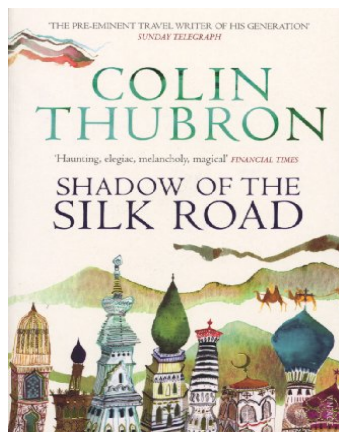


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| Titel: | Shadow of the Silk Road |
| BuchID: | 958 |
| Autor: | Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron, Colin Thubron |
| ISBN-10(13): | B006N5324C |
| Verlag: | Vintage Digital |
| Seitenanzahl: | 386 |
| Sprache: | English |
| Bewertung: | |

Bild:



Beschreibung:

A journey along the greatest land route on earth, from the master of travel writing Colin Thubron

On buses, donkey carts, trains, jeeps and camels, Colin Thubron traces the drifts of the first great trade route out of the heart of China into the mountains of Central Asia, across northern Afghanistan and the plains of Iran into Kurdish Turkey. Covering over 7000 miles in eight months Thubron recounts extraordinary adventures - a near-miss with a drunk-driver, incarceration in a Chinese cell during the SARS epidemic, undergoing root canal treatment without anaesthetic in Iran - in inimitable prose. *Shadow of the Silk Road* is about Asia today; a magnificent account of an ancient world in modern ferment.