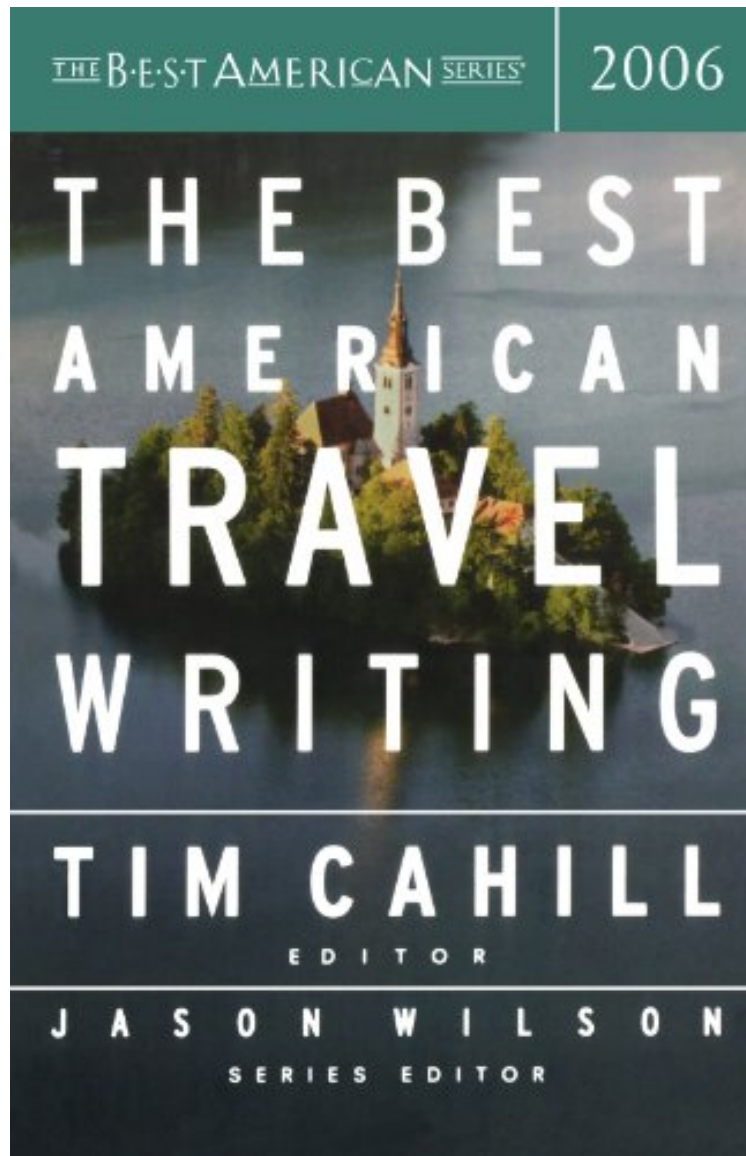


(Mobile ebook) The Best American Travel Writing 2006 (The Best American Series)

The Best American Travel Writing 2006 (The Best American Series)

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From Mariner Books : The Best American Travel Writing 2006 (The Best American Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best American Travel Writing 2006 (The Best American Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best of the Best By Stephen Balbach I bought this anthology based on the strength of its user reviews on and LibraryThing, plus my positive experiences with another title in the series The Best American Science and Nature Writing. However I had serious trepidations, after all isn't modern travel writing

mostly just light touristic pieces found in `Reader's Digest` or the local newspaper, barely hidden attempts at selling us packaged vacations? Was I ever wrong and pleasantly surprised, the 2006 collection turns out to be one of the best books I've read this year. There are 26 essays and not one is bad, they are all fantastic and at least 4 of them are classics. Normally in anthologies like this I'm happy when a third are favorited enough to mark the page for re-reading later, but here it's almost 100%; marking the pages is superfluous. The guest editor for 2006 is Tim Cahill, founder and editor of `Outside` magazine, so it is perhaps not surprising that, as a professional editor of a magazine that caters to travel writing, he was like a Saudi Sheik with unlimited funds on a shopping spree in Paris, able to pick and choose from the best the world has to offer, the only limit being 320 pages. But how does he pick the "best"? "In choosing pieces for this anthology", he says, "I've looked for the best *stories* I could find", [emphasis added] - clarifying what he means by story, "if I can't find a story, I often feel I'm being beaten over the head with an encyclopedia. Stories are the sole written instrument that can bring tears to our eyes, or make us laugh.. and they are more fun to read. Story is of the essence. " This collection then is a testament to Cahill's ideal of travel writing as story, and it succeeds brilliantly. Cahill also posits that America is currently in a "Golden Age" of travel writing and after reading this collection I might agree. If you read only one travel writing anthology this would be an ideal place to start. Even if your not interested in travel writing as a genre, most of these pieces were not written as strictly travel writing, or for traditional travel magazines. The articles are mostly by well established and known journalists and novelists and non-fiction authors in top-tier magazines like `National Geographic`, `The New Yorker`, `GQ` and others. I look forward to reading more from this series, but based on admittedly shallow investigations of user reviews, none of the other volumes in the series look as good as this one. Perhaps 2005 was just a very good year for travel writing, perhaps Cahill has an unusually good talent for picking the best articles, or perhaps since this is my first experience with the series, and my initial low expectations - whatever the case this volume will be revisited in later years and has earned a satisfying place on my bookshelf. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book By T. Chandler I have read two stories in this book so far and they are both intriguing. This book is filled with various stories by multiple writers who are all talented. I bought the book for an internet course that I am enrolled in but I will keep the book after the semester is through because it is entertaining. I can't afford to travel right now but some of the stories in this book will take me around the world in the comfort of my own home. Plus I got a really great deal with the purchase from dot com. Wish that I had known about this site sooner, I could have saved even more money with the previous books that I bought for classes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Melissa Vickery Love the whole series!

Tim Cahill writes in his introduction to *The Best American Travel Writing 2006*, "'Story' is the essence of the travel essay. Stories are the way we organize the chaos in our lives, orchestrate voluminous factual material, and -- if we are very good -- shed some light on the human condition." Here are twenty-six pieces that showcase the best travel writing from 2005, filled with "keen observations that transform ordinary journeys into extraordinary ones" (*Library Journal*). Mark Jenkins journeys into a forgotten valley in Afghanistan, Kevin Fedarko takes a wild ride through the rapids of the Grand Canyon, and Christopher Solomon reports on the newest fad to hit South Korea: downhill skiing. For David Sedaris, a seemingly routine domestic flight is cause for a witty rumination on modern airline travel. Alain de Botton describes the discreet charms of Zurich, and Ian Frazier recalls leaving the small Midwestern town he called home. Michael Paterniti gives a touching portrait of the world's tallest man -- eight and a half feet and growing, while P.J. O'Rourke visits an airplane manufacturer to see firsthand how the French make the world's biggest passenger plane. George Saunders is dazzled by a trip to the "Vegas of the Middle East," Rolf Potts takes on tantric yoga for dilettantes, and Sean Flynn documents a seedier side of travel -- the newest hotspot in the international sex trade. Culled from a wide variety of publications, these stories, as Cahill writes, all "touched me in one way or another, changed an attitude, made me laugh aloud, or provided fuel for my dreams. I wish the reader similar joys."

From *Publishers Weekly* Declares Cahill (*Jaguars Ripped My Flesh*) in his introduction to the seventh edition of Houghton's annual collection, "Story is the essence of the travel essay." So perhaps it's no surprise to see several contributions from writers with literary reputations. Gary Shteyngart revisits his native St. Petersburg for the holidays; George Saunders takes a surreal journey through Dubai; and Alain de Botton explains why he loves "boring and bourgeois" Zurich so much. But more traditional travel writers make their presence felt as well. *Outside* columnist Mark Jenkins hikes across the steppes from Afghanistan into China; in another article from that magazine, Michael Behar finds himself getting shot at by natives in the rain forests of West Papua. Airplanes come in for a lot of ribbing: P.J. O'Rourke jokes his way through a sneak peek at the jumbo-sized Airbus A380, while David Sedaris bears the resentment of his seatmate on a crowded flight after refusing to switch places with her husband. In a charming touch, the anthology begins and ends with stories about food: Chitrita Banerji's reflections about a Calcutta wedding feast are book-ended by Calvin Trillin's marvelous *New Yorker* piece about spending a week in Ecuador indulging his love for "thick and hearty" fanesca soup, a perfect mix of exotic locale and elegant prose. (Oct. 11) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Series editor Jason Wilson muses on

travelers' "endless quest for the authentic," and guest editor Cahill considers the nature of travel writing itself; both agree the best travel tales are told in the first person. And indeed, voice and story are the criteria here, for the concept of travel includes both Ian Frazier's thoughtful exploration of why he left Ohio and P. J. O'Rourke's gimlet-eyed appraisal of the behemoth Airbus A380. Other standouts include Michael Behar's troubling account of a guided tour promising first contact with indigenous people in West Papua, Indonesia, and George Saunders' exuberantly introspective junket to Dubai, an oil country retooling itself as the Disney/Vegas of the Middle East. But that's just scratching the surface. Cahill notes that "We seem to be in a golden age of American travel writing," suggesting one reason for the depth and quality here. Whatever the reason, The Best American Travel Writing series has become so reliable that reviewing it would seem almost unnecessary--except that reviewers want to read it, too. Keir Graff

Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This dizzying collection proves that travel writing goes far beyond the romance and adventure most readers associate with the genre. . ."