



The Songlines

By Bruce Chatwin

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Bruce Chatwin-author of *In Patagonia*-ventures into the desolate land of Outback Australia to learn the meaning of the Aboriginals' ancient "Dreaming-tracks." Along these timeless paths, amongst the fortune hunters and redneck Australians, racist policemen and mysterious Aboriginal holy men, he discovers a wondrous vision of man's place in the world.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The late Bruce Chatwin carved out a literary career as unique as any writer's in this century: his books included *In Patagonia*, a fabulist travel narrative, *The Viceroy of Ouidah*, a mock-historical tale of a Brazilian slave-trader in 19th century Africa, and *The Songlines*, his beautiful, elegiac, comic account of following the invisible pathways traced by the Australian aborigines. Chatwin was nothing if not erudite, and the vast, eclectic body of literature that underlies this tale of trekking across the outback gives it a resonance found in few other recent travel books. A poignancy, as well, since Chatwin's untimely death made *The Songlines* one of his last books.

From Publishers Weekly

PW praised Chatwin's "entertaining" and "resonant" reflections on the distinctions between settled people and wanderers, and between human aggression and pacifism, as he searches central Australia for the pathways along which aborigines travel to perform their cultural activities.

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From Library Journal

For Australian aborigine's "songlines" are the string of sites of significant cultural events, such as marriage, song, trades, dances, a hunt, etc., in an individual's and group's history. They are the invisible means by which a man indicates and keeps track of his territory. British author Chatwin (*In Patagonia*) organizes his book around the Australian aboriginal's notion of songlines, although the writing is more often than not on the periphery of this theme. Interspersed with the explanation of songlines are a narrative of a mild adventure, sometimes with novelistic dialogue, and jottings from Chatwin's notebooks (making up a considerable portion of the book), which include his own musings and observations, proverbs, and quotes from famous people, most of which concern travel and wandering and theory about instinct, myth, etc. A curious work. Roger W. Fromm, Bloomsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathy Natal:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled *The Songlines*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Roderick Donnell:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching

TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the whole day to reading a e-book. The book The Songlines it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Erin Harmon:

Is it a person who having spare time then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Songlines can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Scott Manuel:

A lot of people said that they feel weary when they reading a book. They are directly felt that when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the actual book The Songlines to make your personal reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading talent is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the sensation about book and reading especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the book The Songlines can to be a newly purchased friend when you're sense alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of these time.

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