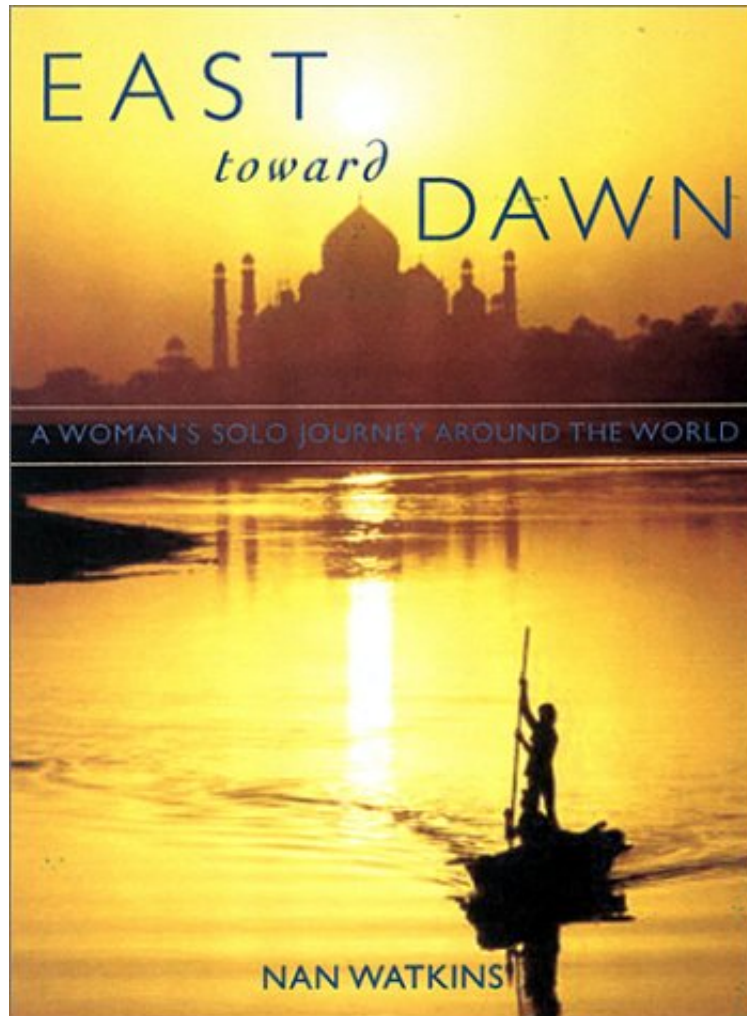


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## East Toward Dawn: A Woman's Solo Journey Around the World (Adventura Books)

*Nan Watkins*

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**Nan Watkins : East Toward Dawn: A Woman's Solo Journey Around the World (Adventura Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised East Toward Dawn: A Woman's Solo Journey Around the World (Adventura Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inaccurately described, but interesting.By AnonI liked the book. I felt like that the description of a journey around the world was not really accurate when you considered it as a whole. It is more a journey of self discovery, some of which was accomplished while traveling, but since she was staying with people she knew for the most part, the journey was not a journey of discovery of places as much as of herself. She talked about herself and feelings and changes in her life that were occuring and had occurred, so it is more a book of

inner thoughts than travel. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A Little Disappointed By Elfinstone When I saw the title and description of the book I jumped at it because I turned 60 this year and have yearned to do something special to mark the passage. When I saw that she had bought an around the world airline ticket good for a year, I expected a nomadic sort of ramble to strange countries and adventures. I was disappointed to realize that this trip was relatively short and had a set itinerary. Even though she went to exotic places, she had been to some of them before, and she had friends or acquaintances in all of them who put her up and took her around. A nice middle class academic on vacation. Her introspective moments were sometimes moving, but I tended to skip over the poetry quoting and philosophizing. This isn't really a bad read. I guess I was expecting something more exciting and insightful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Falls just a little short By Jillie0808 I bought the book after hearing an excerpt on public radio program Sound and Spirit. I was drawn to buy it because the experience of the author in the loss of her son. I had recently had a loss of a grandson due to suicide and was interested in reading more. I found the author had an interesting story but I really didn't glean anything more profound than what had been quoted. I gave it 4 stars because it was still well written. It just didn't really give anything to me.

On the eve of her sixtieth birthday, Nan Watkins decided to embark on the around-the-globe trip she had always dreamed of a trip she would take alone. Having endured both the dissolution of her thirty-year marriage and the devastating death of her twenty-three-year-old son, the author resolved to follow a solo path east across Europe and Asia to renew connections with old friends and explore foreign lands and cultures. Over adventure-filled weeks and months, what began as a trip of discovery transformed itself into a powerful journey of the spirit, touched by sorrow but buoyed by the pure pleasure of travel. Watkins considers the issues particular to a woman living and traveling alone and writes with great insight about the complexities of global development and the changing role of women in non-Western cultures. Ultimately, this rich and beautifully rendered chronicle, which takes Watkins from the lonesome, rugged coast of Ireland to the bustling streets of Katmandu to the majestic Rajasthan desert of western India, is a testimony to a woman's determination to overcome great loss with joy and passion.

From Library Journal Watkins is a reference librarian at Western Carolina University whose work has been published in several Seal Press anthologies, including *A Woman Alone* and *Hot Flashes from Abroad*. After the sudden death of her 23-year-old son, and her subsequent divorce, it seemed natural to Watkins to celebrate her 60th birthday by taking a trip around the world. Purchasing an airline ticket good for one year as long as she traveled in one direction, Watkins began traveling east, visiting friends and places she had seen before and places she had only dreamed of seeing. These included such diverse locations as Ireland, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Hawaii, to name a few. And since her family had hosted a series of international students in the past, Watkins visits many of them on their home turf, immersing herself in their way of life. Throughout this travelog, the author takes a look back at her past experiences in an attempt to understand how they have brought her to the present. It is a journey of self-awareness and of finding comfort, of experiencing foreign cultures and traditions while rediscovering the meaning of one's own history. Sometimes lyrical and sometimes alarming in tone, this tender and personal memoir is sure to find an audience in larger public libraries. Alison Hopkins, Queens Borough P.L., Jamaica, NY Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.