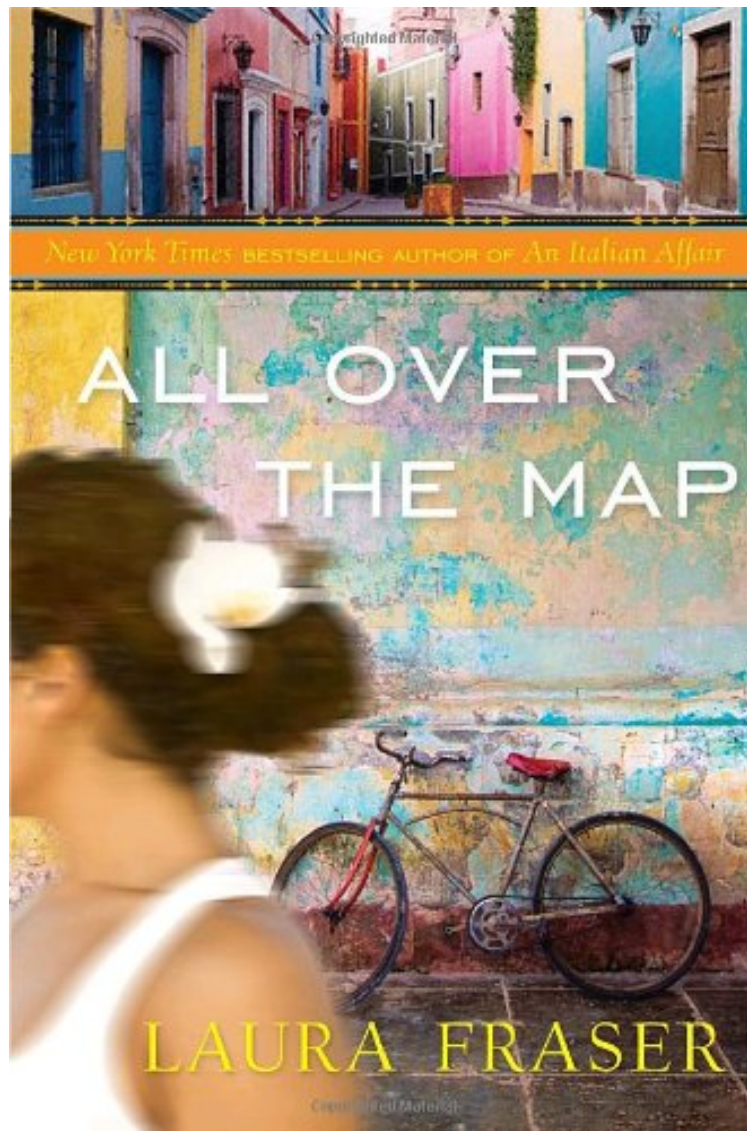


All Over the Map

Laura Fraser

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Laura Fraser : All Over the Map before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All Over the Map:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I loved this book and thought it had everything you needed ...By DanieThis is truly an enchanting book and will take you to a place outside of the world you normally live i n. There's something relatable, yet not, about this incredible book. It's truly a coming of age story that hits close to home. I loved this book and thought it had everything you needed in ones life - at least as a strong independent woman with a free spirit. This book definitely was a kindred spirit for me. The authors writing makes you forget you are reading a book,

it's hard to put down. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A nice memoir, well written. By alda I got this as a Kindle deal in December, and really enjoyed it. I marveled at how much of the world this woman got to see as a freelance writer living in San Francisco. Certainly something to congratulate her on. I enjoyed the travel writing and the personal ruminations. Some people think she came off as whiny. She didn't. She just wore her thinking cap throughout and talked about her weaknesses candidly. The important thing is that she grows as a person, and illuminates the challenges and rewards of her journey for us. A nice memoir, well written. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's a good book if you are not anticipating "An Italian Affair" By CMI gave this book 3 stars because I think future readers should not choose this book in anticipation of another "An Italian Affair". I did and I was quite disappointed after reading the first few chapters or so. Unlike her previous book, Miss Fraser almost focused entirely on her own internal struggle, her race against her own clock, her effort to overcome her midlife crisis, wherever she visited, and thus in my opinion failed to capture the readers' interest with her travel. I found myself racing through the pages many times to fast forward to her next trip. On the other hand, this book was quite easy to read. It was honest, unpretentious, and quite revealing. In fact, it may be a bit too honest and revealing for a male reader such as myself. (Perhaps the female readers would think otherwise.) However, I must say that her writing in this book is much more eloquent and profound comparing to "An Italian Affair". To borrow Lillian Hellman's words, I think Miss Fraser "left too much of [her] unfinished because [she] wasted too much time" looking for someone to make her life complete. The last chapter however was very poignant and in my personal opinion brought some closure to Miss Fraser. At least that was how I felt at the end. I finished reading "All Over The Map" despite many times I wondered if I had chosen the wrong book. In the end, I did like the book for what it was. It just was not what I had looked for in the beginning.

What's a wise, witty travel writer to do when she reaches forty and is still single? Wander the globe searching for romance and adventure, of course. On a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, to celebrate her fortieth birthday, Laura Fraser confronts the unique trajectory of her life. Divorced and childless in her thirties, she found solace in the wanderlust that had always directed her heart and found love and comfort in the arms of a dashing Frenchman. Their Italian affair brought her back to herself but now she wonders if her passion for travel (and for short-lived romantic rendezvous) has deprived her of what she secretly wants most from life: a husband, a family, a home. When her Parisian lover meets her in Oaxaca and gives her news that he's found someone new, Laura is stunned and hurt. Now, it seems, she has nothing but her own independence for company and, at forty, a lot more wrinkles on her face and fewer years of fertility. How is Laura going to reconcile what seem to be two opposite desires: for adventure, travel, great food, and new experiences, but also a place to call home and a loving pair of arms to greet her there? And so, she globe hops. What else is a travel writer to do? From Argentina to Peru, Naples to Paris, she basks in the glow of new cultures and local delicacies, always on the lookout for the one who might become a lifelong companion. But when a terrible incident occurs while she's on assignment in the South Pacific, Laura suddenly finds herself more aware of her vulnerability and becomes afraid of traveling. It seems as if she might lose the very thing that has given her so much pleasure in her life, not to mention the career she has built for herself as a world traveler and chronicler of far-flung places. Finding herself again will be both more difficult and more natural than she imagined. Ultimately, Laura realizes the most important journey she must take is an internal one. And the tale of how she reaches that place will captivate every woman who has ever yearned for a different life.

From Publishers Weekly Readers familiar with Fraser's work in *Gourmet*, *O the Oprah Magazine*, *More*, and other publications may recognize the author's efforts at self-improvement, attempts at finding love, or meals she's had in places like Lima, Peru: "We try ceviche of wild sea bass with lime and red onions... we have spicy chifa food in a downtown Chinese restaurant... we stuff ourselves with stuffed peppers..." In following up *An Italian Affair*, Fraser takes a closer look at her own wanderlust and examines the positive and negative effects it has had on her life, particularly over the past 10 years. For example, the author finds a glorious waterfall in Samoa. "The water is so clear light blue it's possible to see all the way to the bottom, and the bottom is a long way down. I dive in for a swim... this is why I love to travel." But she questions the notion of having it all, or having it all at once, and worries that her desire to explore and her professional success have come at the expense of stability and family. She challenges the ideals of happiness and home she had previously held, adding a layer of depth to a memoir that will excite travelers of the world and the armchair alike. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Travel writer Fraser enchanted readers with her tale of her postdivorce romance with a sophisticated French professor in *An Italian Affair* (2001). She continues the story here, beginning with the end of the affair after the professor finds someone he wants to settle down with. Fraser wants the same thing, but she still finds herself most drawn to free-spirited men looking for flings, not relationships. An assault in Samoa leaves her shaken and afraid to travel alone. Fraser turns her focus inward, trying to find peace through meditation and to temper her impulsiveness. Her forty-fifth birthday brings the end of a relationship and the beginning of something new when Fraser travels to the Mexican city of San Miguel de Allende and finds herself contemplating buying a house. The title

is an apt description of both Frasers travels which include jaunts to Italy, Provence, and Rwanda described in evocative, lush prose and her frame of mind over the course of the eight years that her winning coming-of-middle-age memoir spans. --Kristine Huntley Makes you want to pack your bags, explore the world, mend your broken heart, and totally reclaim your life. Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love "Even as her journey turns into an emotional roller-coaster, Frasers intimate and inspiring tale delivers a life-expanding embrace of the planets everyday pleasures and unpredictabilities." National Geographic Traveler Praise for the New York Times bestselling AN ITALIAN AFFAIRS sweet, smart. We are smitten from the start. O: The Oprah Magazine Luscious. . . . Fraser is such a charmer, so smart, honest, observant, incisive and funny, that within a few pages the reader is entirely hers. The Washington Post A beach book for your brain. . . . A sexy, intellectual read. Redbook Both a grand travelogue and a thoughtful look at reclaiming independence. Conde Nast Traveler A deliciously romantic story, made even more captivating by the idea that someone actually experienced it. The Times (London)