

Set against the striking backdrop of South Asia in the early years of the new millennium, *Jaya Nepal!* is a rollicking mini epic that takes readers into the bustling, exotic, and colorful world of urban Kathmandu.

Twenty-five-year-old Berkeley grad Benjamin Creed, an idealistic and motivated young recruit, begins his odyssey in a community curiously named Pepsicola Townplanning. The newly reinstated Nepal Peace Corps program, resurrected after the country's lengthy and bloody civil war, has drawn a gauntlet of intrepid volunteers, joining him in an iconic, multi-year program.

Following Benjamin to Nepal is a painful past riddled with careless words and broken hearts, which eventually catches up with him and forces him to make the toughest decision of his life. Along the way, Benjamin and his friends, American and Nepali alike, encounter circumstances and choices that illuminate the struggles, sacrifices, and triumphs that intimately shape the lives of volunteers in and residents of South Asia.

An engaging look at the life of someone who volunteers with the Peace Corps but finds experiences that transcend even that, *Jaya Nepal!* is an examination of what it means to be a young person torn by the equally powerful emotions of love and desire for social justice.

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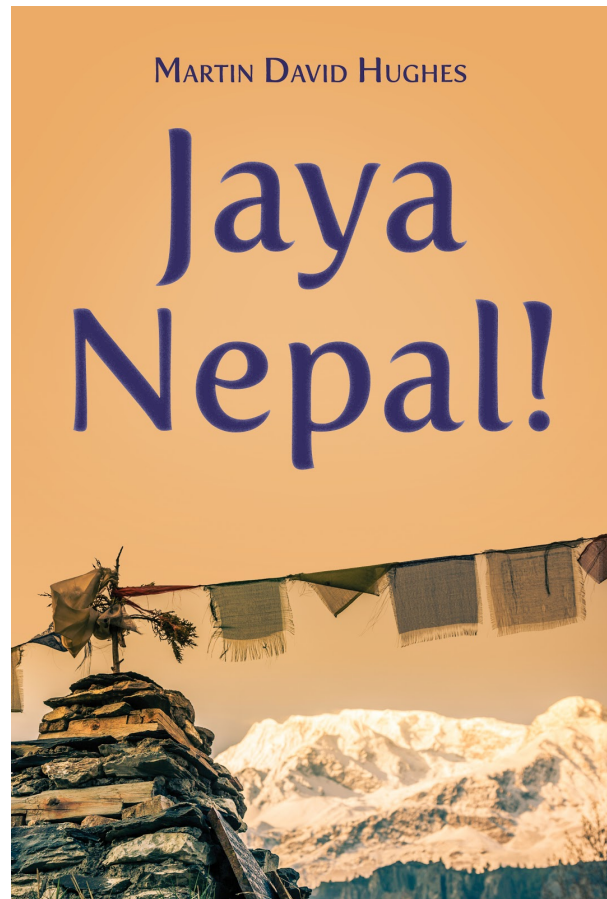
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Jaya Nepal!

About the Author

Martin David Hughes is an emerging author whose current work focuses on cross-cultural exchange, volunteerism, social justice issues, and the transition from youth to adulthood. His current work also explores the restorative power of the redemptive quest. A keen student and admirer of South Asian culture, Hughes has traveled extensively throughout the Indian subcontinent and finds his highest joy in long mountain walks in the High Himalayas. He earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 2007 and has a special interest in natural foot health. Hughes was born in Canada and now lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

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