



## Take Me With You

*Brad Newsham*

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'Someday, when I am rich, I am going to invite someone from my travels to visit me in America.'

Brad Newsham was a twenty-two-year-old travelling through Afghanistan when he wrote this in his journal. Fourteen years later, he's a Yellow Taxi driver working in San Francisco. He's not rich, but he has never forgotten his vow.

Take Me With You is the compelling account of his journey through the Philippines, India, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa as he searches for the right person - someone who couldn't afford to leave their own country, let alone holiday in the West. Newsham's story will change the way you think about your life and the lives of those you meet when you travel.

Who does he invite home? Read Take Me With You and find out...

## Take Me With You Details

Date : Published June 1st 2002 by Bantam (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780553814484

Author : Brad Newsham

Format : Paperback 380 pages

Genre : Travel, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Own, Biography

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## From Reader Review Take Me With You for online ebook

### **Kris says**

I love that this is a true story of travel, and a guy with a mission to unite the world! I would love to get into a cab with this guy, since he seems to be from SF!

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### **Karla says**

The author travels the world to find someone to invite home to America. This is my favorite travel book - I have recommended it to several people.

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### **Nu says**

Lovely account of the travels and encounters of a person. How his life was impacted and how he was able to drink in the culture and allow it to change him for the better. 3.5 stars.

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### **Eve Pines says**

Travel memoir who grew up in northern VA.

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### **Lynn says**

Although I could appreciate Newsham's reports of his travels in search of a stranger to invite back to the US, I found myself increasingly irritated by his tendency to 'waffle' and his, at times, superficial response to the third world people and places he visits.

I also became more and more annoyed at his plan to invite a person to the US - his motives didn't seem very clearly delineated to me, and smacked of self-aggrandizement. I often found myself thinking, 'If he really wants to help someone in the third world, perhaps he could have stayed on at Mother Theresa's for more than a day, or sponsored a child in Kenya rather than writing a book about his quest'.

Still, some of Newsham's observations have rekindled my own travel bug - and I've once again started saving in order to 'hit the road'!

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### **Rebecca says**

For some reason, I read this book in a day. There is no excuse for that. I don't know how I got through this book so quickly as it was just okay and it was nearly 400 pages! I was in Kaikoura and I didn't have a TV, but that is all! Anyway, this book was about a Dude right before one of his novels was published and he took

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a bunch of money and travelled the world in hopes of meeting someone to invite back to the US and that it would change their life for the better and mean a lot to them. He travelled to a lot of 3rd world places and it was all an interesting read about them. Usually I am not really all that much into reading about that, but this book wasn't too bad. Probably the only thing I didn't really like was the timing. I always read the masthead before I read the book so I get an idea of the timing that this book takes place and I think this book was originally published in 2000 and then in paperback in 2002 or something. So it's not the newest book. He talked about S. Africa a lot and apartheid, which to me, seem to have been around for most of my life. But it was a huge issue in that chapter and when I finally got to the epilogue, it mentioned something along the lines of it taking nearly 10 years for the person that the author chose to come to America, to finally make it and he arrive in 1999 or something. So all the contents of this book took place nearly my lifetime ago. I wish I had known that going into at least the S. Africa chapter, as that one talked about ongoing political issues within that country. Another epilogue, which was written for the paperback edition, mentioned September 11th, which I always find interesting. Like if it took so long for the person to get to America before September 11th, imagine how long it would have taken them after! All in all, a very interesting read.

Grade: C+

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### **Linda says**

There are a lot of mediocre travel memoirs out there, but this one is really good. Highly recommended.

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### **S.D. Warr says**

I really like this book, it was the first travel book I read and one which sparked an instant fascination with the genre. The storyline is brilliant and the descriptions are so vivid it instantly transports you on Newsham's journey.

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### **Yogodot says**

I wasn't too sure of the premise at first--a little too much like a game show or a reality show challenge. But, how many travelers leave home with such a humanitarian intention? As I read, I began to warm to the author. At first, he seems kind of naive about traveling in the 3rd world, but we learn that he is a seasoned world traveler with many thousands of miles under his belt. He observes and describes poverty and deprivation not because it's particularly novel to him, but in order to underline the economic disparity between himself and many of the people he meets. Through relating his travel experiences in an honest, down-to-earth way with an unabashedly American perspective, he makes us question why we travel, how we look at the people in the cultures we visit, and how those people look at Americans. Travel writing is my favorite right now, so I'm excited to have found Newsham, especially since he's a cab driver in my favorite city, San Francisco. I'm not sure if he's changed my mind about traveling in third-world countries, but with the pride of a truly frugal soul, he never misses the opportunity to tell us how cheaply he procured his meals and lodging. This frugality is almost ironic in the context of his very generous intention to pay for another's passage and stay in America for a month. That near-irony is at the heart of Brad's personality, I think, and it's evident in his recent Free Ride blog. How many cab drivers can afford to give away a free ride every day? Brad did NOT get rich off of this book (or his earlier one), he has no source of independent wealth, and yet he still gives away his services on a daily basis. This dude is one of a kind, and I admire the hell out of him.

### **Teena in Toronto says**

This is an excellent book! Brad travelled to many places that I have no plans to go - plus he did it very frugally - so it was interesting to read about his adventures. It sounds like he met a lot of interesting people along the way with the goal of inviting someone to his home for a month.

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### **Mary says**

The ending is the best part of this book.

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### **Marie says**

I had to question whether the author's intention to give a holiday to a poor individual. Would it just show him/her what they are missing, make them discontent with their own life and lead them somewhere it would be better not to go.

Having said that I enjoyed the book.

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### **Sarah de Guzman says**

This book is actually written by the father of one of my former students and is a real delight. He travels all the way through Asia, India, etc. to discover someone to invite back to America to stay with his family. He is a reflective, funny, honest, and descriptive writer. Brad is also fun to read because he is a local Bay Area writer and super nice. I am happy to lend it to anyone. I was so excited to read wondering who the special one would be?

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### **Shannon says**

Enjoyable travelogue, and the person Newsham selects to bring back to the US is the one I was rooting for. But he chooses at the very end, and there's no follow-up. In fact, Newsham spoke to my book club last week and admitted that he couldn't find a publisher to back the writing of the rest of the story.

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### **Tom says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book although it seems in some ways a throwback to an era long passed. It was published just before the tragic events of 9/11. In fact, Newsham wrote his epilogue just 10 days before that infamous day. He is clearly very passionate about travel and encountering people during his sojourn. He writes "The being needs travel--new sights, new people, new experience--the way the body needs food,

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touch, an occasional soak in a backwoods hot spring."(p. 139) As passionate as he is about travel, he is not so naïve to think that he occupies a privileged position as a foreigner and an American. On a bus trip to Jaipalghuri he witnesses locals trying to retrieve bus that crashed off a cliff killing over 20 passengers. When Newsham expressed surprise that there was no mention of the crash which occurred several days ago, a local replied to him dryly, "Is not news. Only if tourists die. No tourists here. Indians only." Newsham always keeps this in mind through his travels.

His experience in a South Africa that had only recently shaken off the chains of apartheid was very telling for he observed many remnants of the old mentality from the neighborhood of Mayfair West to the grumpy Jack O'Doyle.

All in all this is a great travel book and Newsham's observations and reflection at each stop of his journey leads me to believe that this would be a great book for my students to read before they study abroad. The next challenge, of course, is finding students who still read books!

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