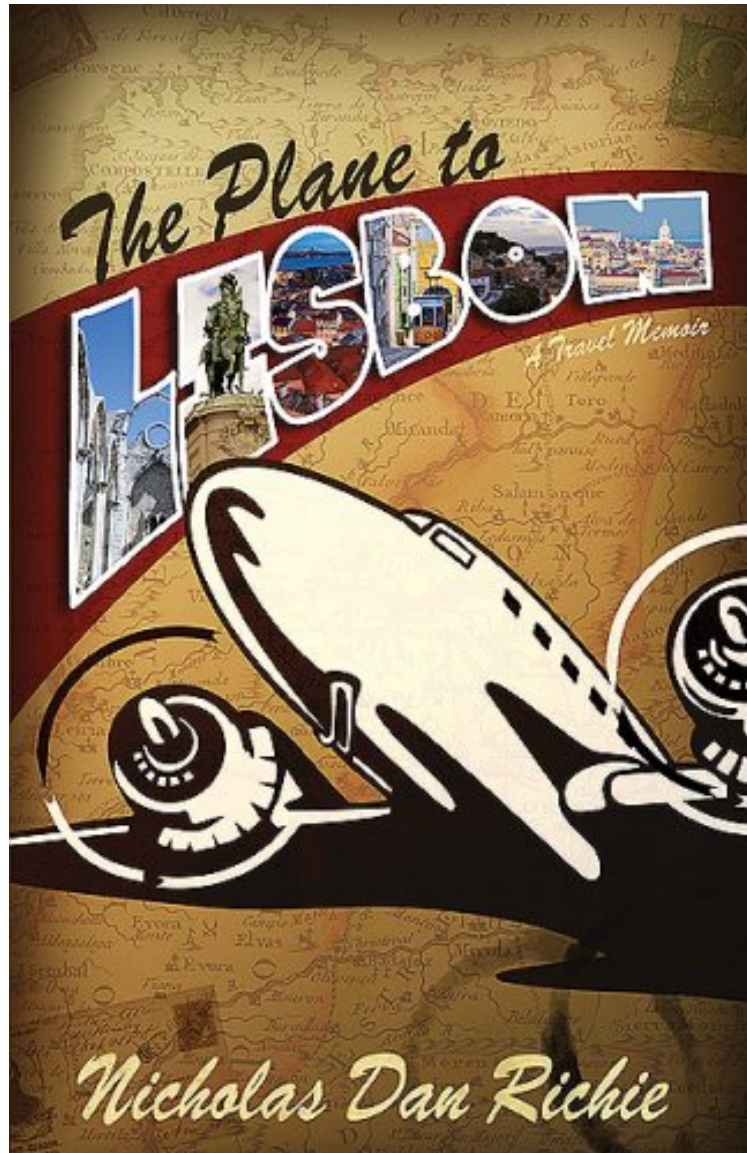


(Read download) The Plane to Lisbon: A Travel Memoir

The Plane to Lisbon: A Travel Memoir

Nicholas Dan Richie

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Nicholas Dan Richie : The Plane to Lisbon: A Travel Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Plane to Lisbon: A Travel Memoir:

2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. It tested my limited patience, and I failed appallinglyBy Mr. Joe"The life I have created for myself since (retirement) no longer relies on faith in the failed institutions which absorbed so much of my time and effort in the past - including the nuclear family, the church, the military, the human services delivery system and higher education ... I have no regrets - having paid my dues to society through years of

constructive employment, my military service, my volunteer efforts in the communities where I have lived, and by other means. Now is my time ..." Nicholas Richie in *THE PLANE TO LISBON* was on my Wish List for over a year as I waited for the price of a "used" copy to come down below \$20; it never did. The tidal nature of supply and demand being what it is, I thought that this therefore must be an extraordinary travel narrative. So, I finally bit the bullet and purchased the volume. Remind me not to be such a believer in free market capitalism next time. This travel memoir starts out promisingly enough as the author, Nicholas Richie, explains that his fascination and subsequent love of travel stemmed from the insatiable reading habits of his childhood. That has been my own realization precisely. And, indeed, some of the author's experiences on the road over several decades mirror mine and likely those of many others: delayed or cancelled airplane flights, encounters with gypsy pickpockets, grating travel companions, the loss of "local color" to modernization over the decades, chance celebrity sightings, tour visits to local factory showrooms that benefit the tour guide (through sales kickbacks) more than the tourists, finally meeting a foreign friend with whom one has corresponded over the years, amazingly wonderful meals, the occasional loneliness of solitary travel, etc. The extent to which I liked this book at all is measured by the degree of my ability to relate to Richie's experiences. Travel essays are perhaps my favorite genre of literature. Within the pages, and through the eyes of the author, I can either relive my own visits to faraway places or "see" in my mind's eye locales which, unfortunately, I shall likely never see in person, e.g. Tristan de Cunha, Istanbul, or the Norwegian fjords, because of a lack of time and/or money. So, when I encountered the listing for *THE PLANE TO LISBON* and saw its beautifully conceived front cover that reminded me of an old travel poster, I mused, "Aha! This book will take me to distant, exotic places, and I shall be enthralled." Unhappily, large portions of Richie's narrative scream, "It's all about ME!" - which made me want to scream back, "I don't care; YOU as the subject isn't why I paid (over \$20!) to acquire the title!" My patience was sorely tried by the author's prose style, which is characterized by a too-carefully enunciated delivery that one might expect of someone addressing the mentally handicapped. (Well, those who might comment on this review could say, "With you, he got that right!") Furthermore, Richie likes to underline words in the text for emphasis, doing so perhaps one to four occasions per page. Supplementing the fact that such a practice is unnecessary for the reader of at least average comprehension ability, the frequency of such underscoring was downright annoying. There are so many examples I could give, but the following line is illustrative of the whole and which is taken from the chapter on chance encounters with luminaries and the nature of such crossing of paths: "When I awoke on the day of the encounter, I had no reason to believe I would see that ('that' underlined) person on that ('that' underlined) day." OK, Nick, I get ("get" underlined) it! The author frequently mentions taking photographs on his wanderings. Yet, there are only four in the book: Richie departing on his first trip in 1972, Richie in Liverpool in 1989, his long-time pen pal, Sister Engelfrieda, in front of her German convent in 1976, and actress Ann Miller in Sedona in 1990. The randomness and paucity of the selection made me wonder why he bothered inserting them into the text at all. Had the author's memories been those of, say, the travel essayist and humorist Bill Bryson, I'm convinced *THE PLANE TO LISBON* would be vastly more entertaining. But, through no fault of his own, Richie possesses no sense of humor whatsoever, not even of the driest sort. At one point during another spasm of self-absorption, Nicholas bemoans the fact that none of his novels was ever picked up for publication, and critics termed his style "too didactic." Exactly. Other readers and reviewers may accuse me of being overly and unfairly harsh on the author and his book. However, after paying (over \$20!) for the paperback edition and being so disappointed, I'm feeling peevish (underlined). 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Take a trip with this author By Lee This is a delightful travel memoir, not of a single trip, but of highlights and lessons learned from many trips over the course of 35 years of traveling. Reading this book is like sitting down with a friend who's just returned from Europe and has wonderful stories and insights to share with you. Richie is clearly a man who lives for traveling and people-watching; he is a keen observer of humanity and uses his travels to learn about people he meets as much as about the places he visits. If you are a movie buff, like the author, there are many sections that will be of particular interest to you, as Richie never fails to note his destinations' connections to the silver screen. If you enjoy traveling or are considering a first trip abroad, you will certainly enjoy every page of this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Trip(s) to Remember By John Gannon Do you love travel stories? Do you love humanistic stories? Do you want to laugh, cry, and dream of far away places? Then this is the book for you. Nicholas Dan Richie has crafted a travel memoir that I guiltily coveted. The travel places are deliciously described (Lenigrad, Russia; Venice Italy; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Madrid, Spain; and too many others to list). The people encountered, whether "good" or "bad," are always fascinating. One heartwarming story tells of the author's travels to Germany to finally meet the person who was overwhelmed with his charity as a youth. Others detail the encounters of many famous people that the author reverently meets (Ann Miller, Gore Vidal, Donald Sutherland, Dan Rather, etc.). In addition to the people stories, the author shares tips for travel (some that he learned before embarking, others through experience). But, all are entertaining: Should you feed cats in Spain? (Before you answer, think of the Hitchcock movie "The Birds"). Should you pack old clothes and find a way to leave them to charity (without it looking like a bomb package)? You'll have to take the journey to find out. But, like the author suggests about travel and I suggest about reading this book--Don't wait--GO NOW!

Join the Author as he shares memories, both poignant and humorous, from four decades of travel - primarily in foreign lands. From his first trip to Europe, when he quickly learned that even the most careful travel plans can go astray for reasons beyond one's control, Richie has enjoyed most of the people he's met and the places he's visited - trying to learn more about himself at the same time, by analyzing his personal reactions to these experiences. Along the way, he has met unforgettable people, seen places which are quickly changing, had his beliefs challenged, and gained insights which altered the direction of the rest of his life. In the course of his travels, he also unexpectedly came upon a number of celebrities, and comments here on encounters with: Gore Vidal, Robert F. Kennedy, Diahann Carroll, Dan Rather, Cameron Mitchell, Julie Harris, Jesse Jackson, Margaret Mead, Forrest Tucker, Donald Sutherland, Richard Branson, John Hurt, Rosemary Murphy, Don Johnson, Barbara Barrie, Princess Anne, Julianne Moore, and Ann Miller. The memories detailed here cover a wide geographic spectrum - including Peru, Germany, Greece, England, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, Hungary, Italy, Russia, France, Denmark, Turkey, Argentina, Portugal, Sweden and The Netherlands. So, hop on The Plane To Lisbon and join the Author as he explores the world and tries to learn life-lessons along the way!