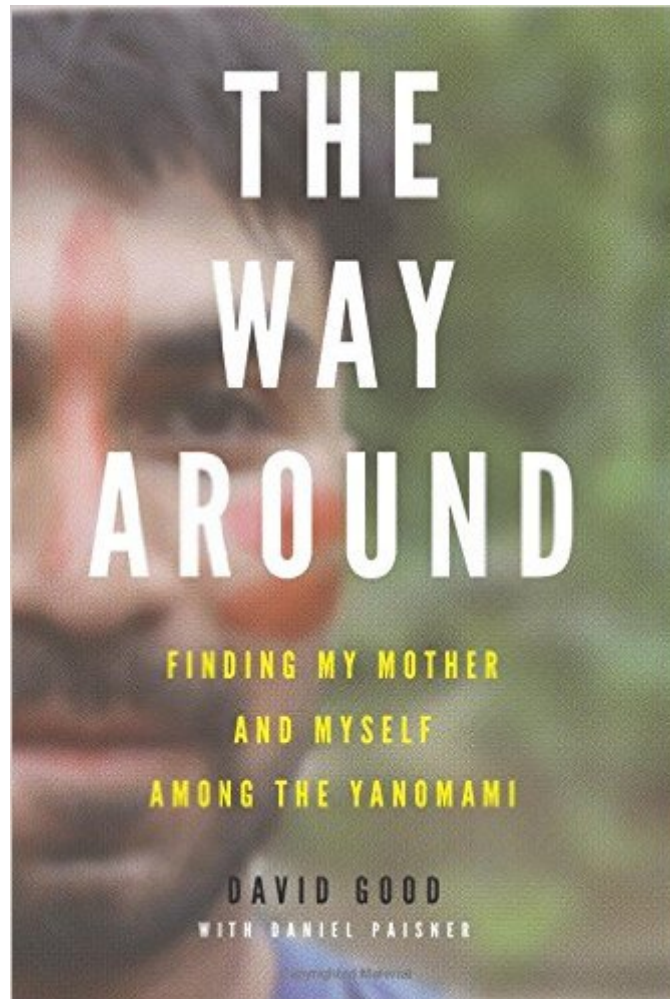


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The Way Around: Finding My Mother And Myself Among The Yanomami



Synopsis

Rooted in two vastly different cultures, a young man struggles to understand himself, find his place in the world, and reconnect with his mother and her remote tribe in the deepest jungles of the rainforest in this powerful memoir that combines adventure, history, and anthropology. My Yanomami family called me by name. Anyopo-we. What it means, I soon learned, is "long way around": I'd taken the long way around obstacles to be here among my people, back where I started. A twenty-year detour. For much of his young life, David Good was torn between two vastly different worlds. The son of an American anthropologist and a tribeswoman from a distant part of the world, it took him twenty years to embrace his identity, reunite with the mother who left him when he was six, and claim his heritage. *The Way Around is Good*'s amazing chronicle of self-discovery. Moving from the wilds of the Amazon jungle to the paved confines of suburban New Jersey and back, it is the story of his parents, his American scientist-father and his mother who could not fully adapt to the Western lifestyle. Good writes sympathetically about his mother's abandonment and the deleterious effect it had on his young self; of his rebellious teenage years marked by depression and drinking, and the near-fatal car accident that transformed him and gave him purpose to find a way back to his mother. A compelling tale of recovery and discovery, *The Way Around* is a poignant, fascinating exploration of what family really means, and the way that the strongest bonds endure, even across decades and worlds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a well-written overview of this book, please read Leslie Sponsel's review further up on this page -- I won't repeat his valuable observations about David Good's personal search for identity nor any basic information about this book. So . . . the irony that we are discussing this book about an indigenous people living deep in the rainforest via a high-tech, consumer-monstrosity also named needs only a brief mention to get it out of my system. There. Done. This is a great read and an important book. Written in a conversational, natural tone, David Good's story and personality come through so clearly that I feel like I know this guy in a way that I haven't felt after reading other memoirs. It's both funny at times and very touching at other times. (If I had to guess, I'd say that Good narrated much of his story verbally, and that he and his co-author worked with a recording in order to capture Good's authentic voice in print.) For more photos and even video, go to the website of The Good Project. It was there that I purchased my -- autographed! -- copy of this book after returning the one that I got from the library. David Good is certainly not the first child born out of two vastly different cultures, and not even the first to write about it, but his viewpoint is unique, and his personal "way around" back to his roots leads to takeaway lessons for us all. Through his eyes, the reader can explore possible answers to these questions: How can we let go of judgment for past failures? How can we reconcile our past with our present? How can we move forward in our ever more crowded world and see to our own, as well as others', needs?

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