

The Happy Isles Of Oceania Paddling The Pacific

Dark Star SafariWaldoMy Secret HistoryTo the Ends of the EarthThe Lower RiverThe Long Winding Road to Nakhon NowhereThe Great Railway BazaarThe Roads to SataGirls at PlayHotel HonoluluThe Pillars of HerculesHappy Isles in CrisisFresh Air FiendThe Water in BetweenFigures in a LandscapeDeep SouthBlue LatitudesThe Tao of TravelThe Old Patagonian ExpressGetting Stoned with SavagesThe Mosquito CoastThe Happy Isles of OceaniaThe Kingdom by the SeaHappy Birthday, Sophie HartleyThe Sex Lives of CannibalsThe Pacific AloneThe Elephanta SuiteOn the Plain of SnakesGhost Train to the Eastern StarSunrise with SeamonstersThe Last Train to Zona VerdeThe Happy Isles of OceaniaComplete Folding Kayaker, Second EditionKowloon TongMy Other LifePower in HistoryThe Happy Isles of OceaniaMother LandRiding the Iron RoosterSir Vidia's Shadow

Dark Star Safari

Traces a modern version of the Grand Tour of Europe--a lively, sometimes violent journey around the shores of the Mediterranean

Waldo

“ There are those who think that Paul Theroux is the finest travel writer working in English. This collection can only enhance that reputation. ” —The New York Times Book Review Author and travel writer Paul Theroux does what no one else can: he travels to the isolated, unusual, and fascinating spots of the world, and creates an elegy to them that makes readers feel they are traveling with him. Evocative, breathtaking, intriguing, here is the armchair traveler's guide to the sites of the world he makes us feel we know. Praise for To the Ends of the Earth “ Reads like a wonderful novel. ” —The Pittsburgh Press “ Powerful . . . This compendium unequivocally offers insight into the mind of a foremost American fiction writer who became an accidental tourist. ” —The Christian Science Monitor “ Theroux is a wonderful traveling companion. . . . To the Ends of the Earth combines the best of his travel writing. . . . With him the reader shares a conversation with a sultan on a polo ground in Malaysia; hears people ‘ mourn with firecrackers, scattering cherrybombs on the tombstone ’ in a Chinese cemetery in Singapore; feels overdressed around nudists in Corsica; sees sandbagged houses and bombraters left in Vietnam on a cold December day in 1973. ” —The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star “ Travel writing at its best . . . As you travel voyeuristically with Theroux, across the vast wastelands of interior China, the convoluted cultures of Latin America or campy seacoast towns of England, you're struck with his slightly jaundiced eye for the overlooked but telling detail, his skeptic's ear for the offhand but important comment. ” —The Houston Post

My Secret History

To the Ends of the Earth

The travel writer shares his essays on a host of his favorite destinations, including Hong Kong, Maine, Africa, and the Pacific islands.

The Lower River

The Sunday Times bestseller Paul Theroux collects a rich feast of his writing and essays - from travel to

personal memoir - published all together here for the first time Drawing together a fascinating body of writing from over 14 years of work, *Figures in a Landscape* ranges from profiles of cultural icons (Oliver Sacks, Elizabeth Taylor, Robin Williams) to intimate personal remembrances; from thrilling adventures in Africa to literary writings from Theroux's rich and expansive personal reading. Collectively these pieces offer a fascinating portrait of the author himself, his extraordinary life, restless and ever-curious mind.

The Long Winding Road to Nakhon Nowhere

Sophie Hartley is almost sure that her dad said okay when she asked for a baby gorilla for her birthday. Soon the kids at school want to know every detail about the gorilla, and dealing with her enthusiastic classmates gets harder as the big day approaches. When teenage sister Nora leaves their shared bedroom for her own space in the attic, and close friend Jenna shows signs of becoming a shrieker, Sophie finds it hard to remain optimistic. Maybe painting her windowsills purple will help. And maybe she ' ll get the perfect present! Funny and believable, the story of a big birthday will please old and new Sophie fans.

The Great Railway Bazaar

This travel book follows Paul Theroux's explorations of the Pacific islands by collapsible kayak. Paddling through the islands, he also finds an unusual melting pot of cultures and contrasts.

The Roads to Sata

Thirty years after the epic journey chronicled in his classic work *The Great Railway Bazaar*, the world ' s most acclaimed travel writer re-creates his 25,000-mile journey through eastern Europe, central Asia, the Indian subcontinent, China, Japan, and Siberia. Half a lifetime ago, Paul Theroux virtually invented the modern travel narrative by recounting his grand tour by train through Asia. In the three decades since, the world he recorded in that book has undergone phenomenal change. The Soviet Union has collapsed and China has risen; India booms while Burma smothers under dictatorship; Vietnam flourishes in the aftermath of the havoc America was unleashing on it the last time Theroux passed through. And no one is better able to capture the texture, sights, smells, and sounds of that changing landscape than Theroux. Theroux ' s odyssey takes him from eastern Europe, still hung-over from communism, through tense but thriving Turkey into the Caucasus, where Georgia limps back toward feudalism while its neighbor Azerbaijan revels in oil-fueled capitalism. Theroux is firsthand witness to it all, traveling as the locals do—by stifling train, rattletrap bus, illicit taxi, and mud-caked foot—encountering adventures only he could have: from the literary (sparring with the incisive Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk) to the dissolute (surviving a week-long bender on the Trans-Siberian Railroad). And wherever he goes, his omnivorous curiosity and unerring eye for detail never fail to inspire, enlighten, inform, and entertain. PAUL THEROUX was born in Medford, Massachusetts, in 1941 and published his first novel, *Waldo*, in 1967. His fiction includes *The Mosquito Coast*, *My Secret History*, *My Other Life*, *Kowloon Tong*, *Blinding Light*, and most recently, *The Elephanta Suite*. His highly acclaimed travel books include *Riding the Iron Rooster*, *The Great Railway Bazaar*, *The Old Patagonian Express*, *Fresh Air Fiend*, and *Dark Star Safari*. He has been the guest editor of *The Best American Travel Writing* and is a frequent contributor to various magazines, including *The New Yorker*. He lives in Hawaii and on Cape Cod.

Girls at Play

In the summer of 1987 Ed Gillet achieved what no person has accomplished before or since, a solo

crossing from California to Hawaii by kayak. Gillet, at the age of 36 an accomplished sailor and paddler, navigated by sextant and always knew his position within a few miles. Still, Gillet underestimated the abuse his body would take from the relentless, pounding, swells of the Pacific, and early into his voyage he was covered with salt water sores and found that he could find no comfortable position for sitting or sleeping. Along the way he endured a broken rudder, among other calamities, but at last reached Maui on his 63rd day at sea, four days after his food had run out. Dave Shively brings Gillet ' s remarkable story to life in this gripping narrative, based on exclusive access to Gillet ' s logs as well as interviews with the legendary paddler himself.

Hotel Honolulu

An eccentric American inventor moves his family to the jungles of Central America in hopes of finding a better life

The Pillars of Hercules

"This book assembles some of the most exciting scholars working in the field of history to explore the theme of 'power' in history - examining the complexities, controversies, and contradictions of power and its contested environments in relation to warfare, the state, race, religion, gender, class, linguistic and cultural hegemony, symbols and rituals, and visual arts and architecture. It ranges from the medieval period to contemporary times, principally in Ireland and wider Europe, but also extending to North America, Africa, and Oceania. The 15 contributions do not accept power as a historical given. Each author addresses the specific context, giving rise to different constructions of it and its legitimacy, whether based on violence, political writings and rationalism, religious belief, popular acclamation, or visual perception. The collection brings out the different meanings and nuances of power over time and in different geographical spaces. As the editors argue in their conclusion where they look at the meaning of power in the post-modern age, the findings of this book have a reach beyond the academic and should resonate with all those interested in the exercise of power in the modern world."--Publisher's description.

Happy Isles in Crisis

In *Dark Star Safari* the wittily observant and endearingly irascible Paul Theroux takes readers the length of Africa by rattletrap bus, dugout canoe, cattle truck, armed convoy, ferry, and train. In the course of his epic and enlightening journey, he endures danger, delay, and dismaying circumstances. Gauging the state of affairs, he talks to Africans, aid workers, missionaries, and tourists. What results is an insightful meditation on the history, politics, and beauty of Africa and its people, and "a vivid portrayal of the secret sweetness, the hidden vitality, and the long-patient hope that lies just beneath the surface" (*Rocky Mountain News*). In a new postscript, Theroux recounts the dramatic events of a return to Africa to visit Zimbabwe.

Fresh Air Fiend

An acclaimed travel writer and novelist describes his journey across Africa, from Cape Town to Cape Province and into Namibia, riding elephants, meeting Bushmen and discussing the changes that have taken place since his first visit 50 years ago.

The Water in Between

From London across Europe through India and Asia, this was a trip of discovery made in the mid-

seventies, a time before the West had embraced the places, peoples, food, faiths and cultures of the East. To visit the lands of The Great Railway Bazaar is an encounter with all that is truly foreign and exotic.

Figures in a Landscape

The legendary travel writer drives the entire length of the US – Mexico border, then goes deep into the hinterland, on the back roads of Chiapas and Oaxaca, to uncover the rich, layered world behind today 's brutal headlines. Paul Theroux has spent his life crisscrossing the globe in search of the histories and peoples that give life to the places they call home. Now, as immigration debates boil around the world, Theroux has set out to explore a country key to understanding our current discourse: Mexico. Just south of the Arizona border, in the desert region of Sonora, he finds a place brimming with vitality, yet visibly marked by both the US Border Patrol to the north and mounting discord from within. With the same humanizing sensibility he employed in Deep South, Theroux stops to talk with residents, visits Zapotec mill workers in the highlands, and attends a Zapatista party meeting, communing with people of all stripes who remain south of the border even as family members brave the journey north. From the writer praised for his "curiosity and affection for humanity in all its forms" (New York Times Book Review), *On the Plain of Snakes* is an exploration of a region in conflict.

Deep South

In the Washington Post Book World, Sven Birkerts called this exuberant novel "a complex and gripping work of invention and confession . . . I understood again how the prose of a true writer can bring us to a world beyond." The book spans almost thirty years in the life of a fictional "Paul Theroux," who moves through young bachelorhood in Africa, in and out of marriage, affairs, and employment, and between continents. It's a wry, worldly, erotic, and deeply moving account of one man's first half century - "among the strongest things Theroux has ever written" (New York Times Book Review).

Blue Latitudes

One of the most acclaimed travel writers of our time turns his unflinching eye on an American South too often overlooked Paul Theroux has spent fifty years crossing the globe, adventuring in the exotic, seeking the rich history and folklore of the far away. Now, for the first time, in his tenth travel book, Theroux explores a piece of America -- the Deep South. He finds there a paradoxical place, full of incomparable music, unparalleled cuisine, and yet also some of the nation's worst schools, housing, and unemployment rates. It's these parts of the South, so often ignored, that have caught Theroux's keen traveler's eye. On road trips spanning four seasons, wending along rural highways, Theroux visits gun shows and small-town churches, laborers in Arkansas, and parts of Mississippi where they still call the farm up the road "the plantation." He talks to mayors and social workers, writers and reverends, the working poor and farming families -- the unsung heroes of the south, the people who, despite it all, never left, and also those who returned home to rebuild a place they could never live without. From the writer whose "great mission has always been to transport us beyond that reading chair, to challenge himself -- and thus, to challenge us" (Boston Globe), *Deep South* is an ode to a region, vivid and haunting, full of life and loss alike.

The Tao of Travel

A broken heart leads Kevin Patterson to the dock of a sailboat brokerage on Vancouver Island, where he stands contemplating the romance of the sea and his heartfelt desire to get away. By the end of the day, he finds himself the owner of a thirty-seven-foot ketch called *Sea Mouse*. Although he's never really been

on the ocean before (aside from the odd ferry-ride), he feels compelled to sail to Tahiti and back, to burn away his failings in hard miles at sea. From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Old Patagonian Express

In this wickedly satiric romp, Paul Theroux captures the essence of Hawaii as it has never been depicted. The novel's narrator, a down-on-his-luck writer, escapes to Waikiki and soon finds himself the manager of the Hotel Honolulu, a low-rent establishment a few blocks off the beach. Honeymooners, vacationers, wanderers, mythomaniacs, soldiers, and families all check in to the hotel. Like the Canterbury pilgrims, every guest has come in search of something -- sun, love, happiness, objects of unnameable longing -- and everyone has a story. By turns hilarious, ribald, tender, and tragic, HOTEL HONOLULU offers a unique glimpse of the psychological landscape of an American paradise.

Getting Stoned with Savages

The author of *The Great Railway Bazaar* explores the South Pacific by kayak: “ This exhilarating epic ranks with [his] best travel books ” (Publishers Weekly). In one of his most exotic and adventuresome journeys, travel writer Paul Theroux embarks on an eighteen-month tour of the South Pacific, exploring fifty-one islands by collapsible kayak. Beginning in New Zealand's rain forests and ultimately coming to shore thousands of miles away in Hawaii, Theroux paddles alone over isolated atolls, through dirty harbors and shark-filled waters, and along treacherous coastlines. Along the way, Theroux meets the king of Tonga, encounters street gangs in Auckland, and investigates a cargo cult in Vanuatu. From Australia to Tahiti, Fiji, Easter Island, and beyond, this exhilarating tropical epic is full of disarming observations and high adventure.

The Mosquito Coast

The author discusses his two-year stay on a remote South Pacific island, a place where he anticipated a romantic paradise but instead experienced humorous misadventures and a host of environmental challenges.

The Happy Isles of Oceania

The Kingdom by the Sea

In this “ moody thriller, ” a family business is targeted for takeover as control of Hong Kong shifts from the British to the Chinese (The New York Times). Ninety-nine years of colonial rule are ending as the British prepare to hand over Hong Kong to China. Betty Mullard and her son, Bunt, have lived here for years, mostly keeping apart from their foreign surroundings, except for some indulgence in the local food, or in Bunt ' s case, the local girls. The handover is not a concern for them—until the mysterious Mr. Hung from the mainland offers them a large sum for their family business. They refuse. But they fail to realize that Mr. Hung is unlike the other Chinese people they ' ve known: he will accept no refusals. When a young female employee whom Bunt has been dating vanishes, he is forced to make important decisions for the first time in his life—but his good intentions are pitted against the will of Mr. Hung, and the threat of the ultimate betrayal. “ A compact, provocative gem of a novel ” (The Boston Globe), from an award-winning author acclaimed for both his fiction and his travel memoirs—including *Deep South*, *The Great Railway Bazaar*, and *The Mosquito Coast*—Kowloon Tong was praised by Bette Bao Lord in *The Washington Post Book World* as “ a taut, illuminating story that transcends its timely

subject. ”

Happy Birthday, Sophie Hartley

In an intriguing memoir of friendship, the best-selling novelist, travel writer, and author of *The Great Railway Bazaar* recounts his experiences and memories as he journeyed around the world with renowned writer V. S. Naipaul. Reprint.

The Sex Lives of Cannibals

The acclaimed travel writer journeys by train across the Americas from Boston to Patagonia in this international bestselling travel memoir. Starting with a rush-hour subway ride to South Station in Boston to catch the Lake Shore Limited to Chicago, Paul Theroux takes a grand railway adventure first across the United States and then south through Mexico, Central America, and across the Andes until he winds up on the meandering Old Patagonian Express steam engine. His epic commute finally comes to a halt in a desolate land of cracked hills and thorn bushes that reaches toward Antarctica. Along the way, Theroux demonstrates how train travel can reveal “the social miseries and scenic splendors” of a continent. And through his perceptive prose we learn that what matters most are the people he meets along the way, including the monologuing Mr. Thornberry in Costa Rica, the bogus priest of Cali, and the blind Jorge Luis Borges, who delights in having Theroux read Robert Louis Stevenson to him.

The Pacific Alone

Paul Theroux invites us to join him on one of his most exotic and tantalizing adventures exploring the coasts and blue lagoons of the Pacific Islands, and taking up residence to discover the secrets of these isles. Theroux is a mesmerizing narrator – brilliant, witty, keenly perceptive as he floats through Gauguin landscapes, sails in the wake of Captain Cook and recalls the bewitching tales of Jack London and Robert Louis Stevenson. Alone in his kayak, paddling to seldom visited shores, he glides through time and space, discovering a world of islands, their remarkable people, and in turn, happiness. ‘A sharp, fascinating and highly entertaining book Theroux at his best’ Daily Telegraph.

The Elephanta Suite

On the Plain of Snakes

Idealizing the four years he spent in Malawi with the Peace Corps, Ellis Hock is abruptly divorced by his wife and decides to return to Africa only to find the region devastatingly transformed by poverty and apathy. 35,000 first printing.

Ghost Train to the Eastern Star

Paul Theroux, the author of the train travel classics *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *The Old Patagonian Express*, takes to the rails once again in this account of his epic journey through China. He hops aboard as part of a tour group in London and sets out for China's border. He then spends a year traversing the country, where he pieces together a fascinating snapshot of a unique moment in history. From the barren deserts of Xinjiang to the ice forests of Manchuria, from the dense metropolises of Shanghai, Beijing, and Canton to the dry hills of Tibet, Theroux offers an unforgettable portrait of a magnificent land and an extraordinary people.

Sunrise with Seamonsters

"An encyclopedia of invaluable knowledge."--Canoe & Kayak Folding kayaks are the only seaworthy boats you can store in the corner of a small closet and carry to the bay, lake, river, or ocean of your choice. Ralph Díaz, editor and publisher of the Folding Kayaker newsletter for more than ten years, has used and worked on nearly all of the folding kayak models available and knows all the ins and outs of choosing, assembling, paddling, traveling, modifying, and maintaining them. The Complete Folding Kayaker, the first guide to choosing, using, and enjoying this most liberating of personal watercraft, is now updated with more boat reviews, more modification tips from readers of Folding Kayaker, and a new chapter on assembly. So pack your kayak for your next adventure on the water!

"Indispensable."--Atlantic Coastal Kayaker "Ralph has written, quite literally, the folding kayaker's bible."--Robert Huszar, ANorAK "An essential resource for anyone interested in buying a foldable."--Outdoor Traveler "This book is the one to get if you want to find out about folding kayaks."--Cape Codder

The Last Train to Zona Verde

Paul Theroux celebrates fifty years of wandering the globe by collecting the best writing on travel from the books that shaped him, as a reader and a traveler. Part philosophical guide, part miscellany, part reminiscence, The Tao of Travel enumerates "The Contents of Some Travelers' Bags" and exposes "Writers Who Wrote about Places They Never Visited"; tracks extreme journeys in "Travel as an Ordeal" and highlights some of "Travelers' Favorite Places." Excerpts from the best of Theroux's own work are interspersed with selections from travelers both familiar and unexpected: Vladimir Nabokov J.R.R. Tolkien Samuel Johnson Eudora Welty Evelyn Waugh Isak Dinesen Charles Dickens James Baldwin Henry David Thoreau Pico Iyer Mark Twain Anton Chekhov Bruce Chatwin John McPhee Freya Stark Peter Matthiessen Graham Greene Ernest Hemingway The Tao of Travel is a unique tribute to the pleasures and pains of travel in its golden age.

The Happy Isles of Oceania

Gaining independence in 1978, the Solomon Islands, or 'Happy Isles' as they are commonly known, have recently been rent by crisis. The nation has been torn by dissent and violence, which saw the removal of a legitimate government in 2000 and culminated in the intervention of an Australian-led regional assistance mission in 2003. The forces unleashed by Guale and Malaitan militants in recent years-atrocities, chaos and dislocation-have terrorized the people of the Solomon Islands and will not easily be controlled. A large-scale program of restorative or transformative justice is needed. Militants on all sides need to confess their terrible acts; criminals, the pain and distress they have caused; and leaders the mess they have overseen. Happy Isles in Crisis traces the deep historical roots of this crisis of discontent, disaffection and dissatisfaction among the sometimes disparate communities of the Solomon Islands over land and resources, over the complex entwinement of traditional culture and modern society, and over poor governance and poor economic performance.

Complete Folding Kayaker, Second Edition

"Theroux possesses a fabulously nasty sense of humor." — Stephen King, New York Times Book Review To those in her Cape Cod town, Mother is an exemplar of piety, frugality, and hard work. To her husband and seven children, she is a selfish, petty tyrant. She excels at playing her offspring against each other. Her favorite, Angela, died in childbirth; only Angela really understands her, she tells the others. The others include the officious lawyer, Fred; the uproarious professor, Floyd; a pair of

inseparable sisters whose devotion to Mother has consumed their lives; and JP, the narrator, a successful writer whose work she disparages. As she lives well past the age of one hundred, her brood struggles with and among themselves to shed her viselike hold on them. *Mother Land* is a piercing portrait of how a parent's narcissism impacts a family. While the particulars of his tale are unique, Paul Theroux encapsulates with acute clarity and wisdom a circumstance that is familiar to millions of readers. "Paul Theroux ladles a steaming cup of dysfunctional-family chowder in *Mother Land*." — *Vanity Fair* "An engrossing, emotionally tangled and often merciless examination of family and self . . . *Mother Land* is a bittersweet, brutally frank family saga that offers enough redemption to make the journey worth it." — *Shelf Awareness*

Kowloon Tong

This fabulous, far-reaching book breathtakingly captures the tumult, ambition, hardship and serenity that mark modern India. Theroux's characters risk venturing far beyond its well-worn paths to discover woe or truth or peace. A holidaying middle-aged couple veer heedlessly from idyll to chaos. A buttoned-up Boston lawyer finds relief in Mumbai's reeking slums. A young woman befriends an elephant in Bangalore. We also meet Indian characters as distinctive as they are indicative of their country's subtle ironies: an executive who yearns to become a holy beggar, an earnest young striver whose personality is transformed by acquiring an American accent, a miracle-working guru, and more. *The Elephanta Suite* urges us towards a fresh, compelling, and often inspiring notion of India and its effect on those who try to lose — or find — themselves there.

My Other Life

This book brings together a variety of experiences and adventures from the travels of the best-selling author to such places as Corsica, Burma, Cape Cod, East Africa, Afghanistan, a leper colony, and the New York subways

Power in History

Describes travel experiences in Vanuatu and Fiji, which include coping with Mother Nature--typhoons, earthquakes, volcanoes--and observing the relaxed lifestyle of the islanders and their attitudes toward new parenthood.

The Happy Isles of Oceania

"Theroux's best novel in years." *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* *MY SECRET HISTORY* is Paul Theroux's tour de force. It is the story of Andre Parent, a writer, a world traveler, a lover of every kind of woman he chances to meet in a life as varied as a man can lead. From his days as an altar boy, to his job as a teenaged lifeguard, and then as a youth caught between the attentions of a beautiful young student and an amorous older woman. And as the boy becomes a man he turns his attention to writing, which brings him fame, and a wife, who may finally bring him to know himself. But not before he sets up his most dangerous secret life, one that any man might envy, but that could cost Andre Parent the delicate balance that makes him who he is.

Mother Land

After eleven years living as an American in London, Paul Theroux set out to travel clockwise round the coast and find out what Britain and the British are really like. It was 1982, the summer of the Falklands

War and the royal baby, and the ideal time, he found, to surprise the British into talking about themselves. The result is vivid and absolutely riveting reading. ' A sharp and funny descriptive writer. One of his golden talents, perhaps because he is American and therefore classless in British eyes, is the ability to chat up and get on with all sorts ' The Times.

Riding the Iron Rooster

In an exhilarating tale of historic adventure, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Confederates in the Attic* retraces the voyages of Captain James Cook, the Yorkshire farm boy who drew the map of the modern world. Captain James Cook's three epic journeys in the 18th century were the last great voyages of discovery. His ships sailed 150,000 miles, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from Tasmania to Oregon, from Easter Island to Siberia. When Cook set off for the Pacific in 1768, a third of the globe remained blank. By the time he died in Hawaii in 1779, the map of the world was substantially complete. Tony Horwitz vividly recounts Cook's voyages and the exotic scenes the captain encountered: tropical orgies, taboo rituals, cannibal feasts, human sacrifice. He also relives Cook's adventures by following in the captain's wake to places such as Tahiti, Savage Island, and the Great Barrier Reef to discover Cook's embattled legacy in the present day. Signing on as a working crewman aboard a replica of Cook's vessel, Horwitz experiences the thrill and terror of sailing a tall ship. He also explores Cook the man: an impoverished farmboy who broke through the barriers of his class and time to become the greatest navigator in British history. By turns harrowing and hilarious, insightful and entertaining, *BLUE LATITUDES* brings to life a man whose voyages helped create the 'global village' we know today.

Sir Vidia's Shadow

'A memorable, oddly beautiful book' *Wall Street Journal* 'A marvellous glimpse of the Japan that rarely peeks through the country's public image' *Washington Post* One sunny spring morning in the 1970s, an unlikely Englishman set out on a pilgrimage that would take him across the entire length of Japan. Travelling only along small back roads, Alan Booth travelled on foot from Soya, the country's northernmost tip, to Sata in the extreme south, traversing three islands and some 2,000 miles of rural Japan. His mission: 'to come to grips with the business of living here,' after having spent most of his adult life in Tokyo. *The Roads to Sata* is a wry, witty, inimitable account of that prodigious trek, vividly revealing the reality of life in off-the-tourist-track Japan. Journeying alongside Booth, we encounter the wide variety of people who inhabit the Japanese countryside - from fishermen and soldiers, to bar hostesses and school teachers, to hermits, drunks and the homeless. We glimpse vast stretches of coastline and rambling townscapes, mountains and motorways; watch baseball games and sunrises; sample trout and Kilimanjaro beer, hear folklore, poems and smutty jokes. Throughout, we enjoy the wit and insight of a uniquely perceptive guide, and more importantly, discover a new face of an often-misunderstood nation.

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