



Here, There, Elsewhere: Stories from the Road

William Least Heat-Moon

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From the acclaimed author of *Blue Highways*, *PrairieErth*, and *Roads to Quoz*, a dazzling collection of travel tales from the road.

HERE, THERE, ELSEWHERE draws together for the first time William Least Heat-Moon's greatest short-form travel writing. Personally selected by the writer, these pieces take us from Japan, England, Italy, and Mexico to Long Island, Oregon, Arizona, from small towns to big cities, ocean shores and inland mysteries.

Including Heat-Moon's reflections on writing these pieces, HERE, THERE, ELSEWHERE is much more than the usual collection of amber; it is a coupled summation of craft and memory. A perfect treasury of prose and provocation for readers old and new, Heat-Moon's most recent work reveals his absolute mastery across pages many and few.

Here, There, Elsewhere: Stories from the Road Details

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From Reader Review Here, There, Elsewhere: Stories from the Road for online ebook

Robin says

This is a collection of travel essays written by Wm Least-Heat Moon, although he reworked some that the editors has "edited." I really learned a lot about beer in one, but he came across a bit pompous and over-wordy in others. My interest flagged about halfway and I admit to judicious skimming. I REALLY liked his Blue Highways and The Water Horse, but this one didn't float my boat.

Christina says

I love William Least Heat-Moon's writing. He's always classified as a travel writer, but he's so much more than that. I often think his books should also be on the spirituality shelf. This most recent volume is a collection of his essays published in various magazines over the last 30 years. These essays cover many locations in the US and around the world, including New Zealand, England, Scotland, and Japan. His essays about the plains and prairies of America are marvelous and poetic. I loved his essays on England and Scotland; his comments about trying to eat the local foods while in the Hebrides are absolutely hysterical. He makes me want to load up the Civic for a long road trip on winding roads.

Lorri says

I enjoyed reading Here, There, Elsewhere: Stories from the Road, by William Least Heat-Moon.

I found the short writings within the pages to be filled with humor and interesting tidbits of information regarding America, especially the states of Kansas and Missouri. Least Heat=Moon infuses his writings with quips that make the reader grin and even laugh out loud.

His journey through Yoknapatawpha County in Mississippi in order to find William Faulkner was a wonderful story. This particular story was filled with snippets of rural-sounding speech, and an accent unique to the locale. He and his friend, who was traveling with him, more or less had a grand tour. There were moments of comic relief for the author, humor unanticipated, due to a gesture made by the person guiding them.

Another story that I eagerly read concerned Yosemite National Park. There were elements about Yosemite I did not know of (written about in the second paragraph), and I found them to be compelling.

His travels on Long Island had me inhaling and tasting the oysters and little neck clams I grew up eating, and the story held me in nostalgic attentiveness. I was brought up on Long Island, and I recognized so much of what he wrote about, having been from one end to the other, north to south, during my 26 years living there. I thoroughly enjoyed his presentation of that trip.

From Japan to England, across America, and more, Least Heat-Moon's treks are always written with visually vivid word-paintings. This reader was swept away with some of his delightful prose, and with his ability to use humor to laugh at himself in certain scenarios, such as book hunting in England with his guide, and also

his moment when tasting a certain food in the far Scotland Islands. I laughed out loud at some of the quips in that story.

I was also impressed with his and insights, as far as his pondering subjects such as extinction, ancient civilizations and even his thoughts on war, while in Japan, being guided by a Japanese translator.

I found Here, There, Elsewhere: Stories from the Road to be a fascinating read, and an interesting and enjoyable journey taken through reading the short stories within the book. I highly recommend it.

Thank you to Goodreads and to Little, Brown and Company for the advanced proof copy of the book.

Conrad says

This is a collection of his travel writings from down through the years which reflect an assortment of destinations - some familiar and some not. For those places where I have traveled it is interesting to compare his insights and observations with my own. For those not so familiar, they are a tantalizing invitation to further exploration. He draws (not explicitly - but implicitly) a distinction between the tourist and the traveler. The tourist merely visits and observes, whereas the traveler immerses him (or her) self into the place and seeks a deeper understanding through engaging the citizens of that particular place in conversation and interaction. I was a little disappointed by his lack of manliness when confronted with a slice of black pudding on his breakfast plate in Scotland. Ah well, no one is perfect!

Kevin Cox says

This is a collection of essays Heat-Moon wrote, mostly for other sources, now collected in a book for the first time. It's a great intro to his writing on "place" for newbies, and also an indispensable addition for fans.

Sherry says

His writing is enjoyable, relaxing and challenging. Makes you think about travel and life.

Iowa City Public Library says

The author of Blue Highways, Roads to Quoz, and PrairyErth, William Least Heat-Moon, has written his newest book called Here, There, Elsewhere; Stories From the Road. This volume is a series of chapters, each one unique, about his lifetime of travels all over the world and here at home. There is something for everyone in this collection of articles, many never before published.

Because my daughter was married in Yosemite National Park I especially loved that chapter and felt like I was right there with the wandering author. I felt the same about all the Missouri connections as well.

What is really neat for me is that I knew the author, not by his pen name but as Bill Trogden, in my years at

the University of Missouri in Columbia. He was a doctoral student in the English Department and I was an English major and then Library School graduate student. I knew he traveled, kept a journal, loved his beer, and was a thoughtful and introspective kind of guy—but who would have known that he'd become such a well-respected and famous author! I thought he'd end up as an English professor somewhere. He also grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, like me, so I was familiar with many of the places he mentioned in his writing. I can't remember if it was Prairie Lights Bookstore or the Writers' Workshop at Iowa that brought Bill to Iowa City a few years ago. He stopped in the Iowa City Public Library and I happened to see him; we enjoyed catching up with each others' lives.

Back to his new book... I don't drink beer and yet even I enjoyed the chapter on micro-breweries in the United States and all the references made to the pubs in Ireland, England, and Wales. The chapter on his hiking in Oregon was also appealing because my daughter now lives in Corvallis and I've visited there as well as Portland and the Oregon coast. My husband and I are taking an Alaskan cruise in August and I enjoyed reading about the Tlingit people in another chapter. Throughout the book, the author who is part Osage Indian, makes many comments about the injustices done to our native people.

Bill is brilliant and well-read, with a terrific grasp of history and literature, not to mention his enviable travels all over the globe. His vocabulary is astonishing. The selections contained in this latest work of travel writing are appealing to a readership who like a challenging book and yet can pick and choose the parts they want to read. Of course I read his book from cover to cover and was completely amazed at the fine writing. Check it out if you like intellectual quest books and introspective, articulate travel writing about journeys of the mind, body and soul. --Katherine

From the ICPL Staff Picks Blog

Ty says

"To me, a road map is the printed lyrics to a siren's song where highways and rivers are like stanzas, and the little circles indicating towns are notes - some flat, some sharp, a few off-key. To begin a journey is to hunt for its tune..."

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Jennifer says

This book is a collection of short personal travel stories. I found with these stories, if I had a particular interest already in the setting (the stories set in Japan, New Zealand, Cinque Terre, the Pacific Northwest USA), he could hold my interest, but for the other stories set in Kansas, Missouri, etc. I was bored out of my mind.

Deb says

Fine, fine writing.

Becca says

Thanks to good reads and the publisher for my free copy!

Some of the pieces in this collection, but as a whole it was rather dull. It also seemed as though the author was impressed with himself and expansive vocabulary (or just really Attached to his thesaurus). Should I really need a dictionary nearby in order to make it through an essay on walking sticks?

Loretta says

This collection of travel essays inculcates wanderlust like all of his books. It is a compilation of stories ranging from Americana to British literature. All are beautifully written and evocative of place and time. I love this writer!

Cruizer says

Some good short stories, others were ok. Liked his Q book better.

Cynthia Karl says

To call WLHM a travel writer does not do him justice. It is always a great pleasure to read his books and essays; his writing is superb. His topics are from different locales but they are not travel writing; his are unique descriptions and viewpoints. The only quibble I have with LHM is that he doesn't write more!

Jay says

Another reviewer says of William Least Heat-Moon "His writing is enjoyable, relaxing and challenging." I have to agree. The chapters of this book read like long magazine articles on traveling, and perhaps that is what they originally were - I listened to the audio unadorned with normal book metadata. The voice of the author is Midwestern friendly, but you also get a hint of the university in the not-so-occasional \$10 word. Least Heat-Moon likes to play with words, and for this book I actually found it made the text more interesting. I had previously read his "Roads to Quoz", and this felt more approachable, in a kinder voice and in blessedly shorter essays with fewer digressions.
