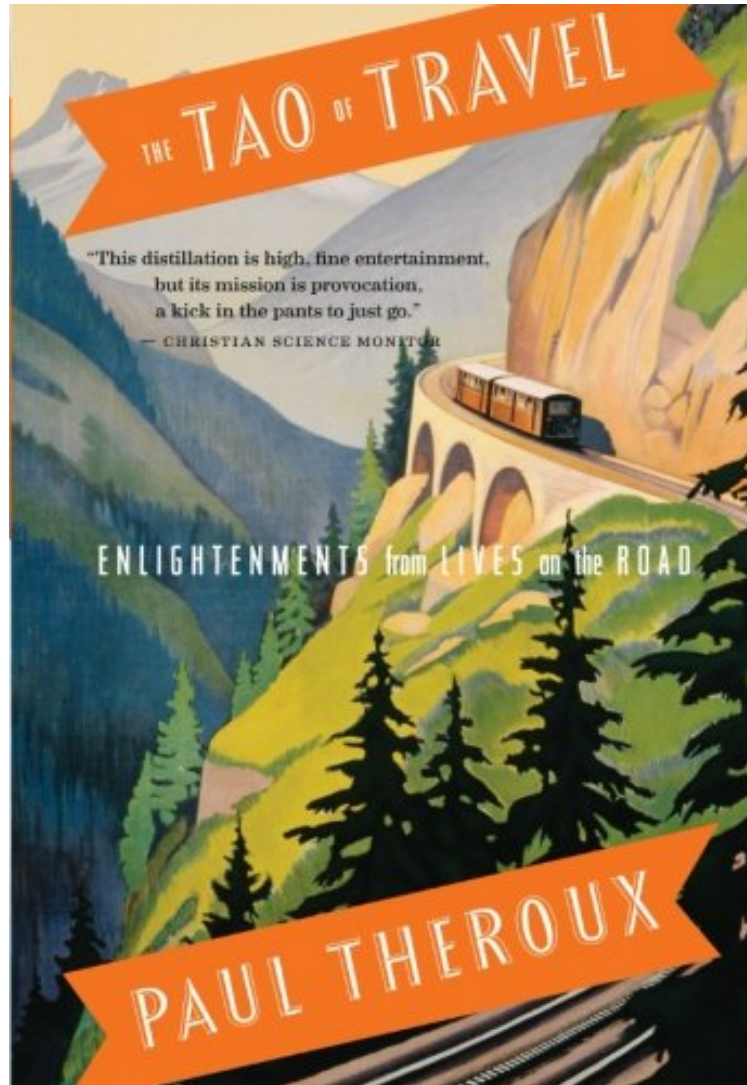


(Mobile pdf) The Tao of Travel: Enlightenments from Lives on the Road

The Tao of Travel: Enlightenments from Lives on the Road

Paul Theroux

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Paul Theroux : The Tao of Travel: Enlightenments from Lives on the Road before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tao of Travel: Enlightenments from Lives on the Road:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. What a marvelous book! Is this Theroux's swan song? By William J. Fickling Like many of the previous reviewers, I have read many of Theroux's previous travel books, have enjoyed all of them, and have learned something from each of them. Therefore it was with considerable anticipation that I ordered and read this book. I knew before I read it that it would be a compendium or compilation of travel musings from Theroux and others, and I was not sure whether I would enjoy it. I am happy to say that I enjoyed the book thoroughly and that it quite exceeded my expectations. It is true that there is very little that is original in this book. So what? What

is there is marvelous, and even though Theroux quotes from himself a good bit, it is also quite true that it is highly unlikely that I would ever have come across most of the reflections on travel by other authors that Theroux includes here. That alone makes this book a gem. For example, here is this pearl from Hans Christian Andersen, right on page 1: "Homesickness is a feeling that many know and suffer from; I on the other hand feel a pain less known, and its name is 'Outsickness.'" Is there any true traveler with whom that quote won't resonate? I am very much like Theroux in that, like him, I have felt a wanderlust, and urge to travel, at least from childhood or early adolescence, and it is exactly that wanderlust that Andersen is referring to when he mentions "Outsickness." For me the urge to travel began when I read Richard Halliburton's books as a teenager, and I was happy to see that Theroux mentions and quotes from Halliburton here. This is especially gratifying because, although Halliburton is remembered and revered by people of a certain age, he is almost forgotten today. Theroux does not shrink from differentiating between travelers and tourists. I had to chuckle at one of Theroux's own comments: "Choose your country, use guidebooks to identify the areas most frequented by foreigners--and then go in the opposite direction." This is very similar to something I have always said to acquaintances that I consider serious travelers--if, when you tell people where you are going and their response is "what the hell do you want to go THERE for?"--then you know you're going to the right place. Theroux also mentions other essentials of travel if it is truly going to be the learning experience or epiphany that you want it to be: travel alone, don't overplan, and above all, leave your electronic equipment at home. This book is unlike anything that Theroux has written before in that it seems to be a distillation of everything essential to be said about travel--hence, I suppose, the title. But it also caused me to wonder, given that Theroux recently turned seventy: is this Theroux's swan song? Is this his goodbye to travel writing? Is this his way of saying "that's all there is; there is no more?" Will we be seeing any more travel books from Paul Theroux? If that is indeed the case, then this book is a very worthy ending to an illustrious career. If you love travel, and if you haven't done so already, I urge you to buy a copy posthaste. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's a great smorgasbord to snack from when you feel the need ...By Donald H. McLean It's a great smorgasbord to snack from when you feel the need for faraway places but are homebound. I have mirrored many of his travels including the Peace Corps so I relate to his travel philosophy. PT's writings have filled my life for decades and to see this composite is a dream. I've given away many copies to friends leaving for or returning from travels to faraway places. People who are travelers...that is...not tourists. Thank you, Paul! Don 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. And somehow I was just bored. Too bad By RJW 48 I put this book down before I was a quarter of the way through it. A little precious--beware of anyone who appropriates the word Tao--and too many quotes from his own previous travel books. And somehow I was just bored. Too bad, I've read a lot of his travel books and liked them.

A book to be plundered and raided. New York Times Book Review A portal into a world of timeless travel literature curated by one of the greatest travel writers of our day. USA Today Paul Theroux celebrates fifty years of wandering the globe in this collection of the best writing from the books that have shaped him as a reader and a traveler. Part philosophical guide, part miscellany, part reminiscence, *The Tao of Travel* contains excerpts from the best of Theroux's own work interspersed with selections from travelers both familiar and unexpected: Vladimir Nabokov Eudora Welty Evelyn Waugh James Baldwin Charles Dickens Pico Iyer Henry David Thoreau Anton Chekhov Mark Twain John McPhee Freya Stark Ernest Hemingway Graham Greene and many others

From Publishers Weekly Travel maestro Theroux (*The Great Railway Bazaar*) conducts a rambling tour of the genre in this diverting meditation on passages from his own and other writers' works. Several chapters spotlight underappreciated travel writers from Samuel Johnson to Paul Bowles, while others explore themes both profound and whimsical. There are classic set-piece literary evocations, including Thoreau on the hush of the Maine woods and Henry James on the miserable pleasures of Venice. A section on storied but disappointing destinations fingers Tahiti as "a mildewed island of surly colonials"; travel epic shipwrecks, Sahara crossings, Jon Krakauer's duel with Mount Everest are celebrated; exotic meals are recalled (beetles, monkey eyes, and human flesh, anyone?); and some writers, like Emily Dickinson, just stay home and write about that. The weakest section is a compendium of aphoristic abstractions "Travel is a vanishing act, a solitary trip down a pinched line of geography to oblivion" while the strongest pieces describe a tangible place through a discerning eye and pungent sensibility: "I do not think I shall ever forget the sight of Etna at sunset," Evelyn Waugh rhapsodizes; "nothing I have seen in Art or Nature was quite so revolting." Photos. (May 26) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. A "determinedly personal collection of travel appreciation." -Kirkus SA "diverting meditation on passages from his own and other writers' works. [T]he strongest pieces describe a tangible place through a discerning eye and pungent sensibility..." -Publishers Weekly