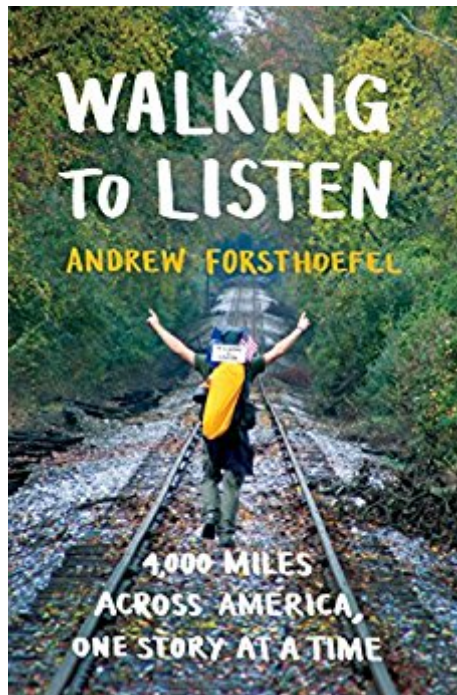




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Walking To Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America, One Story At A Time



Synopsis

A memoir of one young man's coming of age on a journey across America--told through the stories of the people of all ages, races, and inclinations he meets along the way. Life is fast, and I've found it's easy to confuse the miraculous for the mundane, so I'm slowing down, way down, in order to give my full presence to the extraordinary that infuses each moment and resides in every one of us. At 23, Andrew Forsthoefel headed out the back door of his home in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, with a backpack, an audio recorder, his copies of Whitman and Rilke, and a sign that read "Walking to Listen." He had just graduated from Middlebury College and was ready to begin his adult life, but he didn't know how. So he decided to take a cross-country quest for guidance, one where everyone he met would be his guide. In the year that followed, he faced an Appalachian winter and a Mojave summer. He met beasts inside: fear, loneliness, doubt. But he also encountered incredible kindness from strangers. Thousands shared their stories with him, sometimes confiding their prejudices, too. Often he didn't know how to respond. How to find unity in diversity? How to stay connected, even as fear works to tear us apart? He listened for answers to these questions, and to the existential questions every human must face, and began to find that the answer might be in listening itself. Ultimately, it's the stories of others living all along the roads of America that carry this journey and sing out in a hopeful, heartfelt book about how a life is made, and how our nation defines itself on the most human level.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an incredible book. It made me a better person. Andrew writes beyond his age, with insights and observations that made me think, laugh, and cry. It's a perfect balance of "inside" -- some musings I identify with, some I learn from -- and "outside" -- there are vivid descriptions of landscapes, homes, and personalities that make you feel like you're on the road, too. You won't put this book down. I had the pleasure of attending college with Andrew, and he's a truly positive and warm person. It's no surprise that so many strangers welcomed him into their homes, and it clearly afforded him experiences few others would have. Highly recommend this book to anyone of all ages, races, genders, and belief systems!

The book was well written and flowed nicely, holding my interest from beginning to end. Also, I felt somewhat of a connection with the author. He grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs and I grew up in that city. He went to Middlebury College, as did my daughter.

A wonderfully written account of all the people the author met on this amazing journey through America. In this fast pace, high tech world, i was delighted and mesmerized also how this author truly learned about his own self. In the 60's people did this without a thought but now.....not so much! Kudos to his mother to, as a mother myself, I know it must of been pretty tough to say goodbye but the rewards of watching our children grow are priceless!

Really enjoyed this read. Inspiring, prepare to have your heart and mind opened in the best way!

A Powerful story of a man becoming who he is meant to be. Good insight and wonderful story telling. I would love to meet him and listen to more of what he learned.

This book is a mixed bag. Most of the experiences described are interesting, but the author gets carried away frequently and my eyes glazed over.

A powerful story of an amazing journey....and an amazing beginning. Thank you, Andrew, for sharing this gift.From a schoolmate of your Mom's.

Excellent reading

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