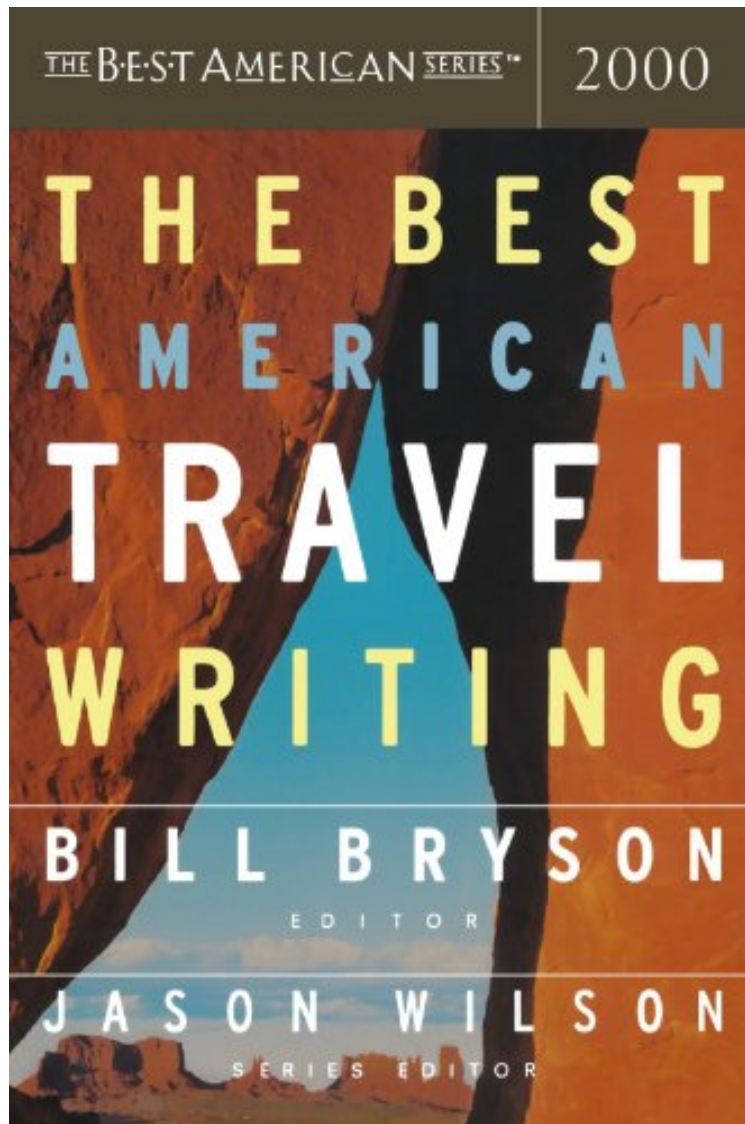


[Download] The Best American Travel Writing 2000

The Best American Travel Writing 2000

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From Bill Bryson Jason Wilson : The Best American Travel Writing 2000 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best American Travel Writing 2000:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Short stories of experiences, not lessons in travel By C. Braden A bit what I expected, someone telling a travel story, that part is fun, but the stories (necessarily) are snippets of the trip, like what it was like to travel to an outpost in Australia, or my story of smuggling illegal cheese from France, with one

detailed story of the 2nd whip to the Dalai Lama (good story to read) or the abbreviated story of being grabbed in Africa by extremists (complete with murder and machete attacks). A good read but not a great read. Easy to stop and start. Much of it is in India or Nepal, though some Nunavut in Canada, a story from France, one from Australia, one from Canada. Don't expect to "learn" much in the way of lessons or travel advice, though the guy who willingly went to visit the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia needed his head examined and tells a cautionary tale. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Breaking out of one's shell - escape through facing the unknown and uncertain By Greeny With this book I discovered that I like travel literature although not all. This is a collection of travelers' tales, complete with descriptions of how other cultures experience life. Until now I've been tricked by popularized travel cable travel shows that are really advertisements formed to appear like content. I think this was a perfect introduction to travel lit because it's a collection of short stories by different writers. Each suffers in order to escape from their daily life and experience new challenges. That is what travel lit means to me. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Armchair adventures for the timid By Mr. Joe The title of this book is THE BEST AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITING 2000. OK, ok, so I'm obviously a tad behind on my reading. (I only just recently got around to the fine print on my birth certificate which lists the warranty exclusions.) "To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar that it can be taken for granted." Perhaps the spirit of the statement is hard to realize nowadays when even Ulan Bator boasts (?) a McDonalds. However, its author, travel writer Bill Bryson, has, as this anthology's editor, pulled together twenty-six tales that will transport the armchair traveler far beyond the well-trod tourist paths. And I say this as one whose wimpy idea of adventure is to dine on a scorching curry in one of London's Balti houses after an afternoon exploring the book stacks at Foyle's. The only journey in this volume that's personally appealing is the one to Bhutan described by Jessica Maxwell in "Inside the Hidden Kingdom". (That was until I searched the Web for Bhutan tours and was faced with the eye-popping cost of such a trek. Winning the California Lotto will be a pre-requisite, I'm afraid.) Otherwise, scouring France and Spain for the perfect first alcoholic drink of the day, or attending the World Ice Golfing Championship 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Greenland, isn't a trip I'll queue for. Neither is spending the night in the depths of New York's Central Park, searching for the remnants of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia's remote highlands, traveling by donkey into Morocco's Atlas Mountains, picking-up hitchhikers in Cuba, or journeying down the Congo River on an over-crowded, squalid, passenger barge. I admire those who do such things, and it makes for great storytelling, but I'm way too soft. In all the modern travel essays I've read, even if they're about trips to hell and back, nobody is ever permanently hurt. That fact is what makes so horrific "The Last Safari" by Mark Ross, a former safari guide, who tells of the time he and several clients were kidnapped in Uganda by border-crossing, machete-wielding rebels from the Congo. This tragic and shocking narrative is alone worth the price of the book. All of the contributions to THE BEST AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITING 2000 are off-beat by a little or a lot. That common element is what makes the whole worth reading.

The extraordinary popularity of books and magazines dedicated to travel comes as no surprise, given that more and more Americans are traveling each year for business, pleasure, and especially adventure. Our fascination with travel has never been so well represented as in this new addition to the Best American series: a wide-ranging compendium of the best travel writing published in 1999, culled from more than three hundred magazines, newspapers, and Web sites. This first collection of THE BEST AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITING reads like a good novel. Best-selling author Bill Bryson and series editor Jason Wilson have put together a book that will surprise knowledgeable travelers and entrance newcomers with the glories of new worlds. Articles by such well-loved writers as Bill Buford and Ryszard Kapuscinski are included, as are those by exciting new voices. Ranging across myriad landscapes, from Central Park in New York City to the Ouadane oasis in Saharan Mauritania, THE BEST AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITING 2000 showcases the diversity and creative power of travel writing today.

.com The world may be getting smaller, but that doesn't mean it's any less varied, surprising, or exotic--as is made evident by the 25 essays collected in the inaugural edition of the Best American Travel Writing series. In search of America's sharpest, most original, and often, most curious travel writers, editor Bill Bryson and series editor Jason Wilson sifted through hundreds of stories. What the resulting collection demonstrates is that, as Wilson writes, travel stories matter: Having a travel writer report on particular things, small things, the specific ways in which people act and interact, is perhaps our best way of getting beyond the clichés that we tell each other about different places and cultures, and about ourselves. And, as Bryson notes, many of the freshest voices are being drawn to foreign subjects far beyond the trampled paths of tourism. Within these pages, they chart the world from Nantucket to Zanzibar, the Atlas Mountains of Morocco to Australia's Cape York Peninsula with originality and keen observation. Some even go where none would follow: drawn by the allure of danger zones, Patrick Symmes rides a dirt bike to "perhaps the most forbidden city in the world" in search of the Khmer Rouge. Tim Cahill describes his own personal journey in hell--11 long days on a barge on the Ubangi River with 3,000 people packed so close together it's impossible to move without apologizing. (Fortunately, he's befriended by a man named God who is always in the know.) Distance is not a

prerequisite for travel writing, though humor is invaluable, as Bill Buford shows in his attempt to do what you just don't do--spend the night in Central Park. When Dave Eggers discovers hitchhiking is what makes Cuba move, it becomes the point of his trip to "pick up and move people, from here to there." Tongue in cheek, he declares, "So easy to change the quality, the very direction, of Cubans' lives!" Then again, sometimes humor is just not appropriate, particularly if you've been kidnapped by Ugandan rebels (as was Mark Ross) or you're trying to help the Dalai Lama choose the next Panchen Lama without jeopardizing lives (as did Isabel Hilton). In any case, it's all happening here--golf in Greenland, cheese smuggling from France, even a ride with the Toughest Truck Driver in the World. This collection proves that travel writing is a genre whose time has come. --Lesley Reed

From Publishers Weekly
The travelers Bryson (In a Sunburned Country) and Wilson (a travel writer) have collected here aren't the high-adrenaline survivor sort so popular these days. What these writers all share is a love of a place, a moment, a people (okay, David Halberstam bemoans the influx of nouveau riches to his precious Nantucket). Culled from the expected travel magazines, plus a couple of more unlikely sources (Coffee Journal), these highly personal accounts represent the best of the best (an appendix lists the many runners-up). From Bill Buford's plan to sleep overnight in Central Park to Dave Eggers's memories of picking up hitchhikers in Cuba; from Tom Clynes's ride through the Outback with "The Toughest Trucker in the World" to Mark Ross's harrowing tale of being kidnapped by rebels in Uganda, every one of these short pieces spins everyday details into memorable life. On the lighter side, Clive Irving rhapsodizes about "The First Drink of the Day" and David Lansing offers the educational "Confessions of a Cheese Smuggler." As Wilson points out in his entertaining foreword, we've all written about "What I Did on My Summer Vacation." These writers have raised that to an art; all of these tales remind us of how amazing the world truly is. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist
A new category of writing makes its auspicious debut in Houghton's Best American series of anthologies with this collection of travel pieces. In the foreword, series editor Jason Wilson posits that travel writing, because "the world never quits growing on us," has the same purpose as it has always had: "to chart this new world in all its rich detail, then report back." In his introduction, guest editor Bill Bryson (and a veteran travel writer himself) straightforwardly admits what compelled him to decide that these particular pieces would be his final selections for inclusion here: "Simply because I liked them." One of the best of the selections is by Bill Buford, a piece titled "Lions and Tigers and Bears," which was first published in the New Yorker . Was it off to the high Andes for him? Or to the Australian Outback? Perhaps the deepest rain forest? No, Buford decided his travel adventure would be spending a night in Central Park in New York City! Brad Hooper

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