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Far Country: Stories from Abroad and Other Places

Timothy Kenny

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#2112571 in Books Kenny Timothy 2015-04-25 2015-05-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .30 x 6.00l, .50 #File Name: 1933964871152 pagesFar Country Stories from Abroad and Other Places | File size: 44.Mb

Timothy Kenny : Far Country: Stories from Abroad and Other Places before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Far Country: Stories from Abroad and Other Places:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Should be required readingBy TomorrowtodayThis book grabbed me and wouldn't let go. Mr. Kenny is one of those gifted writers that finds beautiful people and places where you would least expect it. His stories from war-torn areas of eastern Europe and the middle east are amazing. Reading about human beings enduring and living life under these ungodly conditions has been a real learning experience. It

should be required reading for those of us that have come to take these "far country" wars for granted. NOTE: although the book is anecdotal and the reader may be tempted to jump around, do yourself a favor and read this book start to finish. The author's return to his childhood home near Detroit provides valuable lessons in how similar we all are - far and near.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Understanding the world, one story at a time

By Alex Ulman

Timothy Kenny is an experienced journalist who has traveled extensively throughout the world both as a reporter and a journalism trainer. In *Far Country*, he is telling stories from places such as Kosovo, Baku, Kabul, Sarajevo and Bucharest, as well as his hometown Detroit and his current home in Connecticut -- snippets of life, sometimes dramatic and sad, sometimes absurd, sometimes even funny. Everything in the book converges to make us understand that what may seem strange and extraordinary to us is nothing but the usual for people living in other parts of the world. Just like our standard of normality may seem far-fetched to them. The world is incredibly diverse, and in order for us to truly begin to understand it, we must look at it with an open mind. Instead of blocking our view by trying to see the world through the filter of our own local background and experience, we should rather accept that our way of living and looking at things is just one of many. The stories in the book will probably help you make more sense of all the disturbing news floating around, and maybe even understand (if not agree with) some of the motivations driving people from remote corners of the world. *Far Country* is, undeniably, a sad book. It tells us that people will get used to the worst circumstances: those in Kabul and in war-time Sarajevo to living in constant fear; those in Kosovo or Bucharest to having to face packs of stray dogs every night; those in Baku to corruption at all levels; those in Detroit to seeing their city fall into decay; those getting old to the reality of their own mortality. The world, however, is not hopeless. Sarajevo has found a new life after the war, and people everywhere do go on with their existence. Even Detroit is redefining itself, sort of. Toward the end of the book, Kenny introduces his young daughter, Caitlin, for whom the "worst Sunday ever" is the day she could not bowl at the local bowling emporium. For her, the world is quite a different place than the one in most of her father's stories.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good memoir + good journalism

By T. Iliff

Timothy Kennys *Far Country* offers something found in many memoirs entertaining recollections and anecdotes and something less common -- good journalism. His tales from the Balkans, the Mideast and elsewhere are fun reading, but Tim also does a great job of reporting along the way. His interviews are particularly insightful, showing a careful preparation for a book that some authors prefer to write from memory alone. I can vouch for Tims reporting from Kosovo and Afghanistan because our professional paths intersected in both places. He gives an honest portrayal of those bewildering lands without ever sacrificing good storytelling. His reflections on and assessment of Detroit, his hometown, also match what I recall from my time there. If youre looking for an interesting and highly readable memoir from a first-rate journalist and teacher, this is a book for you.

It is easy to get caught up in Tim Kennys rich stories about Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, the U.S., and elsewhere. Behind every story about his experiences are drive and perseverance--often exhibited during turbulent times in foreign lands--that give substance to the stories. I admire the way he shows the unfamiliar, but ultimately it is the way he makes me experience the familiar in a different way that I find most rewarding. I am pulled in by the stories about foreign countries, yet more fascinating is the expectation of home that he builds, a sense of how it feels to be away from home, by comparing the strangeness of different countries to what he knows--but then does the same in the story about the uneasiness and loss he feels in returning to Detroit after years away. This notion of home that Kenny produces is stunning." ~Adnan Mahmutovic, Co-editor, Two-Thirds North, Stockholm, Sweden

Cleaver Magazine cleavermagazine.com

FAR COUNTRY: STORIES FROM ABROAD AND OTHER PLACES, essays by Timothy Kenny ed by Beth Johnston

In the last part of the book, Kenny tacks on a pair of essays about becoming a father again at age 60. Here, Kenny is appealingly vulnerable, talking openly about the relentless math that rations out his time with this new person. "There will never be such a time again," he writes of a month spent in Italy with his wife and daughter. "There may be better times, times just as good, certainly; but inevitable change is fierce, uncompromising."

From the Back Cover

Timothy Kennys *Far Country* moves from Kabul to Detroit, Azerbaijan to Kosovo, and the connecting thread is not the obvious adventure but human relationships. Each essay is a story we fall into, story after story connected through relationship and observation, from darkness to the next darkness. Kennys essays are not just reports from the front but a fascinating set of hard-won observations on any front, any complex of situations, that any of us might encounter. ~Trish Harris, editor Pea River Journal

About the Author

Timothy Kenny was born in Detroit, the middle child in a family of five children of Irish Catholic parents. His love of travel came from his mother, who knew the place names and locations of every city, lake and township in Michigan. His love of reporting and writing came from his father, a newspaperman who co-authored a book about Beaver Island, Michigan, where the family vacationed, and who died too young at age 52. Kennys professional good fortune arrived in 1982 after leaving a job with United Press International in Oregon to accept a reporting position in Virginia at a new national newspaper called USA Today. He stayed for eleven years, the last five of which were spent as the national dailys foreign editor, a job that sent him, among other places, on reporting trips throughout Central and Eastern Europe

following the fall of the Berlin Wall. He later joined the Freedom Forum, the international journalism non-profit, that founded the Newseum, where Kenny organized journalism conferences, training sessions, and seminars throughout Eastern Europe. He has taught college journalism as a Fulbright Scholar in Romania and Azerbaijan, trained broadcasters for a year in Kosovo, and worked in four Central Asian nations, including Afghanistan. Kenny, who has traveled to forty-five countries, is the father of three adult children, Maureen, Deirdre and Michael, and of four grandchildren. He and his wife Susan are raising their daughter, Caitlin, in a small eastern Connecticut town. Kenny is retired from the University of Connecticut, where he taught journalism as an associate professor. He still travels abroad, frequently with his family. He is writing a memoir about older fatherhood and continues to write essays, often about time, memory, and place and how these themes change throughout our lives.