

My Foreign Cities

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winner of the chautauqua prize named one of the best books of the year by the san francisco chronicle and library journal uplifting it's about savoring the present not allowing sadness to dominate and surrendering yourself to love for better or worse san francisco chronicle when she was just seventeen independent and ambitious elizabeth scarboro fell in love with irreverent and irresistible stephen she knew he had cystic fibrosis that he was expected to live only until the age of thirty or so and that soon she'd have a choice to make she could set out to travel date and lead the adventurous life she'd imagined or she could be with stephen who came with an urgency of his own in choosing him scarboro embraced another kind of adventure simultaneously joyous and heartrending staying with stephen and building a life in the ten years they'd have together the illness would be present in the background of

their lives and then ever more insistently in the foreground beyond the illness though is a breathtaking love story in crystalline prose scarboro describes the pulse of her relationship with stephen with all its illuminating quirks like any young couple they agonize about career choices attempt ill fated road trips bargain about whether to adopt a puppy and host one memorably disastrous thanksgiving they navigate the growing pains of their twenties alongside the twists and turns of life threatening disease if their telephone rings at midnight the caller might be a heartbroken friend or the hospital offering a new set of lungs as time goes on and trouble looms the dangers of stephen s illness consume her just as they will consume readers who feel they have come to know this extraordinary couple scarboro tells her story of fierce love and its limitations with humor grace and remarkable bravery my foreign cities is a portrait of a young couple approaching mortality with reckless abandon gleefully outrunning it for as long as they can

my wanderings in persia is an account of a three year journey to and posting in tehran in 1875 78 by a british official contracted to the india office for unspecified services the author traveled by sea from london to bombay and to karachi and then overland to tehran his return journey was via russia and across europe the book contains descriptions of the major cities of persia present day iran visited with observations on culture religion and everyday life the author is critical of many aspects of persia including the cruelty and despotism of the ruling shah and the treatment of women throughout society the book is illustrated with drawings and contains a large fold out map that uses different colors to show the author s route the old western frontier of british india and the new scientific frontier further to the west and the old russian frontier and the new russian frontier of 1878 after the russian advance southward an inset map in the lower left shows an enlarged view of the scientific frontier between afghanistan and british india in present day pakistan the scientific frontier was a term used in 1878 by british prime minister benjamin disraeli lord beaconsfield in reference to a rectified border between afghanistan and british india by which he meant a frontier that could be occupied and defended according to the requirements of the science of military strategy as opposed to a haphazard frontier that was the product of historical circumstance although anderson includes this term in the subtitle of his book and marks it prominently on the map there is in fact very little discussion of the afghan indian frontier in the book which deals largely with persia and very little with afghanistan an appendix gives the distances on the stage roads from bushehr to tehran tehran to baghdad and tehran to resht

present day rasht with the distance in miles between stages and remarks on the status of the road on each stage

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