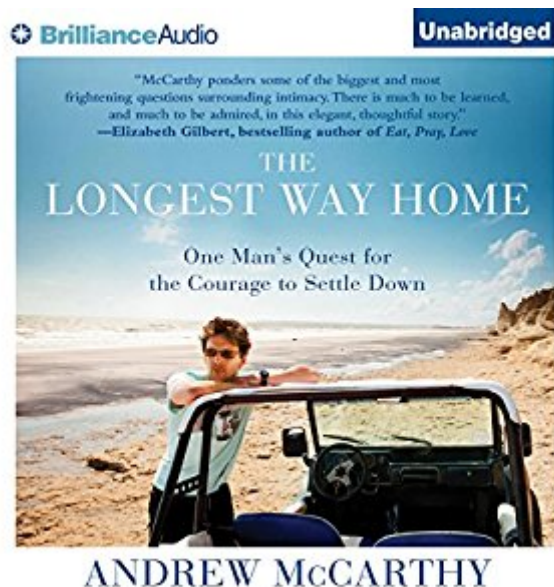


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The Longest Way Home: One Man's Quest For The Courage To Settle Down



Synopsis

Unable to commit to his fiancée of nearly four years - and with no clear understanding of what's holding him back - Andrew McCarthy finds himself at a crossroads, plagued by doubts that have clung to him for a lifetime. Something in his character has kept him always at a distance, preventing him from giving himself wholeheartedly to the woman he loves and from becoming the father that he knows his children deserve. So before he loses everything he cares about, Andrew sets out to look for answers. Hobbling up the treacherous slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, dodging gregarious passengers aboard an Asian riverboat, and trudging through dense Costa Rican rain forests - Andrew takes us on exotic trips to some of the world's most beautiful places, but his real journey is one of the spirit. On his soul-searching voyages, Andrew traces the path from his New Jersey roots, where acting saved his life - and early fame almost took it away - to his transformation into a leading travel writer. He faces the real costs of his early success and lays bare the evolving nature of his relationships with women. He explores a strained bond with his father, and how this complex dynamic shapes his own identity as a parent. Andrew charts his journey from ambivalence to confidence, from infidelity and recklessness to acceptance and a deeper understanding of the internal conflicts of his life. A gifted writer with an unsparing eye, Andrew relishes bizarre encounters with the characters whom he encounters, allowing them to challenge him in unexpected ways. He gets into peculiar, even dangerous situations that put him to the test - with mixed results. Disarmingly likable, Andrew is open, honest, and authentic, and what emerges is an intimate memoir of self-discovery and an unforgettable love song to the woman who would be his wife.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book for two reasons, one very realistic, the other very shallow. I'll start with the shallow: I wanted to marry Andrew McCarthy when I was 15 years old. Okay, I got that part over with. The real reason I bought this book is because I discovered a while back that Andrew McCarthy is a travel writer (and Editor at Large) for National Geographic. As someone who dreams of being a world traveler, discovering all of the beauties of the world and learning all the cultures, being a citizen of the world (as Andrew says), I read his travel pieces to hear his take on some of the places I wish to explore someday. What I found is that Andrew is an exceptional storyteller. He describes the places he's been and things he sees with such colorful details. As I read some of his articles, I could almost picture myself there, seeing the things that he was describing. When I learned that he had a book coming out, I immediately ordered my copy so that I could read more of his explorations. You learn immediately from the cover of the book that the focus is not of his travels, but rather what he learns from his travels and the discoveries (both self and cultural) he makes to lead him to the point of marrying his longtime girlfriend. As I read the book, I found some of the same descriptive storytelling from his other travel stories, but I also found that Andrew is not the guy you expect him to be from his acting. He's a guy that prefers to be alone in his explorations and thoughts. I won't give the book away, but I will say that I originally only gave it three stars. And that's because I read it after having read some reviews here at .com. What I took from those was a tone that I used to read the book because many had said that he whined and really just needed to grow up. While I didn't get that from the book, I did assert a tone that really should not have been there. That said, I still really enjoyed Andrew's story and reading the book. The following weekend, I went to Atlanta with a friend who is both an avid reader and a world traveler. We attended a book festival event where Andrew was interviewed about his book. We found him to be the intelligent and witty guy that we expected him to be all along. While he may enjoy traveling alone, he is very good at charming a crowd. After hearing him discuss his book in person and talk about some of the specific situations that he had written about, I quickly learned that many of the places where I had asserted a bit of sarcastic tone really deserved a humorous tone. After that, I decided that my rating deserved at least four stars, not the original three that I gave it. I really enjoy Andrew's travel articles, I enjoyed his book, and I thoroughly enjoyed getting to hear him speak about his book in person. All of that together made *The Longest Way Home* a very enjoyable experience as a whole. And, yes, the guy from *Pretty In Pink* can write. More importantly, he can tell a story.

I am a fan of Andrew McCarthy as an actor. I really enjoyed his book *The Longest Way Home*. I could not put it down. I appreciated his honesty and vulnerability. It was fun to read about his life outside of being a "star." The variety of travels Andrew includes in the book were a nice combination of exotic, and down to earth. Great job Andrew, and I can't wait to read your next book...

The author travels to learn about himself and to directly encounter life. He explains this in the first chapter and since it is what I view as my primary benefit of visiting other cultures and places, I was intrigued. One could say he "works through things" by immersing himself in travel. For someone who has been a public person he is surprisingly open and candid. It is clear that he has learned to be honest with himself and others. His descriptions of the places he visits, the , Patagonia, Kilimanjaro and others are abundantly detailed and helpful if the reader is seeking adventure herself, or to vicariously enjoy exotic sites. He is also witty in a dry, quiet sort of way that adds color and life to his narrative. The book is thoughtfully written and like the adventures he describes, engrossing.

Why 4 stars? I liked it, a lot. I am just comparing to other books I have read. I did like it and would recommend it. It has a lot of interpersonal going on and not a genuine travel book but very good, a great book about personal discovery, increasing confidence and passion in your life. In buying the book I thought it was about Andrew's travels through the world. I read the reviews and most were good. I saw some of his movies when he was younger and I always liked him. I thought I would give it a shot. The book is about his travels, also about his relationship with himself, and his partner D. The places he traveled and his accounts of his travels were interesting. His candor about himself, very interesting. To me the interesting part was his thoughts about himself. I thought most actors were outgoing extroverts who enjoyed people, he didn't. His enjoyment was being by himself, his self analysis was excellent. I guess acting is a gig, like all gigs, you don't need to be out there. He was traveling figuring himself out, his why's! So many of us lead lives without thinking about why we are the way we are and whether we are happy and have some purpose, we exist. I think Andrew got it right. His family relationship was intriguing. I remember taking my dog to the vet and he asked if she was a good mom, I said yes. I asked aren't all dog mom's good, he said oh no! I thought mmmm, how many of us would give our parents a good score? But we don't seem to figure it out do we! We have kids but what do we do to make parent's be better parent's, nothing! Too damn busy thinking about ourselves, our torrid past, what we deserve, what we missed, how to spell ME! How about how to be a parent class, mandatory, in higher education! I don't doubt his home life affected

him, his drinking, his life, his confidence. He was doing a great job in "getting over it", many can't. He came across as a loner, pompous, from Chicago (but he wasn't). But, this was him, I don't think he ever thought he was better than anyone, he had a passion for life, that was him. Too many people put on "fake" personalities to receive reinforcement from others, builds their low esteem. I liked him in the end, other than his verbiage of his relationship with Timmy-pedia, one of his climbing partners. He kept working on what happened and how can I get better, it was almost like there was someone helping him try to figure life out. His relationship with his partner "D" was interesting. She was more outgoing but had great love for Andrew. I often questioned his love for her. I thought he used her as the compass to direct his life, he didn't like some things she wanted to do or did yet he kept going with the flow. If there marriage failed I think it might be Andrew stepping off of the white line. My other question: are the kids alright? Really, who cares about the adults! The kids, it's about the kids they are our future. We have to bring the family back, restore marriage and think of the grand-kids for 2060. I don't read other reviews until after I write mine, and I don't write a review on every book I write. In reading the reviews I noted some of the readers disliked Andrew, I don't think Andrew liked Andrew. I think as you read on in the book that was very apparent. I think his travels helped him! I think he became more loving and caring and a better parent, and a better parent than what he had.

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