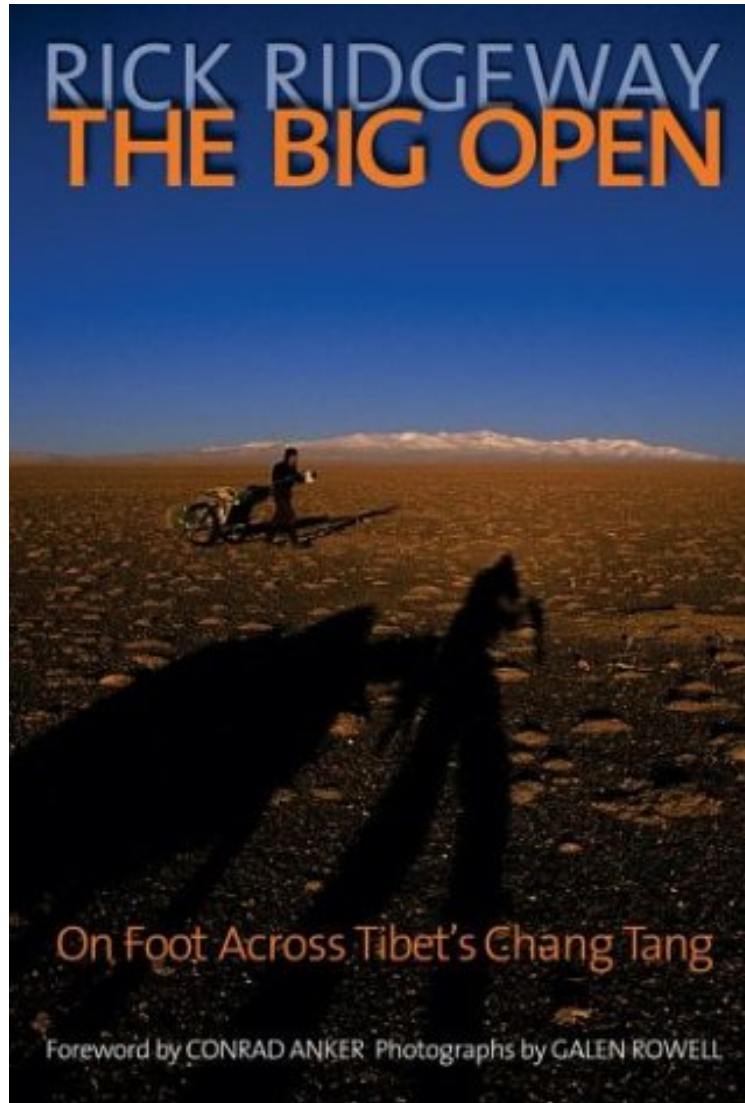


(Library ebook) Big Open: On Foot Across Tibet's Chang Tang

Big Open: On Foot Across Tibet's Chang Tang

Rick Ridgeway

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Rick Ridgeway : Big Open: On Foot Across Tibet's Chang Tang before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Open: On Foot Across Tibet's Chang Tang:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read, hoped for more photos. By Richard Wong I'd give the text a 4, but my real motivation for the book was because of Galen Rowell's involvement. Unfortunately there's only several photos in the book and seemed like his name was tacked on the cover merely to sell the book. Obviously he had passed by the time the book was written and was a major character in the story but I think if it was illustrated in the manner like Barbara Rowell's Flying South book then the book would have been a 4-5 star book. The photos were

a bit lackluster as well, I'm sure with better editing this book could have been something special. I know Rowell probably had better photos from the trip than was presented here. The idea behind the book was great as the motivation was to create a reserve to protect the Tibetan Chiru from hunters. I'd recommend the book. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Big Open By Scott Matthies Ridgeway does it again with a thoughtful, engaging story of a trek across the high tundra of Tibet looking for the calving grounds of the Chiru, an antelope which is in danger of extinction from killing it for its wool. With Conrad Anker, Jimmy Chin, and the late Galen Rowell; one gets to know these characters as friends and I'm envious of the time they were able to spend crossing an amazing landscape seen by few westerners since 1903. The Chiru were the reason for the trek and hopefully this book will help in their protection. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great account... By Mahesh Srinivas The book is a terrific account of a very challenging trek across Tibet's Chang Tang, in search of the elusive Chiru's calving grounds. Ridgeway's writing is outstanding in the manner in which he gets the reader to feel an integral part of the expedition, and to experience the risks and the challenges involved in such an impossible trek. In terms of raising awareness about the chiru's unfortunate plight, this book, and the story on NG are hugely effective (I have not seen the TV documentary on the same, so I cannot comment on that). Photography - one of the main reasons I bought the book is because the photography is by the legendary Galen Rowell, who was part of the trek. Galen's photography in the book is good, but well below his high standards in his own books. Surprisingly, I didn't see a single photograph that really made me go "WOW!" like a lot of Galen's photographs. All in all, an excellent book that is difficult to put down.

On foot and on their own, four adventurers brave the challenges of nature on a 275-mile trek through one of the most beautiful—and most remote—regions of the world.

From Publishers Weekly Adventure writer Ridgeway (*The Shadow of Kilimanjaro*) crafts an urgent, poetic narrative as he guides readers across Tibet's barren and treacherous northern plateau in search of the calving grounds of the chiru, an endangered antelope. Along with his three companions—late nature photographer Galen Rowell, Conrad Anker, who wrote the foreword, and Jimmy Chin—the seasoned mountaineer traces the female chiru's 200-mile migration route. The bulk of the story focuses on the Chang Tang's natural splendor and the adverse conditions the group faced while lugging 200 pounds of food, water and photographic equipment on aluminum rickshaws at soaring altitudes. "To conserve batteries," Ridgeway writes, "everyone but Conrad turns off their headlamps. In the east a fingernail of moon glows through a reef of clouds. We are traveling at a compass bearing of 30 degrees, and I assume that Conrad, like me, is using the stars in the sky to maintain our course." But Ridgeway also offers a thoughtful regional history and an affecting description of the complex human struggle surrounding the rampant poaching of chiru and the illegal trade in their pelts (their fur is woven into shahtoosh, an ultrafine and precious wool). The group's mission is ultimately successful: the Chinese government plans to create a national preserve based on their discovery. The international effort to save the Tibetan antelope and the "big open" steppe it inhabits elevates the narrative beyond the usual extreme travel tour to an enthralling and hopeful height. Color photo insert not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Rick Ridgeway is a mountaineer, writer, and businessman who currently serves as Patagonia's vice president of environmental affairs. His books include *The Shadow of Kilimanjaro: On Foot across East Africa*, *The Big Open: On Foot across Tibet's Chang Tang*, and *The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2*, an account of his experience as one of the first Americans to climb the second-highest mountain in the world. Galen Rowell (1940–2002) was an internationally celebrated photographer, mountaineer, and author. The recipient of an Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography, he was a respected writer with 18 books and numerous magazine articles to his name. His work was frequently featured in *National Geographic*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Outside*. Conrad Anker is a world-renowned mountaineer who has summited Everest three times and climbed many of the other challenging heights around the world. Best known for having discovered the body of early twentieth-century adventurer George Mallory on Everest in 1999, Anker is captain of the North Face Athlete Team and continues to inspire with his climbing prowess and his thoughtful dedication to the people of the Himalaya. He is the author of *The Lost Explorer*, about finding Mallory, and the primary coauthor of *National Geographic's The Call of Everest*.