



## The Faraway Nearby (Ala Notable Books for Adults)

By Rebecca Solnit



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**From the author of *Men Explain Things to Me*, a personal, lyrical narrative about storytelling and empathy – a fitting companion to Solnit’s *A Field Guide to Getting Lost***

**A finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award**

In this exquisitely written new book by the author of *A Paradise Built in Hell*, Rebecca Solnit explores the ways we make our lives out of stories, and how we are connected by empathy, by narrative, by imagination. In the course of unpacking some of her own stories—of her mother and her decline from memory loss, of a trip to Iceland, of an illness—Solnit revisits fairytales and entertains other stories: about arctic explorers, Che Guevara among the leper colonies, and Mary Shelley’s Dr. Frankenstein, about warmth and coldness, pain and kindness, decay and transformation, making art and making self. Woven together, these stories create a map which charts the boundaries and territories of storytelling, reframing who each of us is and how we might tell our story.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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### **The Faraway Nearby (Ala Notable Books for Adults) By Rebecca Solnit Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The catalyst for the latest spiraling inquiry by Lannan Literary Award–winning creative nonfiction master Solnit is her mother’s Alzheimer’s. Solnit considers memory and its mutations, contemplates the harvest of a backyard apricot tree, and celebrates the pleasures and revelations of reading and writing—“You have an intimacy with the far away and distance from the near at hand.” Drawing on intrepid research, she analyzes with verve and exceptional fluency in metaphor the pivotal roles stories play in our private and social lives, pondering the infinite resonance of fairy tales and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Working with a sequence of repeating motifs—apricots, mirrors, ice, flight, breath, wound, knot—Solnit chronicles her residency in Iceland at the Library of Water and offers surprising and stirring observations about chemical pollution and polar bears, Dutch still lifes and Che Guevara, symbiosis and butterflies, the “mesmerizing art” of spinning and Buddhism, and her own alarming “medical adventure.” Solnit’s ensouling facility with language and profound perception of “physical and psychic geography” shape her complexly evocative musings on how we extract meaning from inheritance, feeling, place, and experience. --Donna Seaman

From Bookforum

Her most intimate work to date, *The Faraway Nearby* traces a difficult times in Solnit's life, as she endured her mother's descent into the fog of Alzheimer's, the death of a close friend, and her own struggle with breast cancer. Taking a cue from Buddhism, which "takes change as a given and suffering as the inevitable consequence of attachment and then asks what you are going to do about it," Solnit launches into an investigation of storytelling that helps her write her way toward something like solace.--Meehan Crist

Review

"In her famously lyrical prose, Solnit writes about her own life, her family, and her reading, and she revisits the myths and ideas from art and history that have shaped her world."

--*The New Yorker*

"What Solnit offers us, I think, is the future of memoir. Not the story of the self . . . but the ways in which one's story opens into other stories . . . literary nonfiction doesn't get more beautiful and compelling."

--*The American Scholar*

"A beautiful and profound book of essayistic reflection on memory, family, grief, travel, and storytelling."

--*The Millions*

"The product of a remarkable mind at work, one able to weave a magnificent number of threads into a single story, demonstrating how all our stories are interconnected."

--*Bookforum*

"[A] brilliant, genre-refuting book. The power of *The Faraway Nearby*, as in Solnit's previous writing, lies in its juxtaposition, its clusters of narrative nerves. . . . Solnit is a wanderer who collapses distance."

--*San Francisco Chronicle*

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

### **Jeffrey Evans:**

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they are still students or it for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby per other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book The Faraway Nearby (Ala Notable Books for Adults). All type of book is it possible to see on many sources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

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