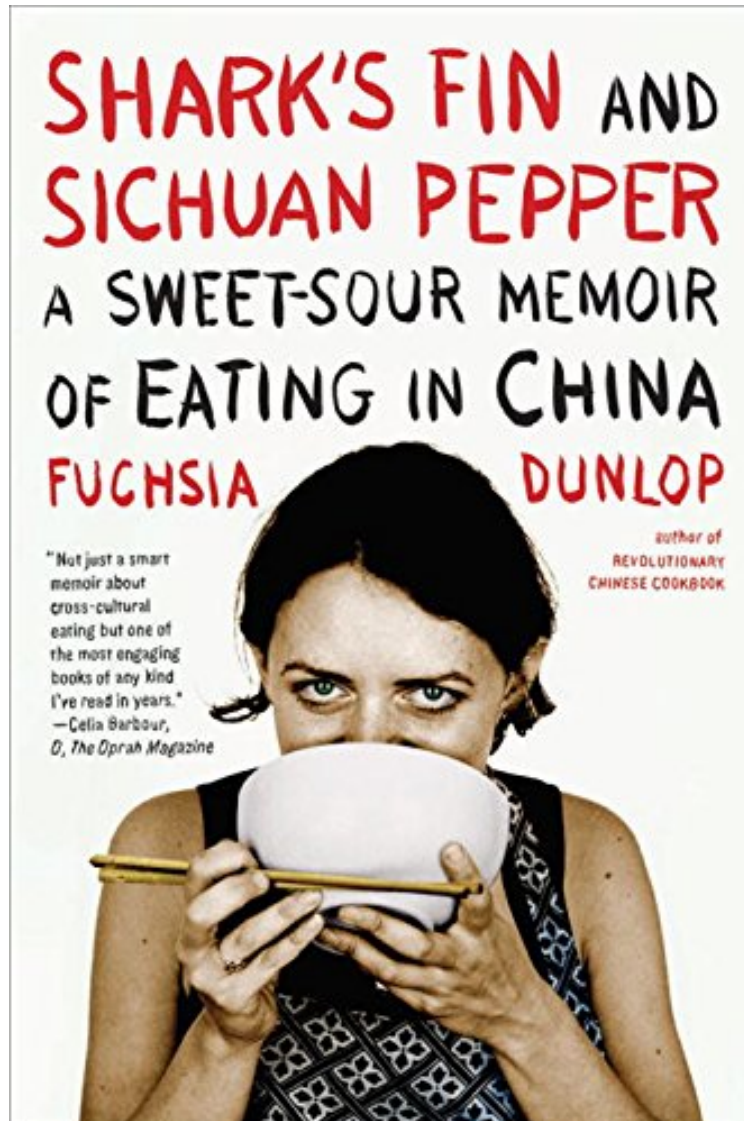


Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir of Eating in China

Fuchsia Dunlop

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Fuchsia Dunlop : Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir of Eating in China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir of Eating in China:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice introduction to a great cuisineBy John P. MacmeekenDuring the 90s I traveled annually to China. I made three trips to Sichuan province. Sichuan has a great cuisine and dining

was always a highlight of my visit to Sichuan province. Sichuan cuisine is not well known to Americans so a book on this subject is a welcome addition. I will always remember the bean curd and the peppered sauces. This book also illustrates well how foreigners interact with China. Our first impression is the great potential of China: highly educated people, high energy levels, and a magnificent ancient culture. Over time the foreigner becomes aware of the bad things with China: environmental degradation, little regard for the protection of endangered species, and the waste of food at grand banquets. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So fun and entertaining to read. By G. V. This book is very entertaining. I'm enjoying reading about the author's experiences. I have spent time in China and love the food and country. I would have loved the food experiences she talks about. It makes me want to go back soon. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating memoir By Sara RMs Dunlop was in China as big changes were occurring -- and she was the first Westerner to study classic Sichuan cooking. She was on the spot and writes so well about her experiences. I couldn't put it down.

"Not just a smart memoir about cross-cultural eating but one of the most engaging books of any kind I've read in years." ?Celia Barbour, O, The Oprah Magazine After fifteen years spent exploring China and its food, Fuchsia Dunlop finds herself in an English kitchen, deciding whether to eat a caterpillar she has accidentally cooked in some home-grown vegetables. How can something she has eaten readily in China seem grotesque in England? The question lingers over this "autobiographical food-and-travel classic" (Publishers Weekly).

From Publishers Weekly Food writer Dunlop is better known in the U.K., where her comprehensive volumes on Sichuanese and Hunanese cuisine carved out her niche and eventually became contemporary classics. Turning to personal narrative through the backstory and consequences of her fascination with China, she produces an autobiographical food-and-travel classic of a narrowly focused but rarefied order. Dunlop's initial 1992 trip to Sichuan proved so enthralling that she later obtained a year's residential study scholarship in the provincial capital, Chengdu. There, her enrollment in the local Institute of Higher Cuisine, a professional chef's program, created a cultural exchange program of a specialized kind. The research for and success of her resulting cookbooks permitted Dunlop to return to China in a more experienced role as chef and writer; that led to this reflective memoir, which probes into the author's search for kitchens in the Forbidden City as well as the people and places of remote West China. One key to this supple and affectionate book is its time frame: by arriving in China in the middle of vast economic upheavals, Dunlop explored and experienced the country and its culture as it was transforming into a postcommunist communism. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "An insightful, entertaining, scrupulously reported exploration of China's foodways and a swashbuckling memoir...What makes it a distinguished contribution to the literature of gastronomy is its demonstration...that food is not a mere reflection of culture but a potent shaper of cultural identity." - Dawn Drzal, New York Times "Destined, I think, to become a classic of travel writing." - Paul Levy, The Observer Delightful.