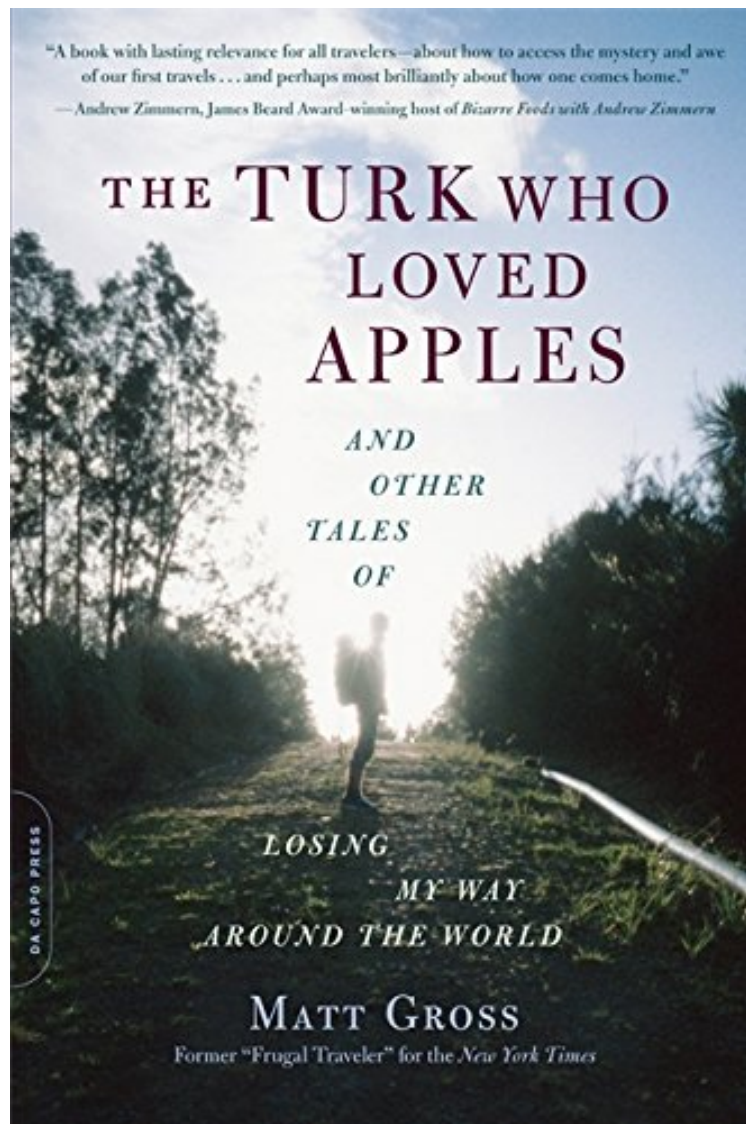


[Download] The Turk Who Loved Apples: And Other Tales of Losing My Way Around the World

## The Turk Who Loved Apples: And Other Tales of Losing My Way Around the World

*Matt Gross*

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**Matt Gross : The Turk Who Loved Apples: And Other Tales of Losing My Way Around the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Turk Who Loved Apples: And Other Tales of Losing My Way Around the World:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Dreadful...By lumindanuThis book SHOULD be titled, Matt Gross and his anxieties... the guy can certainly string sentences together, BUT... it's only going to be entertaining if you

really really REALLY want to know all about Matt Gross, how he felt about traveling, how he felt about getting lost, how he felt about various towns, cities, countries...If you want to get a feel for his experiences in those countries, forget it...there are snippets of information, snippets of stories, but all in the context of... Matt Gross and how he feels...If you are looking for someone else's experiences of the actual places they have been... this book is not for you...If you want to read about the self-absorbed maunderings of an author, with little to no sense of the actual places he's been.... this is your book.Ok... here is the edit... shortly after writing this, I read *Nomad's Hotel*... Matt Gross should read this book because it's what his book should have been....3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Another side of Matt GrossBy Zena ApsaraMatt Gross, ex-Frugal Traveler for the NYT writes a memoir of his travels and experiences. His articles in the NYT were engaging and wonderful - I eagerly bought and read his book thinking the style would be similar. It is not, instead, Matt reveals the man behind the curtain and it turns out he is a little like Woody Allen without the comedic aspect. That's not a criticism, just an observation. I appreciate his honesty to his craft, I just realize I'm not his generation and don't quite relate. Seems that Matt was born in the ME generation that exposes or shares every intimate, embarrassing, messy detail of one's life. Personally, there was too much information shared with us: his constant bouts with giardiasis, his interactions with prostitutes, and his anger toward his younger brother - all somewhat unresolved.In the last chapter he reflects on the act of story telling and how his published versions of his travels becomes the lasting memory and the `real' ones fade over time. He says,"Sometimes, for me, the writing creates a world better than the real one."Too bad he did not apply that philosophy consistently to his own book. There are wonderful moments where he brings his travels vividly to life. I liked the book, but there was a bit too much emphasis on his personal quirks and not enough detail about the sense of place.His travelogues were successful because of his ability to connect with people all around the world to have a more fulfilling experience/better story, but like the articles in the NYT, the story just ends abruptly, abandoning many people and in the end he also abandons his notion of `getting lost', or, the pursuit of the feeling of suspense, not knowing the destination. Hoping his next book focuses more on storytelling (the journey) because he has a unique way to integrate himself into places and lives.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rather Self-IndulgentBy Denise SpoonerI've read a lot of travel literature; memoir is right up there amongst my favorite genres. I hoped this book would be more of the former and less of that latter, but, in fact, it was the opposite. Consequently, the title of this review. describes this book as one that is about "breaking free of the constraints of modern travel and letting the place itself guide you. It's a variety of travel you'll love to experience vicariously through Matt Gross . . . ." Boy! That's not the book I read. Instead it seemed to me that the thread that runs through most of this book is about Mr. Gross' pursuit of travel as a means of understanding himself. The material on his frustrations with his parents and brother, with his lack of a feeling of attachment to his ancestors' home in Lithuania, and the difficulty of traveling with an infant to visit in-laws in South Korea, for instance, all were incidents that led to personal insights far more than they did to a new insight of the countries, cities, cultures, and landscapes in which they took place. Perhaps the title of the book misled me too. The segment about the Turk who loved apples tells us as much about Turkey and Turks as do most of the stories of the people Mr. Gross met on his many sojourns around the world, and that's very little. As one other reviewer wrote, Gross' encounters with people just weren't very engaging. I agree.There were aspects of the book that I liked very much. The organization of the material, around issues and challenges travelers face, such as getting sick, making friends, leaving home, was novel. I also liked learning how Matt Gross came by his job as a travel writer for the New York Times.However, not that it matters a whit to Mr. Gross, I don't think I'd like him as a travel companion. At times he seemed spoiled, petulant and demanding, always wanting a deeper experience of the places he visited, more from the people he met, and something different than what he got from those he left behind on his travels, except his girlfriend/wife, Jean. She remains fairly anonymous throughout. (Good domestic politics there, Mr. Gross!) Thus, I was disappointed in this book. I'd much rather have learned more about that Turk than the cranky, prickly Matt Gross, frankly.

While writing his celebrated Frugal Traveler column for the New York Times, Matt Gross began to feel hemmed in by its focus on what he thought of as traveling on the cheap at all costs. When his editor offered him the opportunity to do something less structured, the *Getting Lost* series was born, and Gross began a more immersive form of travel that allowed him to lose his way all over the globe from developing-world megalopolises to venerable European capitals, from American sprawl to Asian archipelagos. And that's what the never-before-published material in *The Turk Who Loved Apples* is all about: breaking free of the constraints of modern travel and letting the place itself guide you. It's a variety of travel you'll love to experience vicariously through Matt Gross and maybe even be inspired to try for yourself.

"Matt Gross seems to have been everywhere. Any man with the audacity to be bored by the Taj Mahal is the kind of independent-thinking traveler I want to spend time with. This book made me want to get out and go to just about anywhere!"Tom Bissell, author of *Chasing the Sea*Matt Gross is one of the most intrepid, curious, good-hearted, and absolutely fearless travelers around. You'll see some of the world's most striking places in this book and meet some of its most endearing (and, sometimes, tragic) people. I, for one, would follow Mr. Gross, on any budget, at any time,

anywhere. Rolf Potts, author of *Vagabonding* "Gross's far-flung coming-of-age memoir celebrates the joy of travel, but it also tweaks the easy conclusions and clichés we attach to our journeys. Honest, insightful, and surprising, this book explores the moments good, bad, ambivalent that make life on the road meaningful." *ForeWord*, Spring 2013 A behind-the-scenes glance at the world of travel writing.... If you're the kind of person who enjoys random conversations in dive bars, casually delving into your taxi-driver's tangled home life, or swapping philosophy at a bus stop, then this book is for you.... It surely was an absorbing journey. *Kirkus*, 4/15/13 *Bon Appetit* The Feed blog, 5/1/13 It's more than just a litany of sights seen and weird foods consumed. It's about how to be a human being outside of your hometown not a tourist, and not necessarily a self-righteous traveler, 'either, but a person who wants to see new places, make new friends, and learn how to deal with life when it doesn't turn out quite like you planned. *Interview Magazine*.com, 4/30/13 A collection of satisfyingly real anecdotes that pepper the larger story of what a life devoted to leaving the Big Apple and experiencing the world on one's own is actually like. Gross' writing is informed by travel as muse, allowing him to address life's major tropes, from feeding oneself to feeding one's soul, with relatable sensitivity. *Portland Book website*, 4/30/13 Part memoir, part travel odyssey and part growing-up story This is an introspective book based on Gross's none too glamorous but always interesting travel adventures. Gross writes with detail and realism A satisfying read. *Bookviews* blog, May 2013 Gross is a graceful writer. *BookPage*, May 2013 [Gross] examines why we travel and what our travel experiences can tell us about ourselves. The narrative gathers stories from his stops all around the globe, but strings them along a continuous thread. *TechPageOne.com* (a Dell website), 5/9/13 Anthony Bourdain called it exactly the kind of travel book you should read while traveling. 'For what it's worth, it also reads pretty good from the armchair. *New York Journal of Books*, 5/16/13 We grin at the devil-may-care attitude of this seasoned traveler, a free spirit who makes himself at home wherever he goes and does not feel obliged to do the usual tourist things on his travels Anyone would enjoy being seated next to Mr. Gross at a dinner party. His world travels, both in the capacity of journalist and as rootless young traveler out to make his way in the world, are varied and interesting, and his policy of avoiding the predictable traps most tourists, 'as he calls them, frequent when they venture away from home surprising and quirky Mr. Gross does gastrotourism' (his word) very well. His descriptions of meals he has consumed in Vietnam and elsewhere are vivid and appealing. *Publishers Weekly*, 5/20/13 Gross talks about the 55-year-old Turkish farmer in whose apple orchards he volunteered for several days in exchange for food and lodging. Their meeting affected him tremendously, giving him greater confidence. Reflections and experiences like these keep Gross's work from getting too self-involved and add substance to what could have been one travel writer's self-indulgent catch-all. *New York Times Book*, 6/2/13 "A joyful meditation on the spontaneity and unpredictability of the traveling life." *Saveur.com* [Gross] writes with uncommon perceptiveness about what it means to cross borders, to break bread with strangers, and to come home again. Full of wonderful stories of his round-the-globe adventures, Gross's book is a welcome reminder that the best moments as a traveler like the best parts of being a dad happen when you set off for parts unknown. *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, Summer 2013 Turk offers [Gross's] thoughts on travel thus far, roaming through his misadventures to suggest a perspective that fellow travelers can remember while on their own excursions creating a thoughtful, episodic memoir as practical guidebook... Turk is an old-fashioned approach to a very new thing: a primer on navigating global travel in the information-overloaded 21st century.