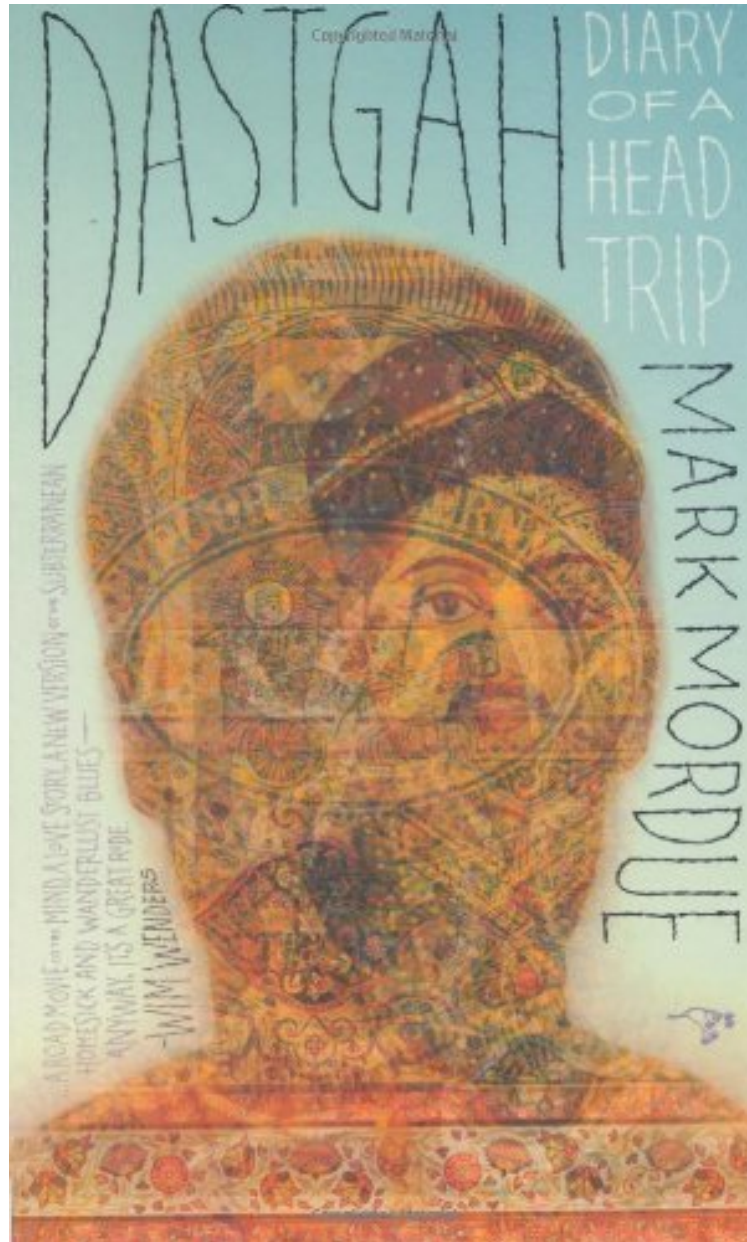


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Dastgah: Diary of a Head Trip

Mark Mordue

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Mark Mordue : Dastgah: Diary of a Head Trip before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dastgah: Diary of a Head Trip:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Mixed Bag By Michael Kaiser Mr. Mordue's work can be a bit

pretentious at times. It is as if he is writing as if someone were looking over his shoulder and he is saying, "look what I wrote...isn't it deep and profound." When he veers away from this style (the section on Iran) the story is truly captivating and a rousing good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Memoirs of the Old World* By Katie Gray Mordue traveled through Asia, Europe, and New York before 9/11--so although this book was published in the U.S. in 2004, it seems dated--the world isn't this way anymore. Having made some of the same journeys, I find Mordue's insights to be fresh yet not so quirky that the book is tiresome to read. The author admits he is a naif in his late 30s who hadn't traveled much outside Australia and so sees the places he visits as a worldly yet wide-eyed man. I especially enjoyed his take on Iran. The book should be read as a collection of magazine pieces rather than a narrative--and so the title *Dastgah*, improvisations on existing themes in Persian music, is apt. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Like a Rolling Stone By Blusuede This book is uneven, patchy, which I think goes along with the author's mindset while travelling and perhaps while writing the book. Some entries into this part-travel diary and part-autobiography are better than others. Especially recommended are accounts of his childhood, a bus ride in Nepal, his time in Iran and his trip to the Paris cemetery where Proust and Jim Morrison are buried. I read it while travelling myself in Southeast Asia and perhaps that is its best use, as a companion while abroad.

Australian award-winning journalist Mark Mordue invites you on his world trip that ranges from a Rolling Stones concert in Istanbul to talking with mullahs and junkies in Tehran, and from a cricket match in Calcutta to an SM bar in New York, in addition to many points in between. Mordue chronicles his year-long global journey with his girlfriend, Lisa Nicol, exploring countries most Americans never see as well as issues of world citizenship in the 21st century. Written in the tradition of literary journalism, *Dastgah* will take you to all kinds of places, across the world . . . and inside yourself.

I JUST TOOK A TRIP around the world in one go, first zigzagging my way through this incredible book, and finally, almost feverishly, making sure I hadn't missed out on a chapter along the way. I'm not sure what I'd call it now: A road movie of the mind, a diary, a love story, a new version of the subterranean homesick and wanderlust blues anyway, it's a great ride. Paul Bowles and Kerouac are in the back, and Mark Mordue has taken over the wheel of that pickup truck from Bruce Chatwin, who's dozing in the passenger seat. WIM WENDERS, director of *Paris, Texas*; *Wings of Desire*; and *The Buena Vista Social Club*. WIDE-AWAKE AND SENSUOUSLY LYRICAL, Mark Mordue's *Dastgah* gets in behind the shell of the familiar, reminding us that the world is vast and strange and that everything is in case we've forgotten happening for the first time. SVEN BIRKERTS, editor of *AGNI* and author of *My Sky Blue Trades: Growing Up Counter in a Contrary Time* AN EXTRAORDINARY AND DAZZLING VOYAGE across continents and into the mind. Mordue's book is almost impossible to summarize: reportage, reflection and poetry are all conjured onto the page as he grapples with the state of the world and his place in it. GILES MILTON, author of *Nathaniel's Nutmeg: Or, the True and Incredible Adventures of the Spice Trader Who Changed the Course of History* A lovely, fascinating book. DAVID ALMOND, author of *The Fire-Eaters* and 2003 Whitbread Award Winner METICULOUSLY ASSEMBLED... Mordue has elevated *Dastgah* beyond the realms of the traditional travelogue by sharing not only what he learned about cultures he visited, but also his brutally honest self-discoveries. ELLEA LOVELY IMPRESSIONISTIC BOOK... idiosyncratic, entertaining, vulnerable and unpretentious ... Mordue skitters between worlds, not sparing his readers the contrast. NEWSWEEK DASTGAH IS MUCH MORE about what it means to be a traveler than a travel book. This is brave writing, unafraid to open itself to awkward emotions with honesty and passion. MARIE CLAIRE