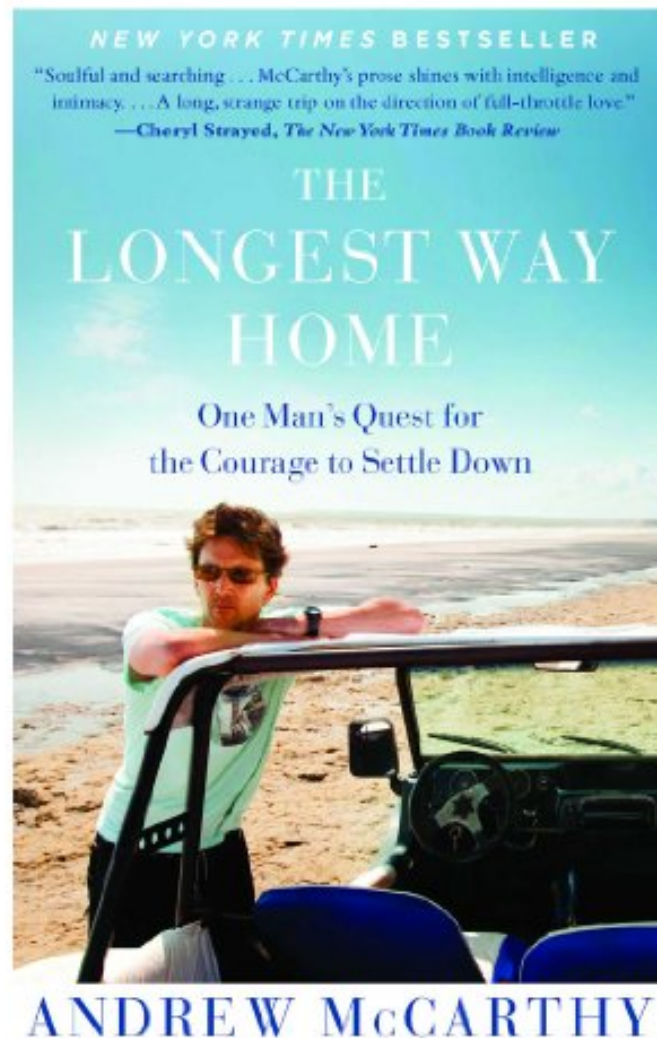


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The Longest Way Home: One Man's Quest for the Courage to Settle Down

Andrew McCarthy

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Andrew McCarthy : The Longest Way Home: One Man's Quest for the Courage to Settle Down before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Longest Way Home: One Man's Quest for the Courage to Settle Down:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A very personal story of Andrew's journey By dpackerI bought this book for two reasons, one very realistic, the other very shallow. I'll start with the shallow: I wanted to marry

Andrew McCarthy when I was 15 years old. Okay, I got that part over with. The real reason I bought this book is because I discovered a while back that Andrew McCarthy is a travel writer (and Editor at Large) for National Geographic. As someone who dreams of being a world traveler, discovering all of the beauties of the world and learning all the cultures, being a citizen of the world (as Andrew says), I read his travel pieces to hear his take on some of the places I wish to explore someday. What I found is that Andrew is an exceptional storyteller. He describes the places he's been and things he sees with such colorful details. As I read some of his articles, I could almost picture myself there, seeing the things that he was describing. When I learned that he had a book coming out, I immediately ordered my copy so that I could read more of his explorations. You learn immediately from the cover of the book that the focus is not of his travels, but rather what he learns from his travels and the discoveries (both self and cultural) he makes to lead him to the point of marrying his longtime girlfriend. As I read the book, I found some of the same descriptive storytelling from his other travel stories, but I also found that Andrew is not the guy you expect him to be from his acting. He's a guy that prefers to be alone in his explorations and thoughts. I won't give the book away, but I will say that I originally only gave it three stars. And that's because I read it after having read some reviews here at .com. What I took from those was a tone that I used to read the book because many had said that he whined and really just needed to grow up. While I didn't get that from the book, I did assert a tone that really should not have been there. That said, I still really enjoyed Andrew's story and reading the book. The following weekend, I went to Atlanta with a friend who is both an avid reader and a world traveler. We attended a book festival event where Andrew was interviewed about his book. We found him to be the intelligent and witty guy that we expected him to be all along. While he may enjoy traveling alone, he is very good at charming a crowd. After hearing him discuss his book in person and talk about some of the specific situations that he had written about, I quickly learned that many of the places where I had asserted a bit of sarcastic tone really deserved a humorous tone. After that, I decided that my rating deserved at least four stars, not the original three that I gave it. I really enjoy Andrew's travel articles, I enjoyed his book, and I thoroughly enjoyed getting to hear him speak about his book in person. All of that together made *The Longest Way Home* a very enjoyable experience as a whole. And, yes, the guy from *Pretty In Pink* can write. More importantly, he can tell a story.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved Andrew's Book *The Longest Way Home* By Lem S. I am a fan of Andrew McCarthy as an actor. I really enjoyed his book *The Longest Way Home*. I could not put it down. I appreciated his honesty and vulnerability. It was fun to read about his life outside of being a "star." The variety of travels Andrew includes in the book were a nice combination of exotic, and down to earth. Great job Andrew, and I can't wait to read your next book...2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth the Journey By Mary Kearney The author travels to learn about himself and to directly encounter life. He explains this in the first chapter and since it is what I view as my primary benefit of visiting other cultures and places, I was intrigued. One could say he "works through things" by immersing himself in travel. For someone who has been a public person he is surprisingly open and candid. It is clear that he has learned to be honest with himself and others. His descriptions of the places he visits, the , Patagonia, Kilimanjaro and others are abundantly detailed and helpful if the reader is seeking adventure herself, or to vicariously enjoy exotic sites. He is also witty in a dry, quiet sort of way that adds color and life to his narrative. The book is thoughtfully written and like the adventures he describes, engrossing.

A soulful and searching book. Vibrant and elegant McCarthy's prose shines with intelligence and intimacy. One feels pulled along the book gaining momentum and meaning page by page (Cheryl Strayed, *The New York Times Book Review*). WITH ABSORBING HONESTY AND AN IRREPRESSIBLE TASTE for adventure, award-winning travel writer and actor Andrew McCarthy takes us on a deeply personal journey played out amid some of the world's most evocative locales. Unable to commit to his fiancée of nearly four years and with no clear understanding of what's holding him back McCarthy finds himself at a crossroads, plagued by doubts that have clung to him for a lifetime. Though he ventures from the treacherous slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro to an Amazonian riverboat and the dense Costa Rican rain forests, McCarthy's real journey is one of the spirit. Disarmingly likable, McCarthy isn't afraid to bare his soul on the page, and what emerges is an intimate memoir of self-discovery and an unforgettable love song to the woman who would be his wife.

From Booklist Who knew that McCarthy, a familiar face on the big screen (*St. Elmos Fire*, *Pretty in Pink*) and the small (*Law Order*, *Monk*), is also a noted travel writer! An editor at large for *National Geographic Traveler* and winner of several awards (including *Travel Journalist of the Year*), he contributes travel articles to numerous publications, and his work has appeared in the anthology *The Best American Travel Writing*. This is not some memoir written by an actor who fancies himself a world traveler. McCarthy really is a world traveler and a damned fine writer, too. The book features eight destinations New York, Patagonia, the , the Osa, Vienna, Baltimore, Kilimanjaro, and Dublin and, along the way, McCarthy explores himself, too, introducing us to a man whose love for life is matched only by his love for the woman he would eventually marry (and whose growing importance to McCarthy is a thread that runs throughout the book). To readers who think, Andrew McCarthy? Really? the answer is a resounding and emphatic yes. Really. --David Pitt Soulful and searching . . . McCarthy's prose shines with intelligence and intimacy . . .

. A long, strange trip on the direction of full-throttle love. (Cheryl Strayed New York Times Book)A candid, touching, and often humorous new memoir. (The San Francisco Chronicle) "Combining the best aspects of Paul Theroux's misanthropy in books like *Old Patagonian Express* and Elizabeth Gilbert's emotions in *Eat, Pray, Love*, this book is hard to put down. Bound to be popular, this compelling and honest chronicle will not disappoint readers." (Library Journal) Andrew McCarthy treks from Baltimore to the , exploring his commitment issues as fearlessly as he scales Mount Kilimanjaro." (Elle)"Brave and moving...McCarthy's keen sense of scene and storytelling ignites his accounts...[t]hreaded with an exemplary vulnerability and propelled by a candid exploration of his own life's frailties." (National Geographic)"McCarthy ponders some of the biggest and most frightening questions surrounding intimacy: How does a loner connect? How does a traveler settle down? How do we merge into families without losing ourselves? The answer seems to be that all these things are impossible...and yet somehow we do it anyway. There is much to be learned, and much to be admired, in this elegant, thoughtful story." Elizabeth Gilbert, bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love* "This is not some memoir written by an actor who fancies himself a world traveler. McCarthy really is a world traveler and a damned fine writer, too. To readers who think, Andrew McCarthy? Really? the answer is a resounding and emphatic yes. Really." (Booklist)"Rarely have I seen the male psyche explored with such honesty and vulnerability. This is the story of a son, a father, a brother, a husband, a man who finds the courage not only to face himself, but to reveal himself, and, in so doing, illuminates something about what it is to be human, fully alive, and awake. --Dani Shapiro, Author of *Devotion*"It's hard to write books that are both adventurous and touching, but Andrew McCarthy manages to pull it off and more! A smart, valuable book." --Gary Shteyngart, bestselling author of *Super Sad True Love Story* and *Absurdistan*"Where lesser writers might reach for hyperbole and Roget to describe such exotic lands as Patagonia, Kilimanjaro and Baltimore, in *The Longest Way Home*, McCarthy leans on subtlety, a straightforward style and hard-won insights to allow his larger stories to unfold. It's not hard to imagine him as the solitary figure in the caf, scribbling in a notebook by candlelight, making the lonely, tedious work of travel writing look romantic and easy."--Chuck Thompson, author of *Better Off Without 'Em* and *Smile When You're Lying*"As an actual voyage, McCarthy's globe-trotting tale is an evocative, highly entertaining read. But as an introspective and emotional journey, his story is unforgivingly honest, courageous, and hard to put down." --David Farley, author of *An Irreverent Curiosity* McCarthy delivers a deeply revealing memoir about settling down, both with a woman and in his own skin. An unflinchingly honest examination of his life as an actor, son, brother, husband, and father, as well as his struggle with committing to a woman in his life whom he plans to and does, by the end of the book marry in Dublin. Alcoholism, infidelity, the dark side of celebrity McCarthy holds nothing back. He skillfully brings the locations and their characters to life. Like the best travel, accompanying McCarthy on his road toward self-awareness and the woman he loves is much more about the journey than the destination. (Gotham magazine) A must-read for any dude finding his way. (Askmen.com) About the Author Andrew McCarthy is a writer, actor, and director. He is an editor-at-large for *National Geographic Traveler* and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. The Society of American Travel Writers named him the Travel Journalist of the Year in 2010 and presented him with their Grand Award in 2011. Andrew made his acting debut at nineteen and has appeared in dozens of films, including *Pretty in Pink*, *St. Elmos Fire*, and *The Joy Luck Club*. He lives in New York.