



The Ribbons Are for Fearlessness: My Journey from Norway to Portugal beneath the Midnight Sun

Catrina Davies

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“Read this book if you have ever loved and lost. . . . It will inspire you.” —Monique Roffey, author of *With the Kisses of His Mouth*

Fuzzy-haired, neurotic, cello-playing Catrina is devastated when her lover, Jack, leaves her to go surfing on the other side of the world. Trapped in a dead-end job and torn by his departure, Catrina dreams of running away. But how do you run away when you’re flat broke?

Luckily, her friend Andrew comes up with a plan: they’ll get an old van, turn it into a camper, and busk their way from Norway to Portugal, via the midnight sun. Andrew is one of her oldest friends and they share many of the same passions and interests, including music.

When Andrew is killed in a tragic accident, Catrina decides to go it alone, encountering one disaster after another. She sleeps in her van, gets lost, and struggles to find the confidence to play her cello in front of her growing audience, but meets complete strangers who offer her advice, encouragement, and support along the way. Her experiences on the road gradually teach her the real meaning of love, courage, and above all else, the importance of following her dreams.

This is an unforgettable story of a journey like no other—a deeply emotional and inspirational debut by a unique storyteller.

The Ribbons Are for Fearlessness: My Journey from Norway to Portugal beneath the Midnight Sun Details

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Author : Catrina Davies

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From Reader Review The Ribbons Are for Fearlessness: My Journey from Norway to Portugal beneath the Midnight Sun for online ebook

Jan P says

I read this book based on a review I read somewhere. I was disappointed that the first few chapters didn't grab me but am glad I kept reading as it is an interesting story of this women's journey, both geographically and mentally. Catrina Davies' encounters with several people on her long journey seems like synchronicity at work. Among other things, she (and I) learned that the word "courage" comes from the Latin word "cōuer" which means heart. According to a Latin dictionary, "courage means to be who you are with your whole heart. To tell the story of who you are with your whole heart". It's an entertaining and courageous story.

Shawna says

I devoured this book. Maybe because of my immense sense of wonderlust, or maybe for my desire to have strong female voices I can recommend to people at my bookstore. Either way, Davies story was exciting, poignant, interesting. I think she was so extremely lucky through out her voyage, and she has given me a new sense of trust, and faith in humanity.

At the end all I could think was to say "Thank you" for sharing your story. Our stories of our adventures are our gifts to others, and Davies is one I will keep.

Thalia says

It's a very meaningful book that arrives to it's conclusions in a delicate yet straight forward manner, devoid of pretensions her writing style flows and it feels as if she's just talking to you.

It's a lovely book with a lot to impart about life, living and fear and death.

Knowing how scared she was about everything she did yet still did it all anyway filled me with more confidence than anyone who says they don't get scared could.

I've taken a lot from this book and I recommend it greatly.

Edward Carpenter says

I'm a sucker for a road trip and this is a fun one - Norway to Portugal with a Cello. Catrina's character is self consciously pathetic at times, constantly relying on others, usually men, to rescue her. this gets a bit wearing, but it allows us to meet a whole bunch of interesting characters along the way, which when it comes down to it is what these kind of trips are about. maybe that's unfair! she is also out busking/surfing in the Norwegian

winter too. a nice read that will make you want to pick up a guitar / surfboard / ... have a road trip across Europe

Raimonda says

Catrina Davies' book 'The Ribbons Are For Fearlessness: A Journey' is a captivating story of adventure against all odds. Catrina lives her life clinging to safety and familiarity. After her cliff-climbing and sea-surfing boyfriend leaves her and her best friend unexpectedly dies, she is left drifting aimlessly with nothing to cling to.

Her solution? To buy an old van, put her cello in it, and go busking all across Europe.

What is so endearing about this book is that the heroine is the least likely candidate for the journey that she undertakes. She is not the brave adventurous person looking for excitement. She has no money, no plan, she has not thought out the details. However, by making this one step – buying the van and getting onto a ferry – she initiates a chain of events that change the route of her journey and her life itself.

In essence, this is a story of a journey from fear to fearlessness, from drifting aimlessly to being awake. It is a story of persevering against adversity, big or small, and growing as a person through this. And as such, it is a universal story of human heart. A story that makes you stop and audit your own life. A story that inspires. Check it out, you might like it.

<http://heartkindling.wordpress.com/20...>

Jeanna Barrett says

This girl is a god damn bad ass! I love any travel memoir, and this one did not disappoint.

Thebooktrail says

Visit the locations of the book here [Ribbons book trail](#)

Now I have found a book about solo travel that tells it like it is. I so identified with Catrina (Not the busking I hasten to add that I really quite warmed to her early on despite her lack of awareness over many things. But you can't fault the girl's stamina to do what she did and I was amazed. It's only when you travel on your own that you notice the little things, the shape of the money, the way you drift off when looking into the horizon, the need to make friends, the homesickness but that inner voice in your head telling you to carry on and gather memories.

Who would have known that busking was received so differently in Europe? And that there are rules for buskers in various towns and cities. That it doesn't seem to pay well in France and that the journey from Norway to Sweden can make you feel like a pauper.

There are many funny moments along the way but I really admire this girl for not just getting out of her comfort zone but for jumping out of it, smashing it in pieces and all the while, learning how to save herself

from Norwegian wave and biting the bullet of playing live on a pier somewhere.

There's something very moreish about this book – maybe I need to get in a camper van right now, take this book with me and seize the day?

Mary Renshaw says

Only read the first chapter and already I'm hooked. Catrina has an absolutely fabulous style. Can't wait to read more!

Stephanie Buick says

This is one of the most engaging travel narratives I've ever read.

The central theme, as the title suggests, is bravery. Well, relationships, bravery and grief, to be more precise. Travel is often the best cure for a broken heart and Catrina Davies prescribed herself an industrial strength dose of this particular remedy in what appears to be a crazy journey, taking off in her rust-bucket van, busking her way to the Norwegian midnight sun, then down through Europe to Southern Spain and Portugal.

I found myself rooting for her as she struggled with her self confidence to busk with her cello on the streets; grieved for the loss of her close friend and came to terms with the demise of her relationship with the dude on a surf board (dude on a surfboard - never a good idea). I rooted for her some more as she faced her fears and frustrations and learnt to surf in the freezing sea off the coast of Norway. Then I did a bit more rooting (from my safe place, huddled by the radiator) for her as she took her tinny van up a French mountain under several feet of snow.

The narrative is well constructed, with flashbacks and back story handled very effectively. She also cleverly interweaves her personal story with her physical journey, creating a well balanced blend of introspection and description of her surroundings and the characters she meets.

I really enjoyed this book and romped through it, cover to cover, in just over a day. Catrina Davies is a naturally talented writer and I'm looking forward to reading some more of her work.

Bexter21 says

I won this book as part of a goodreads giveaway.

Brilliant, captivating book. Simple, honest story telling. I loved it!

I need to listen to all the tunes mentioned now

Anne says

Oh this is such an honest, straight from the heart kind of book, you do not yearn for more eloquent writing, even though it is often sluggish. Grief stricken Catrina goes out into a hostile country (Norway) with so little it is frightening, but she battles her demons, and maybe ours too, with such a fierceness you can only wonder, wonder what you would do, if you faced the same. Wonder if you would even dare to take that first step.

A painful but inspiring story in this modern age of have-it-all consumerism.

Bobbi says

I didn't like the beginning of the book: Catrina was whiny and I had the feeling this was another 'Eat Pray Love'. But as the chapters went I liked Catrina more and more, and when I closed the book after the last page I had a good feeling, like I had been on an adventure with a friend. We can all relate to her story, if not totally at least partially, and this sense of familiarity and the style of the writing makes it a very enjoyable read. A good book.

Annie says

This was a quirky & captivating story. I hadn't read a travel book for a while & picked this one more or less randomly from the local library shelves. It's not often that I want to read a book over again as soon as I finish it, but this one had that effect on me. I think that it might bear reading again and I will get something different again from it.

The author clearly states that her writing is a weaving of facts & story in order to reveal the truth of her journey. Catrina, the author & main character, sets off on a journey alone to unknown places, surrounded by grief & loss. As the trip she takes progresses she meets people & situations that lead her to discover that she has far more courage than she thinks, is far more independent than she ever imagined she could be. As she journeys, she comes to terms with the grief & loss she has experienced, comes to find her own inner strength & learns to play her cello much better!

Clár Éadaoin says

There was nothing utterly amazing about this book, but I still couldn't stop reading. Adventuring with the author as she made her way through Norway opened my eyes to a part of the world I had never really thought about!

Jessica Medved says

This book was very good!

I will admit that in the beginning it is hard to get into and that there are parts that I struggled to read through because it had moment of monotony. But as a whole the Book was VERY good!

I loved hearing her story and reading about her growth. I wanted to write Watching because a lot of times the description in the book really does feel like you are watching it.

It is was so well done! I really loved it.

It is not your far fetched taken by the wind kind of travel memoir full of lovely descriptions of bustling towns and beautifully done tourist spots but far more real. You hurt with her and get excited when she does. You feel the terror of the unknown and the near death and come out on top and it is beautiful! This is definitely a read I will pick up again in the future.

I recommend this one to anyone who loves the raw story of travel not the prettily painted picture that come out of so many travel memoirs.
