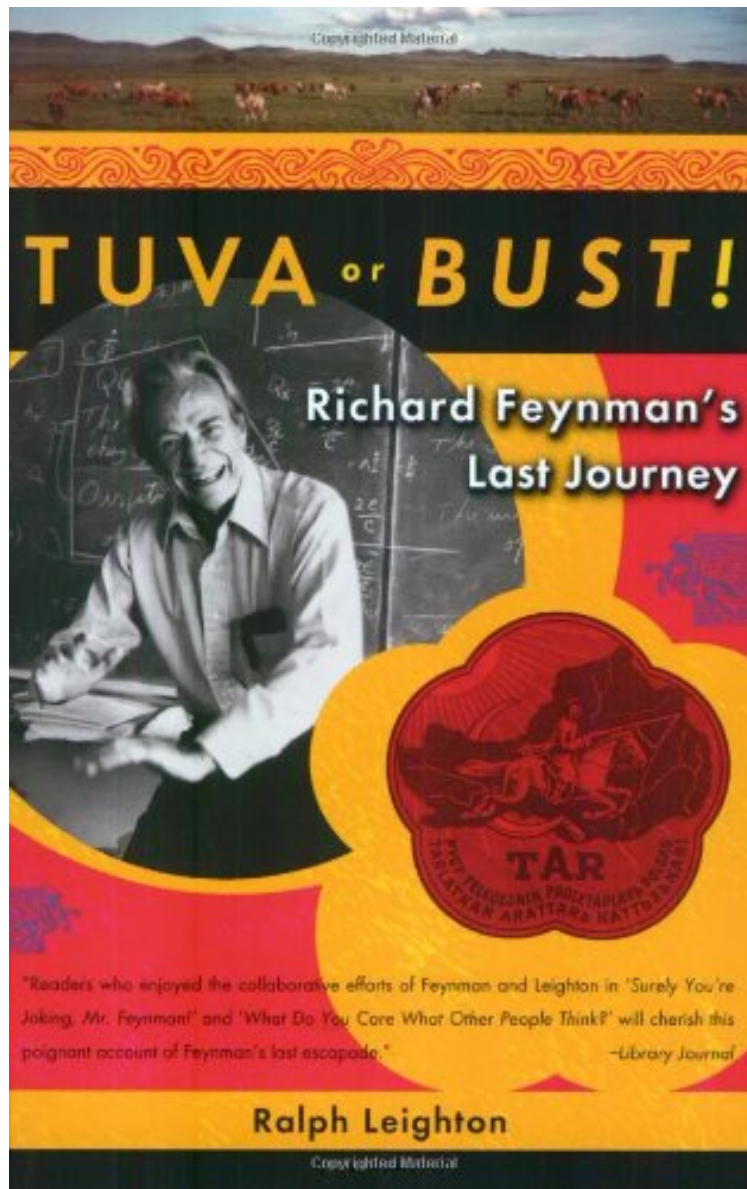


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Tuva or Bust!: Richard Feynman's Last Journey

Ralph Leighton

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Ralph Leighton : Tuva or Bust!: Richard Feynman's Last Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tuva or Bust!: Richard Feynman's Last Journey:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth reading, but not my favorite R. Leighton book By Phil A.I think 'Surely You're Joking...' and 'What do you Care...' are the best biographical books on Feynman. They were written by RL with Feynman as first person, that is, as if Feynman wrote it. To me, this added greatly to the books, and

I had hoped for something similar from this book. Unfortunately, *Tuva or Bust!* is written from RL's point of view, not Feynman's. I guess there was not enough direct involvement by Feynman to support writing in Feynman's words. Or maybe RL just wanted to write from his own point of view for a change. Just be aware, this is more a Leighton book than a Feynman book. The book and other reviewers write about the journey being greater than the destination, which I completely understand. But, word-for-word, this book is about RL's journey with Feynman checking in from time to time. That said, I think it is still very much worth reading. It is a fascinating story of a fascinating time in international affairs, and for the die-hard Feynman buff, there is plenty of new information and trivia. Who would have expected a Feynman connection to Alan Alda? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read to one of the twentieth and twenty first ...By Tom from Long Island A good read to one of the twentieth and twenty first centuries most brilliant men. It was Doctor Feynman that discovered the fault in the Challenger disaster. Truly a great man. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I could understand him a little bit better; how passionate By bookworm I read many books about Feynman, but this is different. I could understand him a little bit better; how passionate, how curious, how obsessive (in a good way of course!) overall what an interesting man he was.... I adore him all the more. In addition, I learned about Tuva, centers of the continents! throat singing, Esalen and many more things too..... I love the book.

As a stamp-collecting boy always fascinated by remote places, Nobel Prizewinning physicist Richard Feynman was particularly taken by the diamond-shaped stamps from a place called Tannu Tuva deep within Outer Mongolia. He hoped, someday, to travel there. In 1977, Feynman and his sidekick fellow drummer and geography enthusiast Ralph Leighton set out to make arrangements to visit Tuva, doing noble and hilarious battle with Soviet red tape, befriending quite a few Tuvans, and discovering the wonders of Tuvan throat-singing. Their Byzantine attempts to reach Tannu Tuva would span a decade, interrupted by Feynman's appointment to the committee investigating the Challenger disaster, and his tragic struggle with the cancer that finally killed him. *Tuva or Bust!* chronicles the deepening friendship of two zany, brilliant strategists whose love of the absurd will delight and instruct. It is Richard Feynman's last, best adventure. Illustrated

.com Richard Feynman, brilliant physicist and inspirational teacher, wasn't much for coats and ties. He lived a life that the adjective "bohemian" doesn't begin to cover, scripting percussion scores for avant-garde ballet troupes, musing over life's imponderables, and delighting and annoying his many friends with odd-duck questions--all the while teaching generations of students at CalTech. Always adventurous, Feynman was also a careful planner, recounts his friend and fellow drummer Ralph Leighton in this affectionate memoir. When a chance remark happened to dislodge a long-dormant memory of a faraway Siberian land called Tannu-Tuva, Feynman and Leighton set about scheming to get there--a program that included learning the little-described Tuvan language, picking up the rudiments of throat singing, and reading the scattered, hard-to-find literature concerning a place that, in Feynman's fond view, was as close to paradise as the earth contained. It also involved corresponding with scholars in what was still the Soviet Union and wrangling with bureaucrats to secure the necessary papers--all for the sake of seeing a country that had to be interesting, Feynman insisted, just because its capital, Kyzyl, had such an odd spelling. These picaresque armchair adventures make up the bulk of *Tuva or Bust*, an unconventional mix of travelogue and scientific biography that's a pleasure to read at every turn. The book yields a memorable picture of Richard Feynman--who did not live to see Tuva, but whose memory is honored there today, thanks to Leighton's refusal to abandon their shared dream. --Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly In a high-spirited tale of adventure and heartbreak, Leighton travels to a remote corner of Mongolia on behalf of his dying friend, the late physicist Feynman. Illustrated. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Intrigued by the comely, diamond-shaped stamps collected as children from an obscure, Soviet-controlled region of Mongolia called Tannu Tuva, and by the curious spelling of its capital--Kyzyl--Nobel laureate physicist Feynman and his sidekick Leighton make a pact to visit the area. Despite snags engendered by Cold War politics and Feynman's deteriorating physical condition, their persistence is rewarded by an official invitation to Tuva from the USSR Academy of Sciences. Sadly, Feynman is felled by abdominal cancer before the trip begins, yet his irrepressible pranks and unquenchable intellectual curiosity touch the hearts of all involved in organizing the journey. Readers who enjoyed the collaborative efforts of Feynman and Leighton in *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman* (LJ 3/15/85) and *What Do You Care What Other People Think?* (LJ 11/15/88) will undoubtedly cherish this poignant account of Feynman's last escapade.--Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal" Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.