



Entering the Circle: Ancient Secrets of Siberian Wisdom Discovered by a Russian Psychiatrist

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Olga Kharitidi's debut book is a remarkable account of her spiritual adventure in snowbound Siberia. Joining an ailing friend on a spontaneous trip to the Atai Mountains, Dr. Kharitidi is taken into apprenticeship by a native Shaman who guides her through bizarre, magical, and often terrifying experiences that open her eyes to a wellspring of deeper learning. On the road to Belovedia, a fabled civilization of highly evolved beings, she encounters revolutionary mystical teachings while discovering ancient secrets of magic and healing. At once a modern odyssey and a timeless dreamscape, *Entering the Circle* is an inspiring story of personal growth and an insightful work about the limitless potential of human spirit.

Entering the Circle: Ancient Secrets of Siberian Wisdom Discovered by a Russian Psychiatrist Details

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Author : Olga Kharitidi Yahontova

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Ruby Hollyberry says

This takes its place among the assorted books I have that depict a Western rationalist's encounters and conversion to the sacred through contact with indigenous shamanic people. It is a subgenre by itself, there are many such books in the New Age section. The great majority of them take place in the Southwest, Mexico, Central or South America, places which hold little allure for me. This one, however, is set in Siberia, a green, snowy place of great beauty, and therefore right up my alley from the first.

Some of these books are quite convincing, that they might be close to the actual events they purport to describe. Others (like *The Shamanic Way of the Bee: Ancient Wisdom and Healing Practices of the Bee Masters*, for instance) are really hard to stomach and perhaps best used for entertainment purposes. Castaneda was the king of these, and he fell somewhere in the middle or lower down to me. My favorite of all is *Mad Bear: Spirit, Healing, and the Sacred in the Life of a Native American Medicine Man*. This one is more credible than average - I count it near to the top of the scale.

Culture shock is always fascinating to read about (it's a staple of fantasy and sci fi fiction, if you notice), and nothing more so than the shock to the system experienced by a strictly materialist person falling over hard evidence of a spiritual reality. The author of this book seems like a charming person, entirely without any excess woo-woo or intent to defraud. I recommend this book highly to anyone interested in Siberia, shamanism, or psychic abilities.

Micmoc says

Good reading about siberian shamanism

Bryn says

Believe it or not, I started reading this book a long time ago, and believe it or not, I didn't finish it.

Moira McPartlin says

I bought this book years ago, fifteen years maybe and now can't remember why, except that the idea of shamans has always intrigued me. Now, after reading about meditation and India, I felt was the time to explore more.

The author was a Russian psychiatrist working in a large psychiatric hospital. She has witnessed many strange things but when one patient urges her to go with him to Siberia to discover shamanic healing she is too curious to refuse. Once in the Altai Mountains she has some weird and magical experiences and accepts that she is susceptible to this type of magic. Back at her day job she tries some of her new found wisdom on her patient with some startling results.

I liked the simple style of the narrative and enjoyed the travel aspect of the trip to the mountains, it sounded remote, mystical and unique. What I didn't like about this book was the fact that there was no answers. It seems because a scientist told me about her shamanic experiences I should accept they exist. Maybe I was looking for something that just wasn't there.

Tasmin says

Ein sehr interessantes Buch, dem es allerdings an etwas fehlte, was keinen richtigen Namen hat. Es fühlte sich beim Lesen immer wieder an wie ein fiktiver Roman. Nicht so sehr wegen dem Inhalt, denn für den Schamanismus bin ich aufgeschlossen - obwohl einige Sachen doch sehr abwegig wirkten, aber wer bin ich schon, das zu beurteilen -, sondern vom Erzählstil. Die Unterhaltungen wirkten künstlich und ich hatte nicht den Eindruck, dass Kharitidi viele Emotionen, Zweifel oder innere Kämpfe hatte. Dies ließ eine Distanz entstehen, die das Buch unglaubwürdig und fast schon fantastisch erscheinen ließ, was ich sehr schade fand. Stellenweise war es auch etwas langatmig.

Portia H. says

Very slow start that had me rolling my eyes a few times but finally got it's momentum and flowed better at the end.

I would have appreciated the story told in the reverse, starting with the practical application of the wisdom obtained and explaining the journey in getting to that point ~ but that's just my personal preference.

However, due to the structure of outlining events in the way the story is told - I struggled with staying interested...then BAM I was fully invested wanting more just as the book was ending. {sigh}

Azra says

I did a bad thing when I picked up this book. I tried to judge it, not only by its cover but by its subtitle. It struck me as a bit grandiose and more than a little reminiscent of the New Age books that came out in the late eighties and early nineties. I was almost right on that last score - it was published in 1996.

It turned out to be better than my expectations. It is written in the same autobiographical style as Carlos Casteneda or Marilyn Tunneshende, with one difference. The author is a practicing medical professional, as noted in that subtitle.

In the end, like Casteneda or Tunneshende, it doesn't matter to me how 'true' the actual story is. There are more than a few ideas in this book that seem to hit home for me. I am going to have to flip back through and let them percolate for a while.

There is one interesting thing. Unlike the other two authors, I went several pages deep in a google search but didn't find any pages determined to out her as a fraud. Those pages usually appear fairly early. It may not mean anything but like I said - it's interesting.

A definite 'good read,' especially for those interested in shamanism.

Cecil Lawson says

This is a personal spirituality narrative much in the same vein as Carlos Castaneda (The Teachings of don Juan), Dan Millman (The Way of the Peaceful Warrior), and James Redfield (The Celestine Prophecy), as the author, a psychiatrist working at a hospital in Siberia during the Soviet era in Russia has a series of events that leads her out of her everyday life into the mysterious world of Siberian shamanism. Her narrative reads easily during the early chapters, but it becomes a little bogged down in later chapters, which are full of conversations and exposition. While the early chapters portray the protagonist as an individual who seems caught totally off guard by her experiences, later chapters reveal her as someone who has a deep interest in mysticism and spirituality. The setting in Soviet Russia adds a dimension of complexity to the story, given the official atheism of the government, which often treated any expressions, and even suspected interest, of spiritual life as mental illness, at best, and political subversion, at worst. Overall worth reading.

yamiyoghurt says

An enlightening and heartening book.

David Moore says

Brilliantly written. Entertaining, enlightening, fast-paced. I particularly enjoyed the descriptions of snow-bound Russia and her dream journals. I think what emphasised my enjoyment of this book is its general corroboration with similar literature - however, this had completely new ideas that enabled it to stand out from others that I have read. For example, I much preferred it to Carlos Castaneda's books and believe the reviews on the back detract slightly from its root in fact. Although the information may be difficult to confirm, I did get the impression that Olga's story is a genuine one. If not, it's a wonderful piece of fiction nonetheless.

I'd recommend it for: spiritually-satisfying entertainment, insight into Russia's psychiatric-infrastructure, and testimony to the the mysteries of Siberian Shamanism.
And, finally, as a contribution to consciousness studies.

Nell Grey says

Incredibly compelling until about half way through, when the author's dreams, visions and encounters seemed almost too beautifully woven into events and perfectly remembered for a true story. I put it down but couldn't stop thinking about it and ended up finishing in two days. I hope and wish that it is one hundred percent true but it feels more like a novel than the often unsatisfactory and unexplained realities of life. It is fascinating, interesting and wonderfully mystical though, so it might just be me...

Marije Van says

A wonderful book. With a lot of wisdom that can be used.

Cats Moulder's says

Don,t read unless you want to be blown away. Wow

Emma says

Wow...this book is a true hidden gem! I hadn't even heard of it until it was recommended by a friend. If you are drawn towards spiritual type genre books – then I beg you to read this! It's a truly gripping spiritual adventure – set in a Siberian Mental Institution - are you intrigued now? I love the conflict the writer goes through, as she is constantly wrestling with her medical trained - left brain perspective Vs the mystery and truth of Atai Shamanism. JUST READ IT OK! ;)

Tanya says

Adventures of a Russian Psychiatrist finding tribal remnants legends and healing methods. Beautiful tattoo symbols as well.
