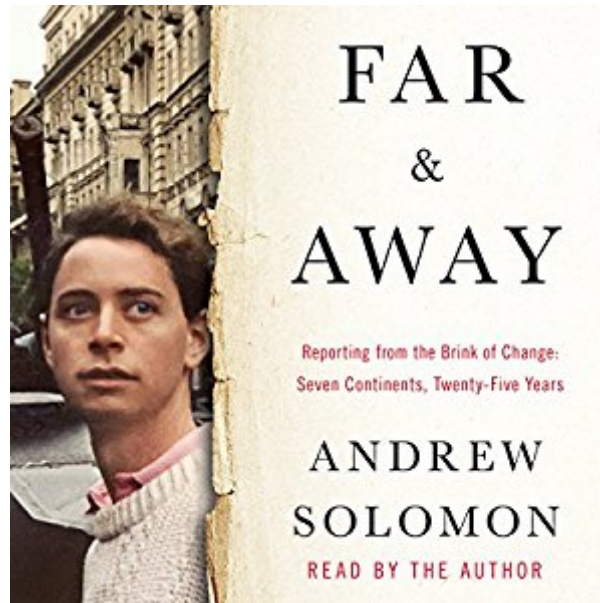


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# Far And Away: Reporting From The Brink Of Change



## Synopsis

From the winner of the National Book Award and the National Books Critics' Circle Award - and one of the most original thinkers of our time - a riveting collection of essays about places in dramatic transition. *Far and Away* collects Andrew Solomon's writings about places undergoing seismic shifts - political, cultural, and spiritual. Chronicling his stint on the barricades in Moscow in 1991, when he joined artists in resisting the coup whose failure ended the Soviet Union; his 2002 account of the rebirth of culture in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban; his insightful appraisal of a Myanmar steeped in contradictions as it slowly, fitfully pushes toward freedom; and many other stories of profound upheaval, this book provides a unique window onto the very idea of social change. With his signature brilliance and compassion, Solomon demonstrates both how history is altered by individuals and how personal identities are altered when governments alter. A journalist and essayist of remarkable perception and prescience, Solomon captures the essence of these cultures. Ranging across seven continents and 25 years, *Far and Away* takes a magnificent journey into the heart of extraordinarily diverse experiences, yet Solomon finds a common humanity wherever he travels. Illuminating the development of his own genius, his stories are always intimate and often both funny and deeply moving.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The writing is sublime and the subject matter is so relevant to today's political climate. All proponents of closed borders should be forced to read this. Very easy to read and hard to put down.

I will admit I have not finished the book, but wanted to leave a review! The past few days after watching more foreign set films/shows, I found myself wanting to visit these places and travel more. Yesterday morning I was thinking about how I love to experience different cultures to understand how other people live, but don't care as much about sightseeing. I was at the airport and looking for a book and came across *Far & Away* by pure chance. Reading the summaries it felt like Andrew had read my thoughts, but had experienced it all. It had also just been published, how lucky for me. I have really enjoyed what I have read so far. I have family in Hungary and Romania and my visits there have really shaped who I am. My daughter thinks Transylvania is the greatest place on earth. We witnessed the Syrian migrants traveling through Hungary last summer. Reading Andrew's stories has been a good substitute to getting on a plane and travelling, which I can't do right now (and of course he's writing not just about travel, but capturing history and describing situations). It's also motivated me to plan a trip with my two kids to a brand new place and make it a priority. I've found the book educational, easy to follow, motivating, interesting, I can't wait to read more and his other books too. I will update more as I finish the book if needed, but just wanted to say I'm so happy to have found this book.

I have read every book Mr. Solomon has written, and many of his magazine articles as well. *Far and Away*, Mr. Solomon's latest book, maintains that exceptionally high standard of prose I encountered in his previous writings. I have never read non-fiction works with such a high caliber of detail; detail that paints a picture in front of you so beautifully articulated that you feel you are by Mr. Solomon's side and see what he sees and experiences with your own eyes. His intimate knowledge and description of each location, as well as that of the people with whom he shares his experiences, are stunning. His characters, fully drawn and faceted, are all believable. The stories of his adventures, regardless of location, are fascinating and it becomes, at times, impossible to put the book down. Twice I found dinner had been forgotten.

An absolutely encyclopedic collection of high-brow travel literature spanning the past twenty five years. As if you are travelling in Andrew's pocket, listening to the nuances of travel with a visionary. He provides depth of knowledge of the arts and politics in Russia, China, Taiwan and South Africa during periods of profound change. The section on Libya is extraordinary. The passage set in Senegal evocative. The introduction clues you that this is not a casual read, but a treatise on the power of travel to inform in fairly obscure locals before they were opened to more frequent travel. I

highly recommend this book for those who think they are world travellers. You will be richer for the read.

Excellent stories from diverse and often uncomfortable first hand experience. Less politically projective than I would have thought based with author's interview with Fareed Zakaria on CNN's GPS program recently|. Still a nice piece.

Unfortunately, this is a poorly written book. Too much time is spent on unimportant subjects: I'm not interested in modern Russian art; too much is devoted to this subject that it becomes boring; food in China is frankly unimportant for me; whether an item is so hot that it leaves you breathless is simply banal; to go on and discuss the intricacies of various dishes is, for me, unimportant. The writer deals with subjects that are so many years in the past and are of a trivial nature that the reading became a chore. Unfortunately, I had no strength to finish it-one of the very rare times that I have done that, if ever before. That the author is in or out of a closet is not important; his private life is his and does not need to be explained or justified.

interesting observations and experiences. superb writer. insights and historical perspective presented could serve as a primer for foreign affairs study. Chapter on Myanmar especially interesting in this regard. A good accompaniment to the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions discussion presentation on this topic.

This is a wonderful book, great for thinking people. You will learn so much about the world in a very special way and if you like to travel even better. Any one who reads this book of knowledge will be so much better for it. I have other books by this author and will always read what he has to say, thank you Andrew Solomon, Signed Daunn Munn.

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