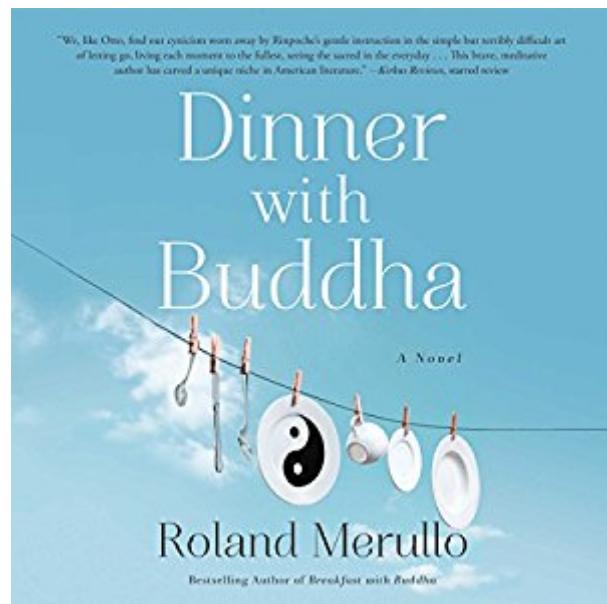


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# Dinner With Buddha



## Synopsis

The author of Breakfast with Buddha brings his characteristic whimsy to a new novel about New York book editor Otto Ringling and Mongolian monk Volya Rinpoche, who embark on a road trip from Rinpoche's meditation center in North Dakota to the glitter and glitz of the Las Vegas strip. What prompts the trip is Otto's recently altered life, having lost first his wife then his job, and then seeing both his children leave home for lives of their own. With Rinpoche's guidance, he hopes to find a new meaning in his life and a new direction. But what begins as a quietly contemplative journey becomes much more as the two men travel through the heart of the American Midwest, witnessing the decimated lives of so many American natives and giving Otto new perspective on the trials he is experiencing in his own life. Along with these inner awakenings for Otto, there is also a very real hint of menace in the novel, as men show up who may be looking to make sure that the world never knows of the existence of Shelsa, the eight-year-old daughter of Rinpoche and Otto's sister, Cecilia. Shelsa has consistently shown that she has the markings and the instincts of a spiritual leader, leading to speculation that she may be the new Dalai Lama.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âœHoney, if you can hear me, send me a little advice now. I'm fifty-two. I could live to be eighty or ninety and what am I going to do with myself for all those decades? No one wants to hire a fifty-two-year-old ex-editor, and I'm not sure I want to go back to working full-time in any case. I'd give anything to be able to sit down with a glass of wine and talk this over with you. I'm adrift. Help me out if you can. The world is too much for Otto Ringling. Despondent after the

passing of his beloved wife, Jeannie, he suddenly finds himself unemployed, mourning the loss of his dog, experiencing the pangs of empty nest syndrome, and entirely consumed by a sense of sadness on all fronts. • At a spiritual crossroads (he wasn't sure, any longer, that there were answers to the big questions: why we suffer, why we die, why we're born in the first place •), the main character in Roland Merullo's much-anticipated follow-up to **BREAKFAST WITH BUDDHA** leaves the harsh, all-too-real, sophisticated world of New York City for a three-week hiatus in his parents' North Dakota farmhouse. Attempting to free himself from an inner circus of despair, • Otto luxuriates in the blanket of a beautiful silence • and the occasional bursts of song from a meadowlark • in the high-plains August heat. But there is no rest for the weary. When his eccentric sister Seese (aka Cecilia) announces with great urgency that she's had a dream, Otto knows by virtue of some mysterious sibling intuition" that he has entered risky territory. Seese's vision requires Otto to join her Russian monk husband, Volya Rinpoche, on a sojourn to a mountainous region to find a person who is going to help her seven-year-old daughter save the world.

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