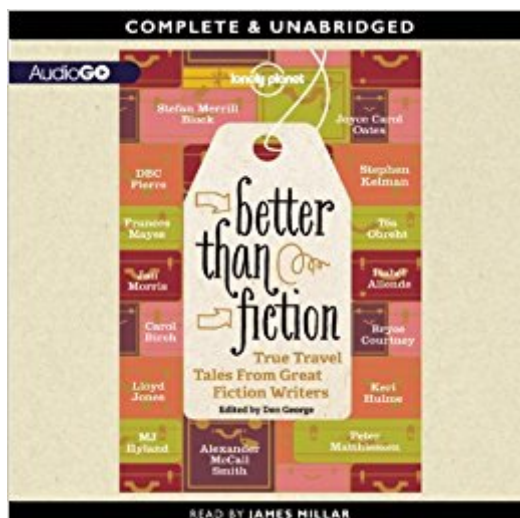


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Better Than Fiction: True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers



Synopsis

A collection of original travel stories told by some of the world's best novelists, including: Isabel Allende, Peter Matthiessen, Alexander McCall Smith, Joyce Carol Oates, Tea Obreht, D.B.C. Pierre, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The intrepid adventurers at Lonely Planet continue to churn out imaginatively clever travel literature. This one combines travel with literary memoir as 32 reasonably well-known fiction writers recall some of their most remarkable experiences on the open road. While Frances Mayes, Joyce Carol Oates, Alexander McCall Smith, and Isabel Allende will be familiar to most, the travels of the lesser-known scribes are just as fascinating and fun. Seasoned editor George has also included a brief introduction to each piece, listing the books and outlining the literary credentials of its author. Armchair travelers will relish taking gorgeous, descriptive trips to Mexico, the Solomon Islands, Rome, Luxembourg, Java, and a host of other exotic and not-so exotic destinations. --Margaret Flanagan --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"A fine anthology, with numerous fiction writers from Australia and New Zealand joining their colleagues from the UK and the US." (Perceptive Travel)"Better Than Fiction is a fun collection of travel tales, that I enjoyed reading a few at a time, each joyously took me away from the daily world into a far away place with a few laughs along the way." (Alaskan Apple Users Group Blog 2013-02-07)"The best of the essays are very personal experiences with meticulous description of

place." (A Traveler's Library 2013-01-18)"For anyone who considers themselves a voracious consumer of travel writing, Better Than Fiction will make for a refreshing and illuminating read... Great travel storytelling, like the work showcased in Better Than Fiction, reminds us that ultimately discovering the truth about the places we visit involves more than just restating the facts." (Gadling 2013-01-07)"Isabel Allende, Joyce Carol Oates, and more provide warm and lovely stories from an account of an adventure off the beaten path in Malawai to visiting San Quentin Prison and chasing missionaries in far-away regions of Asia. The result is a powerful survey highly recommended for any literary travel collection." (Midwest Book Review) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This was a very entertaining and well-selected collection of short stories from the more able writers of our day. Since I am a lifelong writer and traveler, I was intrigued by the initial intent of the book. Also being a fan of Alexander McCall Smith's excellent prose, I thought that his desire to publish a special selection of travel stories would be worth the read. I was not disappointed. Mostly, I loved the various and unusual perspectives that the writers wove into their tales. It gave me an insight into what their longer works may be like. From the author introductions, previous to each story, I gleaned a long list of possible, future reading titles. So now I can explore those writers' works that were heretofore unknown to me. Travel writing can be rather dull, in that B follows C action; and then comes C place, and then "I did this", which is D; and so on, as tourist observations might describe. But the skill of the writers, in this particular anthology, was masterful and very entertaining. For me, meaningful travel, not being a tourist, should take one along a path and not toward an intended destination. These travel stories did that for me. The images of the travel are well-embodied in these tales of the road. This was a very worthwhile book.

In my opinion, this is not the best collection of travel essays, or even a particularly good collection. Most of them emphasize unpleasant places or bad experiences. Many of the authors are from Australia and New Zealand.

I usually don't like writing smack about another author but these stories were boring. Since the writers are all fiction writers you'd expect some interesting writing. Not so. I tried so many times picking it up and reading another story. I spent about \$14 plus shipping so I really hated tossing it. There are too many great authors out there, choose one of them!

This is a great book about travel adventures from other parts of the world written by authors from

other parts of the world. Many of them are prize award winners from England, Australian, India, etc. It was refreshing to read some new voices from really great writers.

This is my main text for a course in travel writing that I teach to largely American students. The short pieces take the reader all over the world with a variety of viewpoints. The writers are all excellent, a few however not to my taste, but that is just a matter of taste. Students like h book because the short pieces are contemporary and easier to relate to than extracts from books on long journeys. My highest compliment is that I have gone on to read the longer works of many of the fiction and non-fiction writers represented in this fun book.

I'm still struggling through this book. As of yet, I haven't read a short travel story that I like yet.

Contains stories from many different authors, new and old, who cherished the inspiration that travel can bring. Really well written stories and a smoothly compiled anthology. Great gift for writers with a wanderlust!

Great collection of true stories that ignite a flame for adventure!

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