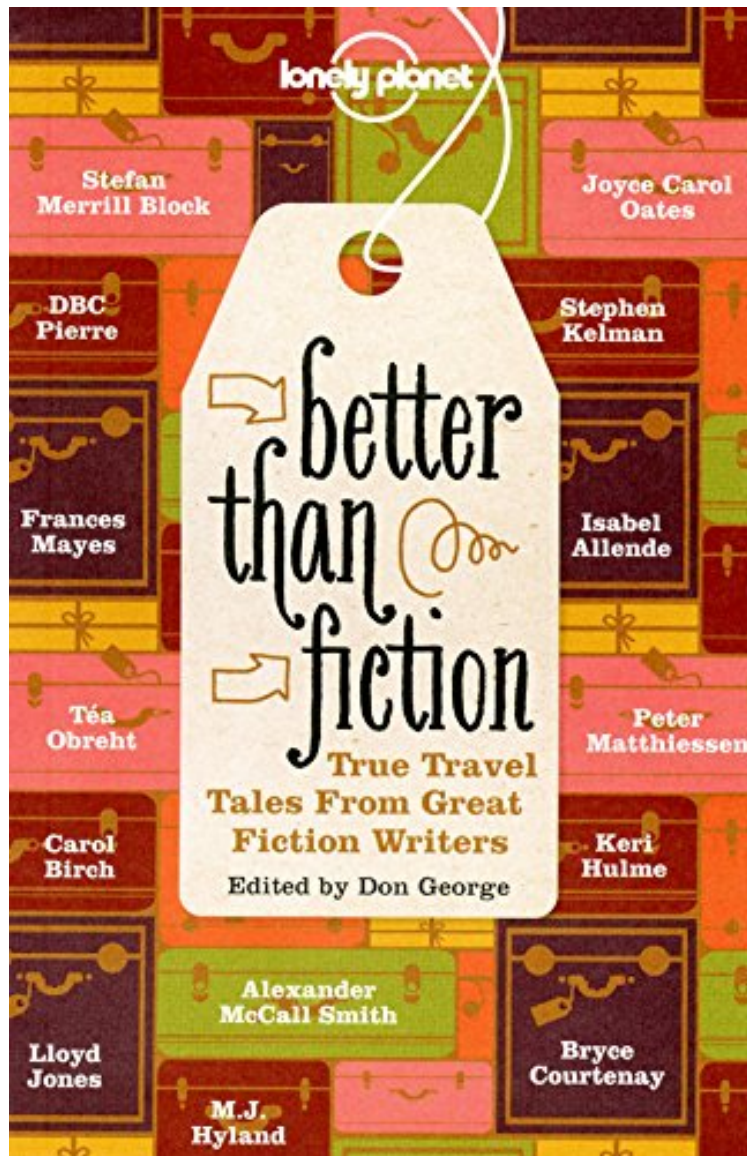


(Free) Better Than Fiction: True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers

## Better Than Fiction: True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers

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#398508 in Books *imusti* 2012-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.76 x .87 x 5.041, .70 #File Name: 1742205941320 pages Lonely Planet | File size: 67.Mb

**From *imusti* :** **Better Than Fiction: True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **Better Than Fiction: True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers**:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. For the true traveler....By Susan This was a very entertaining and well-selected collection of short stories from the more able writers of our day. Since I am a lifelong writer and traveler, I was intrigued by the initial intent of the book. Also being a fan of Alexander McCall Smith's excellent prose, I

thought that his desire to publish a special selection of travel stories would be worth the read. I was not disappointed. Mostly, I loved the various and unusual perspectives that the writers wove into their tales. It gave me an insight into what their longer works may be like. From the author introductions, previous to each story, I gleaned a long list of possible, future reading titles. So now I can explore those writers' works that were heretofore unknown to me. Travel writing can be rather dull, in that B follows C action; and then comes C place, and then "I did this", which is D; and so on, as tourist observations might describe. But the skill of the writers, in this particular anthology, was masterful and very entertaining. For me, meaningful travel, not being a tourist, should take one along a path and not toward an intended destination. These travel stories did that for me. The images of the travel are well-embodied in these tales of the road. This was a very worthwhile book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. travel essays for readers of noir

By Ellyn Jones  
In my opinion, this is not the best collection of travel essays, or even a particularly good collection. Most of them emphasize unpleasant places or bad experiences. Many of the authors are from Australia and New Zealand.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Boring... Not worth reading

By Kelly Kae  
I usually don't like writing smack about another author but these stories were boring. Since the writers are all fiction writers you'd expect some interesting writing. Not so. I tried so many times picking it up and reading another story. I spent about \$14 plus shipping so I really hated tossing it. There are too many great authors out there, choose one of them!

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher

\*A collection of original travel stories told by some of the world's best novelists, including Isabel Allende, Peter Matthiessen, Alexander McCall Smith, Joyce Carol Oates, Tea Obreht and DBC Pierre. Exhilaratingly varied in place, plot, and voice, these tales all share one common characteristic: They manifest a passion for the precious gifts that travel confers, from its unexpected but inevitably enriching lessons about other peoples and places to the truths - sometimes uncomfortable but always enlarging - it reveals about ourselves. "...a brilliant collection of travel stories...threaded with great warmth, as readers are invited to travel in the company of these famous authors and experience their passions and revelations."

BOOKSELLER + PUBLISHER

Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet

About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places where they travel. TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category

Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times

Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia)

\*#1 in the world market share - source: Nielsen Bookscan. Australia, UK and USA. March 2012-January 2013

From Booklist

The intrepid adventurers at Lonely Planet continue to churn out imaginatively clever travel literature. This one combines travel with literary memoir as 32 reasonably well-known fiction writers recall some of their most remarkable experiences on the open road. While Frances Mayes, Joyce Carol Oates, Alexander McCall Smith, and Isabel Allende will be familiar to most, the travels of the lesser-known scribes are just as fascinating and fun. Seasoned editor George has also included a brief introduction to each piece, listing the books and outlining the literary credentials of its author. Armchair travelers will relish taking gorgeous, descriptive trips to Mexico, the Solomon Islands, Rome, Luxembourg, Java, and a host of other exotic and not-so exotic destinations. --Margaret Flanagan

"A fine anthology, with numerous fiction writers from Australia and New Zealand joining their colleagues from the UK and the US." (Perceptive Travel)

"Better Than Fiction is a fun collection of travel tales, that I enjoyed reading a few at a time, each joyously took me away from the daily world into a far away place with a few laughs along the way." (Alaskan Apple Users Group Blog 2013-02-07)

"The best of the essays are very personal experiences with meticulous description of place." (A Traveler's Library 2013-01-18)

"For anyone who considers themselves a voracious consumer of travel writing, Better Than Fiction will make for a refreshing and illuminating read... Great travel storytelling, like the work showcased in Better Than Fiction, reminds us that ultimately discovering the truth about the places we visit involves more than just restating the facts." (Gadling 2013-01-07)

"Isabel Allende, Joyce Carol Oates, and more provide warm and lovely stories from an account of an adventure off the beaten path in Malawai to visiting San Quentin Prison and chasing missionaries in far-away regions of Asia. The result is a powerful survey highly recommended for any literary travel collection." (Midwest Book )

About the Author

Alexander McCall Smith  
Alexander McCall Smith is a Rhodesian-born Scottish writer and Emeritus Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, but globally known as a writer of fiction. His most famous creation is The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, but he has written almost 60 books for adults and children.

Arnold Zable  
Arnold Zable is an award winning writer, whose books include Jewels and Ashes, Cafe Scheherazade, The Fig Tree, Sea of Many Returns, was published by Text in June 2008. His most recent book, Violin Lessons was published in August 2011 to critical acclaim.

Bryce Courtenay  
Bryce Courtenay is a South African born Australian writer and is one of Australia's most

commercially successful authors. He has written some 20 novels, but his most well-known book is *The Power of One*, which was made into a successful film in the early 90s.

**Carol Birch** Carol Birch is a British novelist and is the author of eleven novels. She won the 1988 David Higham Award for the Best First Novel of the Year for *Life in the Palace*, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize with *The Fog Line* in 1991, and she was long-listed for the 2003 Man Booker Prize for *Turn Again Home*. Her novel *Jamrach's Menagerie* was long-listed for the Orange Prize 2011 and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2011.

**Charles Finch** Charles Finch is an American author of mystery novels set in Victorian era England. He lives in Oxford, England. His first novel, *A Beautiful Blue Death*, introduced gentleman sleuth Charles Lenox. The book was named one of *Library Journal's* Best Books of 2007 and was nominated for the Agatha Award for best new mystery of 2007.

**Chris Pavone** Chris Pavone's first novel is to be published in March 2012, *The Expats*. It is a spy thriller that has been generating quite a bit of buzz and is expected to hit the charts. Pavone has worked in publishing for two decades, most notably as an editor at Clarkson Potter.

**DBC Pierre** DBC Pierre is a Dublin-based, Mexico-raised, Australian-born novelist whose most well-known novel is *Vernon God Little* which won the Booker in 2003. He has published three critically acclaimed novels since.

**Isabel Allende** Isabel Allende is a Chilean-born American writer in the "magic realist" tradition, and is known for novels such as *The House of the Spirits* and *City of the Beasts*. In 2004, Allende was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and in 2010, she received Chile's National Literature Prize.

**Jan Morris** Jan Morris is a Welsh writer, most well-known for her travel and history writing, but she has also published two works of fiction. She is a cornerstone contributor to *Lonely Planet* travel literature anthologies.

**Marina Lewycka** Marina Lewycka is a British novelist of Ukrainian origin. Lewycka's debut novel *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* (published as *Strawberry Fields: A Novel in the US and Canada*) won the 2005 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for comic writing at the Hay literary festival, the 2005/6 Waverton Good Read Award, the 2005 Saga Award for Wit; it was long-listed for the 2005 Man Booker Prize and short-listed for the 2005 Orange Prize for Fiction.

**Mark Dapin** Mark Dapin is a British writer who moved to Australia in the late 1980s. He is the author of *Strange Country* and *King of the Cross*, has been editor in chief of ACP's men's magazines, and a hugely popular columnist for *Fairfax's Good Weekend*.

**MJ Hyland** M.J. Hyland is a British/Australian writer. Her first novel, *How the Light Gets In* was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Age Book of the Year and also took third place in the Barnes Noble, Discover Great New Writers Award. *How the Light Gets In* was also joint winner of the Best Young Australian Novelist Award. *Carry Me Down*, her second novel, was winner of both the Encore Prize and the Hawthornden Prize and was also short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. Hyland lives in Manchester, England, where she teaches in the Centre for New Writing at Manchester University.

**Nikki Gemmill** Nikki Gemmill has written four novels, *Shiver*, *Cleave*, *Lovesong*, *The Bride Stripped Bare* and *The Book Of Rapture*. Her work has been internationally critically acclaimed and translated into many languages. In France she's been described as a female Jack Kerouac, in Australia as one of the most original and engaging authors of her generation and in the US as one of the few truly original voices to emerge in a long time.

**Peter Ho Davies** Peter Ho Davies is the author of the novel *The Welsh Girl* and the story collections *The Ugliest House in the World* and *Equal Love*. His work has appeared in *Harpers*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Paris*, *The Guardian*, *Independent*, *Washington Post* and *Chicago Tribune*, among others. *The Welsh Girl* was 'long-listed' for the Man Booker Prize 2007, and short-listed for The Galaxy British Book Awards 'Richard and Judy' Best Read in 2008. He was a 2008 recipient of the PEN/Malamud award. He now makes his home in the US and is on the faculty of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**Pico Iyer** Pico Iyer is a British-born essayist and novelist. He is the author of numerous books on travel including *Video Night in Kathmandu*. His shorter pieces regularly appear in *Time*, *Harper's*, *NYRB* and many other publications. Like Jan Morris, Pico is a long-time contributor to *Lonely Planet* anthologies.

**Ron McLarty** Ron McLarty is an actor and author, most known for his book *The Memory of Running* which was a global bestseller.

**Sophie Cunningham** Sophie is a former acting-publisher at *Lonely Planet* and has worked in Australian publishing for about 25 years, ten years of which as a senior publisher of innovative fiction and non-fiction. Her first novel, *Geography*, came out in 2004 and was followed by *Bird* in 2008.

**Stefan Merrill Block** Stefan Merrill Block's first novel, *The Story of Forgetting*, won Best First Fiction at the Rome International Festival of Literature, the 2008 Merck Serono Literature Prize and the 2009 Fiction Award from The Writers' League of Texas. *The Story of Forgetting* was also a finalist for the debut fiction awards from IndieBound, Salon du Livre and The Center for Fiction. His second novel, *The Storm at the Door* has just been published. He lives in Brooklyn.

**Stephen Kelman** Stephen Kelman is an English novelist, whose debut novel *Pigeon English* was shortlisted for the 2011 Man Booker Prize. He studied marketing at the University of Luton, and subsequently worked in a factory before writing *Pigeon English*.

**Steven Amsterdam** Steven Amsterdam is an Australian-based American writer. He's published two novels, *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *What The Family Needed*. *Things We Didn't See Coming* won The Age Book of the Year, was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Prize, long-listed for the Guardian First Book Award and appeared on the Barnes Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection.

**Susan Hill** Susan Hill is a prolific English author of fiction and non-fiction works. Her novels include *The Woman in Black*, *The Mist in the Mirror* and *I'm the King of the Castle* for which she received the Somerset Maugham Award in 1971.

**Suzanne Joinson** Suzanne Joinson's first novel *A Lady Cyclist's Guide To Kashgar* will be published in 2012 and is expected to appear

on a number of shortlists for major literary awards. Tea Obrecht Ta Obreht is an American novelist of Bosniak/Slovene descent, born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, now Serbia. Her debut novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, won the 2011 Orange Prize for Fiction. Tom Carson Tom Carson is the author of *Gilligan's Wake*, a New York Times Notable Book of The Year for 2003, and *Daisy Buchanan's Daughter*, published in 2011. Currently GQ's 'The Critic,' he won two National Magazine Awards for criticism as Esquire magazine's 'Screen' columnist and has been nominated two more times since. He also won the CRMA criticism award for his book reviews in Los Angeles magazine. Walter Kirn Walter Kirn is an American novelist, literary critic, and essayist. His latest book is the 2009 memoir *Lost in the Meritocracy: The Undereducation of an Overachiever*, and his 2001 book *Up In The Air* was a recent film starring George Clooney. A previous novel, *Thumbsucker*, also made it to the screen.