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In Motion: The Experience of Travel

Tony Hiss

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Tony Hiss : In Motion: The Experience of Travel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Motion: The Experience of Travel:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Important for ArtistsBy Wendy RichmondAs a long-time fan of Tony Hiss, I have often related to his insights. Here is what I rely upon when I read his writing: 1) Hiss identifies an important concept (e.g. Simultaneous Perception in his book "The Experience of Place," and now Deep Travel in "In Motion") 2) He supports the concept with personal experience as well as historic or other published works, so that you, as a reader, can continue that journey and 3) He builds upon each idea, so that the concept becomes increasingly

relevant to contemporary life. With "Deep Travel," Hiss encourages readers to see what is innate in each of us: the ability (and joy) of being highly aware of where we are, whether it is a trip far from home, or a walk in our own neighborhood. We all read books through our own individual filters; mine is the filter of creativity. The more I read about Deep Travel, the more I realize that it is exactly what feeds me as an artist. For many people in creative fields--writers, choreographers, photographers, musicians --a huge part of making art consists of observation feeding discovery, and vice versa. And it is not just the initial stages: observation and discovery is an ongoing duet throughout the creative process. "In Motion" takes the reader through many examples where an act of observation leads to the excitement of discovery, which, in turn, leads to more observation. This is just one of the ways that "In Motion" feeds and encourages creativity. While it is categorized as a travel book, I would also place a copy in many more aisles (physical and virtual) of the bookstore, from Art to Philosophy to Urban Planning. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tony Hiss is a terrific writer. Every book by this author is a mind expanding experience. His insights are brilliant and the writing is entertaining. A good and worthwhile read. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. FASCINATING, UNUSUAL BOOK. By Amy Heffron I really loved THE EXPERIENCE OF PLACE so I was looking forward to this book, and I loved it too. There's no other book quite like it. Lots of subjects covered and it got me thinking about how our minds work as we move around. I now look forward to actually enjoying what I had always considered the more mundane aspects of travel. Highly Recommended!

In this extraordinarily wide-ranging, insightful, and revelatory book, Tony Hiss is the much-praised author of *The Experience of Places* delves into a unique and instantly recognizable (though previously undescribed) experience that can happen to us when we travel, a special understanding and ability that can leave us feeling exhilarated. He illustrates how throughout human history - from our ancestors walking upright for the first time to astronauts walking on the moon - we have repeatedly availed ourselves of this seemingly elusive quality, which he calls 'Deep Travel.' The sensation of Deep Travel can overtake us, Hiss says, whenever we tap into a sophisticated, wide-awake awareness we all possess. With a wealth of examples - from evocative accounts of his own journeys to celebrated travel writing across the centuries - Hiss identifies and rescues this powerful capacity and sets out simple techniques for accessing it no matter where we are. And this is only a jumping-off point for an original and penetrating explanation of how Deep Travel radically alters our perception of not only where we are but also when we are, by placing us in an 'extended present,' and how it acts as an open-sesame to enlarge and enrich the world around us. Going even further, he investigates how we can remain absolutely still but travel in time itself, as our horizons move backward to include layers of nature and human culture that have gone before, or project us forward to consider what our actions will mean to those who will inhabit our spot on earth a few generations from now. Whether travel takes you around the corner or around the world, once you've read *In Motion*, no journey will ever feel the same.

.com In *In Motion: The Experience of Travel*, Tony Hiss argues that motion--so often a form of distraction and annoyance in our forward-flung lives--can, if approached in the right spirit, lead to heightened perception of both our surroundings and our own thoughts, whether traveling far abroad or just walking around our neighborhood. With that idea of travel (what he calls "Deep Travel") in mind, we asked him to think of some books that share the same sort of perception. The result is an expansive list of travel books in which the movement takes place as much in the brain as on a map: *Tony Hiss on Ten Books and a Movie That Evoke "Deep Travel"* Each of the following were valuable and enriching guides for me while I was writing *In Motion* and exploring Deep Travel--my expression for that revelatory sense of wonder and amazement that lets you discover something altogether new even in an old familiar place. *A Time of Gifts* by Patrick Leigh Fermor: Thought by many to be the greatest travel writer of our time and by others to be the greatest travel writer of all times, Fermor's story of his walk as a teenager across the peaceful Europe that was about to be consumed by the Second World War is a haunting and poetic narrative of great power. *Mani* by Patrick Leigh Fermor: A post-war book by the same wonderful author, who this time seeks out the most inaccessible landscapes and villages of southernmost Greece. Beautifully observed and felt; among many treasures is Fermor's page-long, single-sentence description of the air in Greece. *The Head Trip* by Jeff Warren: An exciting, entertaining and authoritative look at the modern science of consciousness, with an insightful chapter on the "SMR"--the sensorimotor rhythm of the brain, which is the physical manifestation of our wider awareness. *My Khyber Marriage* by Morag Murray Abdullah: An unknown classic. Morag Murray was a conventional young Scottish woman who married an Afghan prince during the First World War and left her sheltered life behind forever. A fascinating look at the transformative power of unexpected circumstances. *The Dance of Life* by Edward T. Hall: A favorite author of mine, who spent a lifetime closely observing human behavior. In this book, this brilliant sociologist shows how time can extend indefinitely, bringing us into a longer "now." *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann: One of the most celebrated novels of the 20th century. Although his subject is the disappearance of pre-First World War Europe, Mann, the Nobel Prize winner, pleads with his readers to keep "our sense of time" awake so that none of us will not have to live through "paltry, bare, featherweight years." *Sorcerers Apprentice* by Tahir Shah: Rollicking and exuberant and full of insight, Shah recounts his year as a student to an Indian magician, a mysterious and forbidding man who believed in always keeping one eye

on the detail, and the other on "the entire picture." Ceremonial Time by John Hanson Mitchell: Without leaving his small town outside of Boston, Mitchell is able to resurrect the 15,000-year-old reality of the place, as it emerged from glacial times and became a beloved home to Native Americans. Mitchell moves through only a single square mile of space but glides back and forth through the millennia--and it's a magical journey. Adventures in Afghanistan by Louis Palmer: Sixty years after Morag Murray, Palmer visits war-torn Afghanistan with the freedom fighters, and visits remote monasteries, hidden palaces, healing springs, and other startling treasures that seem like real-life continuations of the Arabian Nights. Encountering the World by Edward S. Reed: A totally original synthesis of modern psychology and philosophy. Reed, who died much too young at age 42, convincingly places awareness at the center of all mental and cognitive ability. A masterpiece. I Know Where Im Going!, directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger: A lovely movie about a headstrong young woman (a marvelous Wendy Hiller) on her way to marry the wrong man. Suddenly stranded on a Scottish island, she awakens to everything shes been missing and finds her true love and, more importantly, her true self. From BooklistHiss describes deep travel as an elevated awareness one can experience as one moves about, locally or globally. This book explores cognitive access to that aspired-to awareness, resulting in a work that resembles more an excursus into psychology than a concrete description of the travel experience. For example, Hiss writes prolix passages about the consciousness of the flow of time, positing improved perception of time as a way to higher acuity about ones surroundings. In Hiss case, those are his home of New York City, in which most of his personal observations are set. For the wider worlds aid in defining the concept of deep travel, Hiss quotes extensively from notable travel authors ranging from Marco Polo to Paul Theroux. He eventually diverges into human evolution, taking this direction to show that wanderlust is innate to humans. A discursive and intentionally incomplete work in one chapter, Hiss collects thoughts for a possible future title called A Short History of Awarenessthis work will appeal to readers interested in the psychological aspects of travel. --Gilbert Taylor The Experience of Place has gone on to become a modern-day classic . . . In his new book, In Motion: The Experience of Travel, Hiss revisits his earlier technique: Take a proposition that appears intuitive, then slowly tease out its implications for the way we live now, and how we should live going forward. 'Deep Travel' begins with the assumption that when we take a trip, something sublime can change the way we perceive the world . . . Hiss takes the principle a step further, arguing that this same sense of transformationwhat he calls 'Deep Travel' can also be enjoyed in the more modest trips we take every day: running to the store, commuting to work, walking within our own neighborhoods . . . In search of source material, Hiss embarks on his characteristically ambitious survey of science and the humanities, quoting everyone from Lewis Thomas to Thomas Mann, Henry David Thoreau to E.O. Wilson, Copernicus to 'Bugs Bunny' director Chuck Jones . . . In Motion is itself an example of the author's recurring pointthat the mind can even travel deeply when its owner is at rest. Danny Heitman, The Christian Science MonitorInteresting and ambitious . . . In Motion ranges widely over continents and time frames, leaping from idea to idea. . . Like [Bruce Chatwins] The Songlines, Hiss's book is full of evidence of his impressively wide reading and intelligent speculation, replete with strange discoveries and serendipities . . . [It] has an enjoyably erratic and discursive structure, moving from anthropologists studying the first human footprints in the grasslands of Africa to Neil Armstrongs first steps on the moon. William Dalrymple, The New York Times Book Intriguing and immediately connected to our lives today . . . In Motion will certainly set minds in motion, heading deeper into the roving nature of humanity. Christine Thomas, The Miami HeraldIn Motion is an unusually ambitious book: an attempt to explain not only why humans travel, and how Deep Travel can transform us, but how Homo sapiens awareness evolved during the past 3.6 million years. Jeff Greenwald, San Francisco Chronicle Crowded airplanes and their lack of customer service, packed subway cars on a hot day, and daily commutes to and from work that take longer now on average than at any other time in history and add up to much frustration with travel itself. Hiss (The Experience of Place) suggests, however, that all of us have an innate capacity to enter a different part of our minds during our travels and to begin to make use of an awareness that has its own range of interests, concerns, and methods. When the mind and not just the body is in motion, our experience of our ordinary world changes, and we can look with new eyes on the details of the world around us as we walk to the local coffee shop. Hiss urges us to embrace the innermost dimension of travel (its ability to lift the wings of the human spirit) as a way of transforming our time spent in motion. Hiss calls this ground-shifting waking consciousness Deep Travel, that is, something that surprises us when we least expect it. For example, as biochemist Katy B. Mullis drove through redwood country north of San Francisco, his waking consciousness traveled along a wildly different path as he invented the technique that makes it possible to copy billions of pieces of DNA in a few hours and later brought him the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In the end, Hiss shares his own enlightening experiences of the mind in motion, acting as our Virgil of Deep Travel. Publishers Weekly (starred review)I found In Motion absolutely fascinating: well researched, well written, and very readable. I read it in London, and found it affected how I experienced a familiar but unfamiliar place. The capacity Hiss describes had the effect of pointing out to me something that had been right in front of my eyes all the time without my noticing it. Such an interesting and important book. Lisa Alther, author of KinflicksIn Motion is a brilliant, mind-opening book that will change how you see your world. Tony Hiss takes you to places that are both out there and inside your own mind, and offers a strikingly new perspective on such basic questions as What makes us human? and Why do we explore? I recommend that you read it before you take another step. Andrew Weil,

M.D. Dramatic evidence for humankind's bipedalism is at least as old as the footprints discovered in the volcanic ash of Laetoli, Tanzania, and it extends in distance to Neil Armstrong's still-preserved boot prints on the surface of the moon. However, we have become so habituated to this business of upright walking, to travel in general, that we have buried the capacity to connect with the extraordinary opportunity for insight that travel offers. Long occupied with matters of design, environment and regional planning, Tony Hiss turns his attention to the possibilities of larger understanding inherent in traveling or, more precisely, what he calls Deep Travel, that ground-shifting variant of ordinary waking consciousness. Much more than simply moving from place to place or simply changing scenery, Deep Travel is a parallel journey that sharpens our perceptions, altering space, creating a larger here and time extending it, making a larger now. As we immerse ourselves in Deep Travel, insights previously hidden or otherwise unavailable are revealed to the off-balance mind. An intellectual walkabout filled with arresting, wide-ranging perceptions quite unlike any other travel book. Kirkus The high excitement of *In Motion* comes from the way Tony Hiss can present so much cutting-edge information in a pattern that creates a fuller and more articulate understanding of what we are. His reporter's nose for a good story combines with a tremendous breadth and depth of vision; the result is both fun and mind-altering, a real eye-opener, a changer of consciousness. It's a book not only to read but to live. Kim Stanley Robinson From the Hardcover edition.