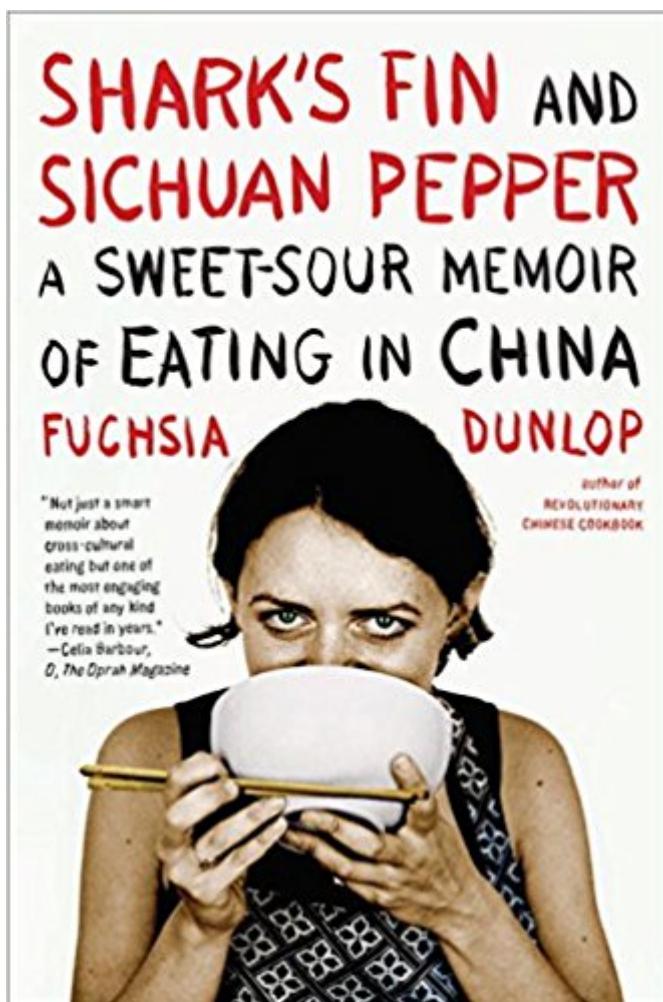


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# Shark's Fin And Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir Of Eating In China



## Synopsis

"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).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“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

Funny.. and a good guide to eat in China...

Interesting read about the culture and food of China.

An amazing culinary and personal journey beautifully written with a lot of heart! It resonated with me since I travel to China often and love experimenting the amazing cuisine. Now I have a framework to rely on

Wonderful descriptions of the author’s love affair with Chinese culture-the food, the history, the people. If you can’t go to China, this is the next best thing!

A captivating read! I didn’t even really want to buy it, but I finished it 100% convinced that it is one of the best books I’ve read this year

A great, great read. It’s very entertaining and deliciously written. It’s one of those rare books I reminisce on often.

Simply put, Ms. Dunlop writes a captivating memoir about her time in China learning to cook. But it’s far more than a simple memoir or a simple food book. Her dexterity with translating the essence of food from China into terms and concepts Westerners can understand is breath-taking. I’ve used many of her recipes with great success. Simply put this book plus her other two cookbooks deserve a place in every kitchen and food library. If you think you understand Chinese food as it’s presented

in the West, you will learn so much from these books about just how amazing Chinese food can be.

I learned so much about China. I wasn't expecting that. Can't wait to try some of the foods mention in the book!

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