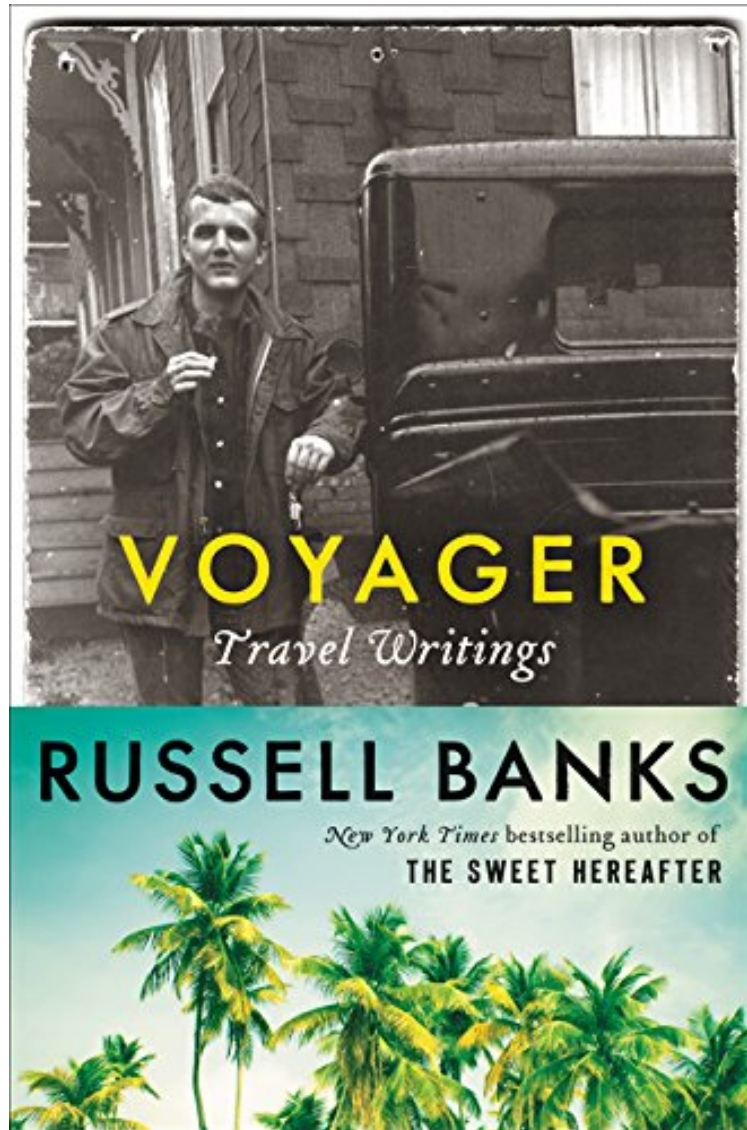


[Free] Voyager: Travel Writings

Voyager: Travel Writings

Russell Banks

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#850222 in Books Russell Banks 2016-05-31 2016-05-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.04 x 6.00l, 1.11 #File Name: 006185767X288 pages Voyager Travel Writings | File size: 62.Mb

Russell Banks : Voyager: Travel Writings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voyager: Travel Writings:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Mirror on Banks' Novels By Doctor Moss Voyager is part memoir, part travel book. If youve read Banks fiction, this semi-autobiography will give you a kind of parallel universe to the world of those novels. I would never say that this book is better or anywhere near his novels. But that's mostly because he is a great novelist. People like Banks took a hard path. Most dont do as well at it as he has. These are the people who drift out of high school, maybe go to college, maybe go to a few colleges, but they never settle on a nice, secure way

of life. They don't learn accounting or computer science. They roam, they try things out, they seem to fail a lot at personal relationships. They are dire introverts with a counter-need to build friendships and romances. They have lives that are interesting at least. And some of them can make other people's lives interesting through their writing. Not all some are undoubtedly those people you don't want to get stuck having to listen to in some bar or at a counter at Dennys. But out of that same group, you get people like Banks. Almost half of the book is a single essay. It recounts Banks return to the Caribbean, his original time there fictionalized in Jamaica Stories. He and his wife-to-be, Chase, go from island to island, mixing thoughts about the current state of the islands, with Banks quasi-confessional to Chase about his three earlier marriages and their sad and sometimes guilty endings. It's all a bit of a journey through the past. And parts of it aren't easy for Banks, and, probably not for his wife-to-be either. You see some of the same self-imposed angst that his characters have. Always being at least slightly out of step, even with good times, is painful. Many of the other essays have to do with hiking. Banks is a hiker and a mountain climber. A very serious one, even into his seventies. As a hiker and climber, he isn't a tourist as he was sometimes in the Caribbean. It's all about the hike, or the climb. And he doesn't always succeed. Banks is like his characters, more anti-hero than hero. Things don't always go well. He can't always be proud of what he does, but he's trying to put together a whole that he can respect. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. disappointing By tikcuf Those who enjoy the fiction of Russell Banks, an award winning author who is considered one of the best American novelists of the late 20th century, are likely to be disappointed by this collection of travel essays. The book sounds enticing: a collection of essays focused on Banks' travels, many of them to tropical locations. "Voyager", while certainly readable, doesn't measure up to Banks novels in my opinion. Many of these essays constitute a rambling and narcissistic confessional by Banks regarding his many failed relationships with women. His insights, while presumably therapeutic to express, seemed sophomoric and pedantic. Banks pays only lip service to salient characteristics of the places he visits, such as their geography, history, politics and so on, and these insights were generally cliché'd, as well. I am a Russell Banks fan and have read most of his novels but, needless to say, was disappointed by "Voyager". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Escape By Stephen T. Hopkins Travel takes us away from where we are and toward becoming aware of who we are. Travel writing can be banal or can lead us to deep insight. Russell Banks is a terrific writer, and the essays in Voyager: Travel Writings were a delight to read. While I would never want to climb a mountain, his writing about climbing gave me some insights into human nature. While I would never want to drive a Hummer, his driving experience for a magazine article made me laugh. Having been married for decades, I don't identify with his experience of four marriages, but his writing about eloping with his fourth wife was enlightening. Readers who like fine writing, and have an appreciation for wanderlust of all sorts are those most likely to enjoy reading this book. Rating: Four-star (I like it)

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 Alaskas 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.

[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 Bankss 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) [A] moving collection of travel pieces that rise to the level of literature (Christian Science Monitor) From the Back Cover 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. 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. 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 to marry his fourth wife, Chase; driving a sunset-orange metallic Hummer down Alaskas Seward Highway. In each of these remarkable essays, Banks considers his life and the world. In Everglades National Park, he traces his own timeline: I keep going back, and with increasing 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.

If the United States were to adopt Japans 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 Bankss 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 Americas 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.