

**Saturday Journal; In Lugu Lake, Marriage Is a Ticklish Affair; Females call the shots as men hand over matters of life and love in remote Chinese matriarchal society.**

*The Los Angeles Times*; Los Angeles, Calif.; Dec 26, 1998; MAGGIE FARLEY;

**Abstract:**

*Alacuo lives in China's legendary "women's kingdom," a matriarchal society of about 47,000 people that thrives on the shores of Lugu Lake in a remote corner of southern China.*

*The women of the Mosuo ethnic group, which is descended from Tibetan nomads, make the decisions and hold the purse strings. Property and names pass from mother to daughter. The women rarely take husbands.*

*This area of northern Yunnan province, with its crystalline lake, Buddhist monasteries and red-earth mountains, was perhaps the model for the mythical Shangri-La in James Hilton's novel "Lost Horizon." Until a few decades ago, it took a mule train seven days to reach the village of Lugu Lake from the nearest trading center, Lijiang. Even today, it can only be reached after a nine-hour jeep ride over harrowingly narrow mountain passes that are frequently blocked by landslides or snow.*

**Full Text:**

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