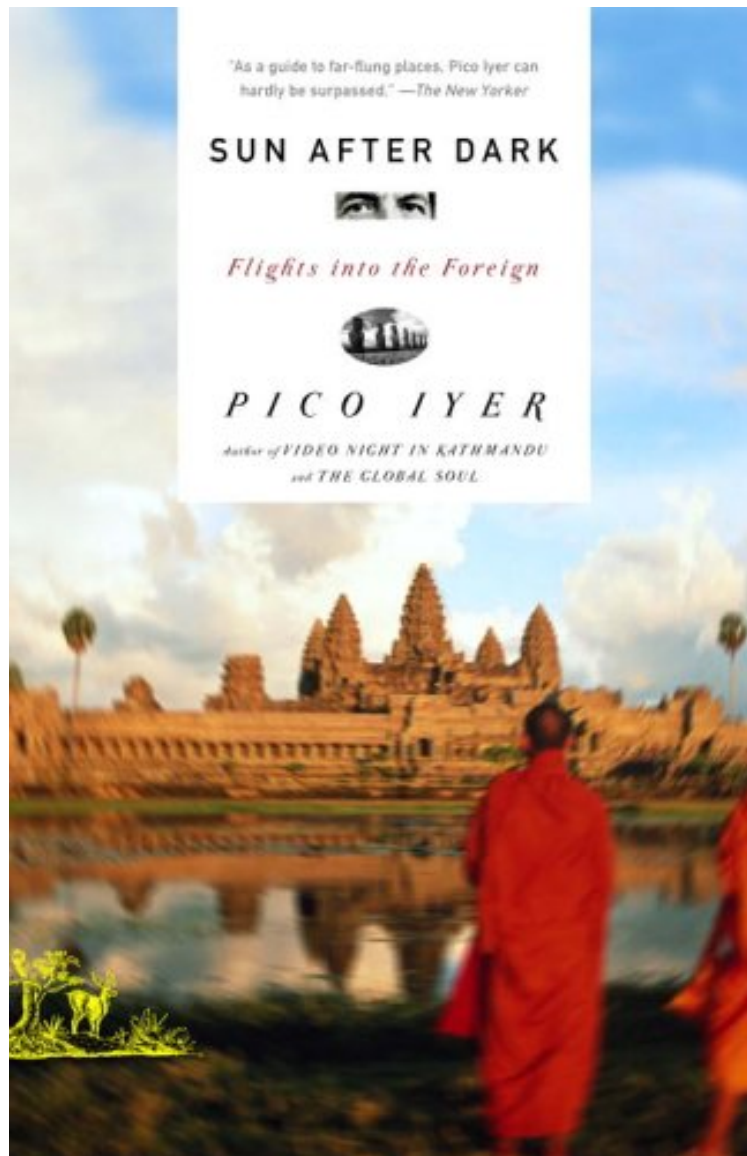


[PDF] Sun After Dark: Flights Into the Foreign

Sun After Dark: Flights Into the Foreign

Pico Iyer

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#445922 in Books Iyer, Pico 2005-04-12 2005-04-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.90 x .50 x 5.201, .55 #File Name: 1400031036240 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Pico Iyer : Sun After Dark: Flights Into the Foreign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sun After Dark: Flights Into the Foreign:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An uneven collectionBy DaihoThe titular star In Sun After Dark comes from Albert Camus, who wrote that he was born "halfway between poverty and the sun." The quote serves as a touchstone and a frame through which to view a disparate collection of essays, the common theme of which aspires to be the search for hope in even the darkest corners of the world."We travel most ...when we stumble, and we stumble

most when we come to a place of poverty and need...."In this latest volume of travel reminiscences, British-born Indian Pico Iyer claims to take the reader on a walk through the dark side, essays on visits to some of the world's lost and forgotten countries, from Cambodia, to Yemen, Bolivia and Haiti. And when Iyer sticks to the theme, his writing shines."...luxury, for some of us, is measured by the things we can do without."Unfortunately, it seems either Iyer or the publisher decided to pad out the book with several pieces only marginally related to the theme, and so besides a memorable Kafkaesque journey through Yemen (that will have anyone who has lived on the Arabian peninsula laughing), we also get entirely forgettable book reviews, unrelated (if interesting) visits with Leonard Cohen and the Dalai Lama, and an insightful discourse on jet lag."...space and time open up as soon as you take leave of the simple ways in which you define yourself."I took this book on a recent journey to Vietnam and despite its uneven content it was a mostly rewarding companion. I suspect many readers interested in travel or in Pico Iyer should find in it something of value, if only small passages like the ones I have quoted here, and with which I end."One virtue of grandparents, of seasons, or deer who come down from the hills, is that they remind us that we don't know everything, and can't make the world up entirely from scratch; much of it - most of it - is beyond our reach, even beyond our reckoning."0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Flights with IyerBy D. R. RansdellAs usual, Iyer takes me to places I would have never visited without him. This collection of essays takes the reader from California to Japan to Angkor Wat to Bolivia-- I'm always surprised by the places Iyer has been to, and his easy way of sharing his thoughts about them. This is a great armchair traveler book. You might not have time/energy/money to visit all these places, but Iyer's descriptions are so vivid that he does all the work for you--you just have to go along for the ride.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy PakelekiPico is always good

One of the best travel writers now at work in the English language brings back the sights and sounds from a dozen different frontiers. A cryptic encounter in the perfumed darkness of Bali; a tour of a Bolivian prison, conducted by an enterprising inmate; a nightmarish taxi ride across southern Yemen, where the men with guns may be customs inspectors or revolutionariesthese are just three of the stops on Pico Iyer's latest itinerary. But the true subject of *Sun After Dark* is the dislocations of the mind in transit. And so Iyer takes us along to meditate with Leonard Cohen and talk geopolitics with the Dalai Lama. He navigates the Magritte-like landscape of jet lag, a place that no human had ever been until forty or so years ago. And on every page of this poetic and provocative book, he compels us to redraw our map of the world.

From *Publishers Weekly*"A trip has really been successful if I come back sounding strange even to myself," writes Iyer (*The Global Soul*, *Falling off the Map*; etc.) near the beginning of his latest travel book, a superb collection of essays, book reviews and unclassifiable miscellany. Iyer is an inveterate traveler who seems to have been everywhere, seen everything and talked to everyone. In this book alone, he enjoys a surreal romance in Bali, greets the New Year among the windswept statues of Easter Island and makes an ill-advised visit to Oman (the birthplace of Osama bin Laden) just six weeks before September 11. Other journeys are more spiritual than physical. In one essay, Iyer explores the interior dreamscapes caused by jet lag; in penetrating reviews of books by W.G. Sebald and Kazuo Ishiguro, he finds metaphors of postmodern dislocation and homelessness. Iyer seems particularly fascinated by the concept of exile"not surprising, perhaps, for a man born of Indian parents who now lives in suburban Japan. Two of the book's best pieces focus on high-profile exiles: the singer Leonard Cohen, who has withdrawn to a Buddhist monastery outside Los Angeles; and the Dalai Lama, who juggles the demands of his refugee subjects with the stresses of worldwide fame. Like the best travel writers, Iyer is adept at peeking underneath the surface of things, of finding the deeper meanings in every strange word, glance and sigh he encounters. This book reproduces the unsettling but rewarding experience of travel, and will remind readers of "the expanded sense of possibility that strangeness sometimes brings." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From *Booklist*Calling Iyer a travel writer is reductive, like saying George Plimpton was a sportswriter. Iyer (*The Global Soul*, 2000) reports from the borderlands of global culture, whether they exist in dusty villages, bustling downtowns, or in our heads. His concept for this collection of essays is "journeys that left me shaking in some way"; at first, it seems a way to rationalize a mulligan stew of a book (he opens with a profile of Leonard Cohen and goes on to interpret German travel writer W. G. Sebald), but as the reader's journey progresses, the work does take a pleasing shape. The best parts are the most signature, deeply thoughtful explorations of Oman, Bolivia, Tibet, Japan, and Cambodia--and an especially good essay on jet lag. Many things Iyer sees are symptoms of a global population that travels like never before, although, ironically, most of us still see next to nothing of the world. Lacking Iyer's opportunities to "slip through the curtain of the ordinary," we're truly fortunate to have his dispatches from the other side. Keir GraffCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved As a guide to far-flung places, Pico Iyer can hardly be surpassed. The *New Yorker*If Iyer is only a travel writer, then so was Henry James. Los Angeles *Times*Iyer brings . . . startling freshness to his accounts of travel. . . . Ranks as one of Iyer's best books. The *Seattle Times*Pico Iyer's remarkable talent is enough justification for going anywhere in the world he fancies. *Washington Post* *Book World*Brilliant . . . [Iyer] reflects back at us images from a post-colonial world that is gorgeously complex and

stubbornly elusive, yet firmly within his grasp. New York Times "Pico Iyer is among the finest travel writers of his generation." Time Iyer travels to places that many of us have never been to, and may never go to. . . . Iyer writes beautifully, and I was happy to follow wherever his wanderings (physical and spiritual) led. San Francisco Chronicle Pico Iyer is a writer like no other, sui generis, and in this book his particular gifts of thoughtfulness, perception and descriptive power, allied by now with profound experience, reach new levels of grace. Jan Morris Jan Morris has retired; Graham Greene is dead. Pico Iyer is on his way to replacing them... Leave your guidebook behind. Go follow Iyer. National Geographic Adventure Iyer is an exceptional travel writer, who not only limns Peruvian street maps with clarity and wit, but also offers a compelling rationale for immersing yourself in a foreign environment. Gotham Iyer is a master of the ironic detail, and in these pieces he is able to notice the very objects whose juxtaposition will nail shut the lid of his beautifully constructed metaphorical box. . . . Goes where most of us will not go and returns with the dire details. Kirkus sHallucinatory and observant, this little book confirms Iyer as one of the most gifted wanderers writing today. Seattle Weekly Mr. Iyer writes with remarkable grace. . . . He is not only wonderful company but will take you on journeys of place, heart and spirit you perhaps had not dared imagine. Santa Barbara News-Press The worlds best travel writer. The Oregonian