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*Kurtis R. Schaeffer*

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

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**Kurtis R. Schaeffer : Himalayan Hermitess: The Life of a Tibetan Buddhist Nun** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Himalayan Hermitess: The Life of a Tibetan Buddhist Nun:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting view of feminismBy Linda AmigaThe author takes a rare written story by a TibetanBuddhist nun several hundred years old and gives a glimpse into the culture of the time especially the status of women.The first part of the book is analysis and history, with the last part , only a few pages long,the actual writing. He has done a good job of filling out the picture behind her story.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book!By Sungoh YoonAs an excellent brief intro. to the life of a Tibetan woman's life, those who want to make a visit there should have read this before.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Life of a Buddhist nunBy JDSThe beginning of this book is a bit academic, but the story of her life is a very touching and moving story. It is a valuable insight into the life of a very advanced practitioner in the late 1600s and is well worth reading.

Himalayan Hermitess is a vivid account of the life and times of a Buddhist nun living on the borderlands of Tibetan culture. Orgyan Chokyi (1675-1729) spent her life in Dolpo, the highest inhabited region of the Nepal Himalayas. Illiterate and expressly forbidden by her master to write her own life story, Orgyan Chokyi received divine inspiration, defied tradition, and composed one of the most engaging autobiographies of the Tibetan literary tradition. The Life of Orgyan Chokyi is the oldest known autobiography authored by a Tibetan woman, and thus holds a critical place in both Tibetan and Buddhist literature. In it she tells of the sufferings of her youth, the struggle to escape menial labor and become a hermitess, her dreams and visionary experiences, her relationships with other nuns, the painstaking work of contemplative practice, and her hard-won social autonomy and high-mountain solitude. In process it develops a compelling vision of the relation between gender, the body, and suffering from a female Buddhist practitioner's perspective. Part One of Himalayan Hermitess presents a religious history of Orgyan Chokyi's Himalayan world, the Life of Orgyan Chokyi as a work of literature, its portrayal of sorrow and joy, its perspectives on suffering and gender, as well as the diverse religious practices found throughout the work. Part Two offers a full translation of the Life of Orgyan Chokyi. Based almost entirely upon Tibetan documents never before translated, Himalayan Hermitess is an accessible introduction to Buddhism in the premodern Himalayas.

"A significant contribution toward filling the lacuna of research on female-authored Himalayan Buddhist sources."-- Sarah H. Jacoby, *The Journal of Asian Studies* "This book is a must-read for specialists and an appropriate text for undergraduates in courses dealing with Buddhism, women and religion, or the Tibetan and Himalayan regions."-- HOICE "Kurtis Schaeffer has made an important contribution to Tibetan and Buddhist studies by making this extraordinary autobiography of a female hermit in the Himalayas available for a wide readership." --*Journal of the American Oriental Society* About the Author Kurtis R. Schaeffer is Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Alabama.