



Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria

By Noo Saro-Wiwa

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Noo Saro-Wiwa was brought up in England, but every summer she was dragged back to visit her father in Nigeria — a country she viewed as an annoying parallel universe where she had to relinquish all her creature comforts and sense of individuality. After her father, activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, was killed there, she didn't return for several years. Recently, she decided to come to terms with the country her father given his life for.

Saro-Wiwa travels from the exuberant chaos of Lagos to the calm beauty of the eastern mountains; from the eccentricity of a Nigerian dog show to the decrepit kitsch of the Transwonderland Amusement Park. She explores Nigerian Christianity, delves into the country's history of slavery, examines the corrupting effect of oil, and ponders the huge success of Nollywood.

She finds the country as exasperating as ever, and frequently despairs at the corruption and inefficiency she encounters. But she also discovers that it is far more beautiful and varied than she had ever imagined, with its captivating thick tropical rainforest and ancient palaces and monuments. Most engagingly of all, she introduces us to the many people she meets, and gives us hilarious insights into the African character, its passion, wit and ingenuity.

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Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria By Noo Saro-Wiwa Bibliography

- Rank: #470076 in Books
- Published on: 2012-08-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 6.00" w x 1.00" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages



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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The daughter of slain Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa revisits her homeland as an adult in this absorbing tour of that complex African country. As a child, Saro-Wiwa resented being pulled from her life in London to be shuttled off to Nigeria with her family. Now she devotes several months to getting to know the country as an adult. She begins her journey in Lagos, staying with a family friend and braving perilous public transportation to visit the heart of the Nigerian oil industry, a local museum, and a beach, where she's courted by a charming con man. She finds the new capital of Abuja, where her older brother now lives, cleaner and less congested than Lagos, but it lacks the former capital's lively character. Saro-Wiwa had high hopes for Transwonderland, an amusement park built in Ibadan, but it's run-down and essentially deserted. As she tours the country and gets to know people from its many ethnic groups, she gains a better understanding of and appreciation for Nigeria. Saro-Wiwa is a sharp and insightful guide, giving readers an intimate look at the varied regions that comprise this fascinating country. --Kristine Huntley

Review

Praise for *Looking for Transwonderland*

"The remarkable chronicle of a journey home from exile." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"The daughter of slain Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa revisits her homeland as an adult in this absorbing tour of that complex African country...As she tours the country and gets to know people from its many ethnic groups, she gains a better understanding of and appreciation for Nigeria. Saro-Wiwa is a sharp and insightful guide, giving readers an intimate look at the varied regions that comprise this fascinating country." —*Booklist* (Starred)

"The author allows her love-hate relationship with Nigeria to flavor this thoughtful travel journal, lending it irony, wit and frankness." —*Kirkus*

About the Author

Noo Saro-Wiwa was born in Nigeria in 1976 and raised in England. She attended King's College London and Columbia University in New York. She currently lives in London.

Users Review

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Walter Miller:

This Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria without we understand teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria can bring any time you are and not make your carrier space or

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