

Voyager: Travel Writings

By Russell Banks

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Voyager: Travel Writings By Russell Banks

The acclaimed, award-winning novelist takes us on some of his most memorable journeys in this revelatory collection of travel essays that spans the globe, from the Caribbean to Scotland to the Himalayas.

Now in his mid-seventies, Russell Banks has indulged his wanderlust for more than half a century. “Since childhood, I’ve longed for escape, for rejuvenation, for wealth untold, for erotic and narcotic and sybaritic fresh starts, for high romance, mystery, and intrigue,” he writes in this compelling anthology. The longing for escape has taken him from the “bright green islands and turquoise seas” of the Caribbean islands to peaks in the Himalayas, the Andes, and beyond.

In *Voyager*, Russell Banks, a lifelong explorer, shares highlights from his travels: interviewing Fidel Castro in Cuba; motoring to a hippie reunion with college friends in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; eloping to Edinburgh, with his fourth wife, Chase; driving a sunset orange metallic Hummer down Alaska’s Seward Highway.

In each of these remarkable essays, Banks considers his life and the world. In Everglades National Park this “perfect place to time-travel,” he traces his own timeline. “I keep going back, and with increasingly clarity I see more of the place and more of my past selves. And more of the past of the planet as well.” Recalling his trips to the Caribbean in the title essay, “Voyager,” Banks dissects his relationships with the four women who would become his wives. In the Himalayas, he embarks on a different quest of self-discovery. “One climbs a mountain not to conquer it, but to be lifted like this away from the earth up into the sky,” he explains.

Pensive, frank, beautiful, and engaging, *Voyager* brings together the social, the personal, and the historical, opening a path into the heart and soul of this revered writer.

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Editorial Review

Review
"…[an] expansive, elegiac reflection on the pleasures and deceptions of travel…[Banks'] clarity of vision and muscular prose are as transporting as a mountain ascent." (Kirkus)

"… [a] gusto-filled, retrospective anthology…Banks' warm, probing intellect guides readers on thoughtful journeys…Readers will be hard put to find a more engaging travel companion." (Booklist)

"Banks puts the literature back in travel writing in this extremely well-crafted book." (Library Journal)

"…[a] fine collection…Banks's narrative seductively juxtaposes rambles through lush volcanic mountains, white sand beaches and coral reefs with a barrage of memories of the hash he's made of his private life." (New York Times Book Review)

"[A] moving collection of travel pieces that rise to the level of literature" (Christian Science Monitor)

From the Back Cover

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Now in his mid-seventies, Russell Banks has indulged his wanderlust for more than half a century. In this compelling anthology, he writes that since childhood he has "longed for escape, for rejuvenation, for wealth untold, for erotic and narcotic and sybaritic fresh starts, for high romance, mystery, and intrigue." The longing for escape has taken him from the "bright green islands and turquoise seas" of the Caribbean islands to peaks in the Himalayas, the Andes, and beyond.

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"If the United States were to adopt Japan's admirable policy of designating a few extraordinary individuals as Living National Treasures, Russell Banks would be my first nomination."—Michael Cunningham

"Russell Banks is a writer in the grand tradition. It is quite natural, in speaking of Banks's great works of fiction, to think of such predecessors as Conrad, Tolstoy, and Chekhov—and closer to his American home,

such predecessors as Jack London, Theodore Dreiser, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Faulkner, and Nelson Algren. He has acquired an international reputation for the intensely wrought, uncompromising, and intransigent moral vision that has suffused virtually all of his work. He has created art of a kind that speaks to all classes, not merely to the elite, and yet has done so scrupulously and thoughtfully."—Joyce Carol Oates

About the Author

Russell Banks, twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, is one of America's most prestigious fiction writers, a past president of the International Parliament of Writers, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His work has been translated into twenty languages and has received numerous prizes and awards, including the Common Wealth Award for Literature. He lives in upstate New York and Miami, Florida.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luke Palmieri:

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Harold Houston:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the guide untitled Voyager: Travel Writings can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

David Fern:

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On this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you must do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top list in your reading list is definitely Voyager: Travel Writings. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

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