

Lesbian Travels: A Literary Companion

Lucy Jane Bledsoe

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More travelogue than travel guide, *Lesbian Travels: A Literary Companion* is a smart collection of stories from lesbians on the road. Each piece provides good, short, literate reading for that cross-town bus trip or airport layover. The collection includes stories from all parts of the world, developed and undeveloped, but holds together nicely with this theme: No matter how far from home you journey, the core of who you are remains the same.

Many of these stories are serious, but they're also fun, sexy and full of adventure. Christmas in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, a 2,000-mile long railway trip through Russia, the Winter Solstice in West Africa are some of the settings these lesbian travelers use to tell their stories.

In "Dancing Home a Stranger" writer/dancer Donna Allegra travels to West Africa to study traditional dance, and examines her relationship to heterosexual black women. She finds some conflict, some commonalities, but the insight is all the more powerful because of the exotic backdrop.

My last night I turn off the fan to enjoy the night sounds—crickets, the cock crowing, a lone bird's call, a dog barking. Outside my window, the Guinea moon is a gleaming coin that in a little while, will buy dreams from the store at the edge of the sky.

Such lush language and the accompanying personal dramas make *Lesbian Travels* a delight.

BETH NEERING (January / February 1999)

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