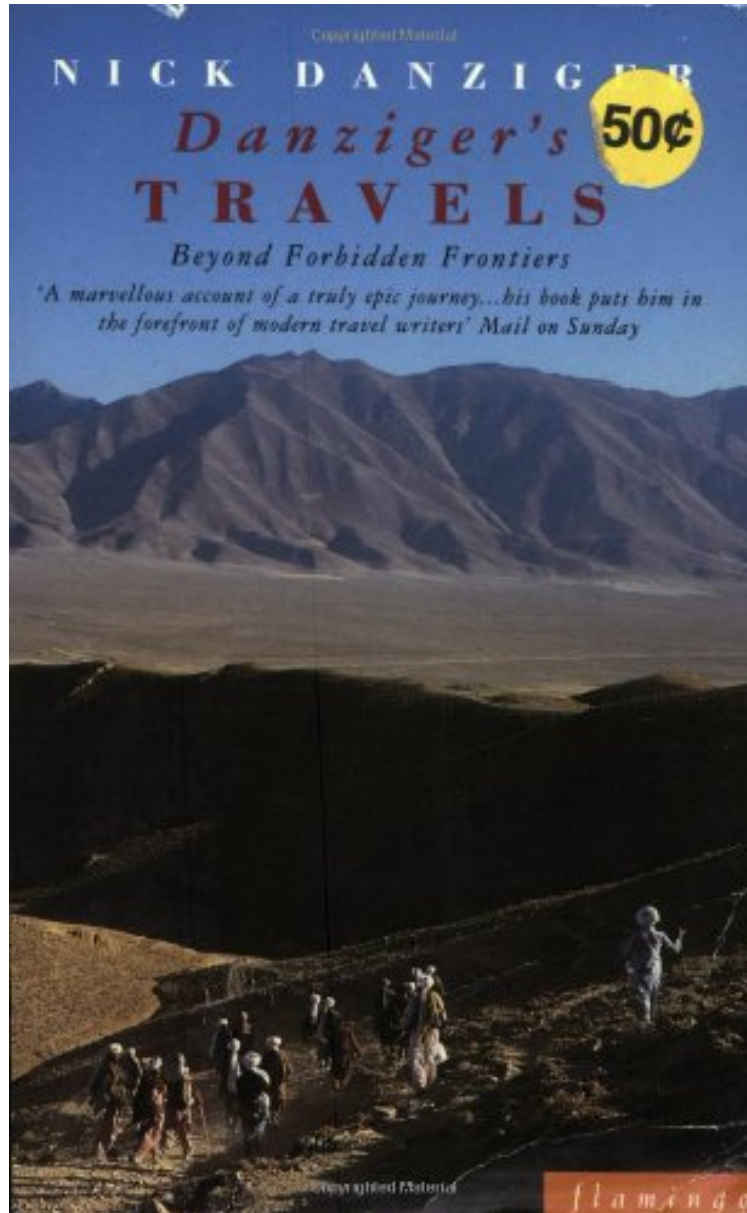


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## Danziger's Travels: Beyond Forbidden Frontiers (Paladin Books)

Nick Danziger

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**Nick Danziger : Danziger's Travels: Beyond Forbidden Frontiers (Paladin Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Danziger's Travels: Beyond Forbidden Frontiers (Paladin Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book to read again and againBy CustomerI found this book about

15 years ago, and pick it up at least once every 2 to 3 years to re-read. Absolutely fascinating, and a great look into the cultures along the Silk Road. In fact, this book sparked my interest in it, culminating with trips to Afghanistan (for work) in 2003, and on the Silk Road from Beijing to Kashgar in 2007. Nick Danziger tells a great tale, and the journey across Afghanistan, dodging Soviet patrols and Hinds is riveting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Kristine F. Entertaining. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Fun Travel Book By J. Blilie I want to inject a little caution amongst all the wild enthusiasm I read in the reviews of this book. I rate this book 3-1/2 to 4 stars. (See below of a sample of books I consider to be 5-star books.) Danziger's Travels is, no doubt, a fun read. Mr. Danziger does a fine job of relating what he sees in his long trip across Eurasia -- once he actually gets going. The hand-wringing, wingeing, and adolescent philosophizing that is given before the actual trip starts could be skipped (pp. 1-16 in the hardcover). At least he keeps it brief unlike T.E. Lawrence who carries on for 100 pages before landing in Jiddah (just start after he lands in Jiddah, an excellent book after that.) (Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph) Danziger writes an entertaining travelogue about an interesting time, particularly in central and east Asia (the Afghan resistance to the Soviets, the rebuilding of Tibet, the economic invasion of Sinkiang by the Han, the first cracks of daylight into China and Tibet since the 1950s, Khomieni's Iran in its early days.) He certainly had good timing. The book reads effortlessly and he is an excellent writer on what he sees and the people he meets. And I will grant this: He indulges in very little navel-gazing (after the first chapter) something which many current travel writers could learn from. My problem with the book as a whole is that it just doesn't ring true. No one has this kind of luck, is this patient, had this kind of equanimity and equilibrium, while having the smarts of a local and the endurance of a Kenyan distance runner and the nerve of front line soldier. Just far too many perfect coincidences. (And he needn't have shared his sexual conquests with us: I guess he really was YOUNG wasn't he?) This excerpt makes the point: "I wasn't prepared to have my movements hampered by artificially imposed barriers\* and I wanted to break the myth that all foreigners were a breed apart." [\*Such as the local laws!] My, he pontificates well for a man with the wisdom of age 25 or 26. A fun read, if can take it with a grain of salt and keeping the thousand and one nights in mind. A peek at some interesting times in Asia. Certainly not a classic. The gushing reviews indicate to me less the quality of this book than the limited travel literature reading of the reviewer. I strongly recommend to you the following: Jupiters Travels: Four Years Around the World on a Triumph One Man Caravan ("Incredible Journeys" Books) News from Tartary: A Journey from Peking to Kashmir (Marlboro Travel) A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush (Travel Literature) Love War in the Apennines (Travel Literature) Seven Years in Tibet Arabian Sands (Penguin Classics) Motoring with Mohammed: Journeys to Yemen and the Red Sea Two Years Before the Mast (Signet Classics) Sailing Alone around the World, by Joshua Slocum Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle, by Dervla Murphy No Picnic on Mount Kenya: A Daring Escape, A Perilous Climb, by Felice Benuzzi

This account describes the author's adventures during an 18-month journey "beyond forbidden frontiers" in Asia. With minimal equipment and disguised as an itinerant Muslim, he hitch-hiked and walked through southern Turkey, and the Iran of the Ayatollahs, entering Afghanistan illegally in the wake of a convoy of Chinese weapons and then spent months dodging Russian helicopter gunships with the rebel guerillas. He was the first foreigner to cross from Pakistan into the closed western province of China since the revolution on 1949.

Danziger is the stuff that legends are made of some of the most exciting travel writing I have ever read. -- THE LITERARY REVIEW From the Publisher Written with engaging humor, this is Nick Danziger's account of an 18-month journey beyond forbidden frontiers in Asia. Disguised as an itinerant Muslim, and drawing on funds from a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship, he set off, walking and hitchhiking his way through southern Turkey and Iran. Following in the wake of a Chinese weapons convoy, he then illegally entered Afghanistan; there, he spent two months with rebel guerillas dodging Russian helicopter gunships. Danziger went on to become the first foreigner since the 1949 revolution to cross from Pakistan into the closed western province of China. An incredible journey, brilliantly told. Nick Danziger is an award-winning documentary filmmaker.