

Diaspora through body politics and style choices. By tracing what started as one woman's exploration into her sense of self, Ford describes soul style as having transitioned from being an individual choice to becoming a collective political statement and eventually to misdiagnosed perceptions among the media. The style politics adopted by black women in both the United States and abroad created an identity for the Diaspora that moves between being a connection through the combined vision of kinship to a symbol of pride and resistance. Black style moved from grassroots to the mainstream, giving marketing campaigns a new demographic and the media a template from which to depict young black activists.

VERDICT Ford creates a fierce and vibrant dialog on the rarely recounted women's perspective on black style, beauty, and soul. Our style tells the story of *us*. This account is beneficial for scholars and history buffs alike.—

Cicely Douglas, Palm Beach Cty. Lib. Syst., FL

TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY

Better Than Fiction 2: More True Travel Tales From Great Fiction Writers. Lonely Planet. Dec. 2015. 320p. ed. by Don George.

ISBN 9781743607497. pap. \$15.99. TRAV

Working off the success of the original *Bet-*

ter Than Fiction, this new volume focuses on the idea that fiction writers can tell amazing true travel stories. Compiled by travel writer and editor George, this set includes 30 original stories from such authors as Dave Eggers, Jane Smiley, Francine Prose, and Marina Lewycka. While there are a few returning contributors, such as Alexander McCall Smith, the majority are new. George asked the contributors for stories of "especially memorable travel experiences...that had profoundly moved, delighted, taught, and/or transformed them." The group experienced a gratifying mix of good and bad escapades ranging from the typical, such as dealing with unreasonable train bureaucracy in England or a sun-filled summer in Norway, to the more unusual, such as fear in Azerbaijan, paranoia on a taxi ride across Saudi Arabia, and illness in Samoa.

VERDICT Another wonderful anthology of adventures by some of your favorite novelists. Readers of literary travel books, as well as fans of these fiction writers, will love this title.—Melissa Aho, Univ. of Minnesota Bio-Medical Lib., Minneapolis

Ziegler, Dominic. **Black Dragon River: A Journey Down the Amur River at the Borderlands of Empires.** Penguin Pr.

Nov. 2015. 368p. maps. bibliog. index.

ISBN 9781594203671. \$27.95;

ebk. ISBN 9780698410169. TRAV

Ziegler, Asia editor for the *Economist*, embarks on an exploration of the Amur River, its history, and how it has shaped relations between Russia and China. He weaves the colorful history of the region into his travel narrative along the Amur, the world's ninth-longest river and only Siberian river that runs east into the Pacific. The author's encounters (including a particularly lively episode with an ex-con and prison in Nerchinsk) pepper the equally engaging historical accounts that include characters from Genghis Khan to Joseph Stalin. Ziegler examines an area that is particularly fascinating because of its location between the empires of Russia and China and its development and history being shaped by tsars, Soviets, and the Ming and Qing dynasties, to name but a few. In addition to the maps and index, there is a glossary and an informative bibliography for those spurred to read more about the region. **VERDICT** Readers curious about the history of Sino-Russian relations and Russia's Eastward expansion will find this account of particular interest.—Louise Feldmann, Colorado State Univ. Lib., Fort Collins



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