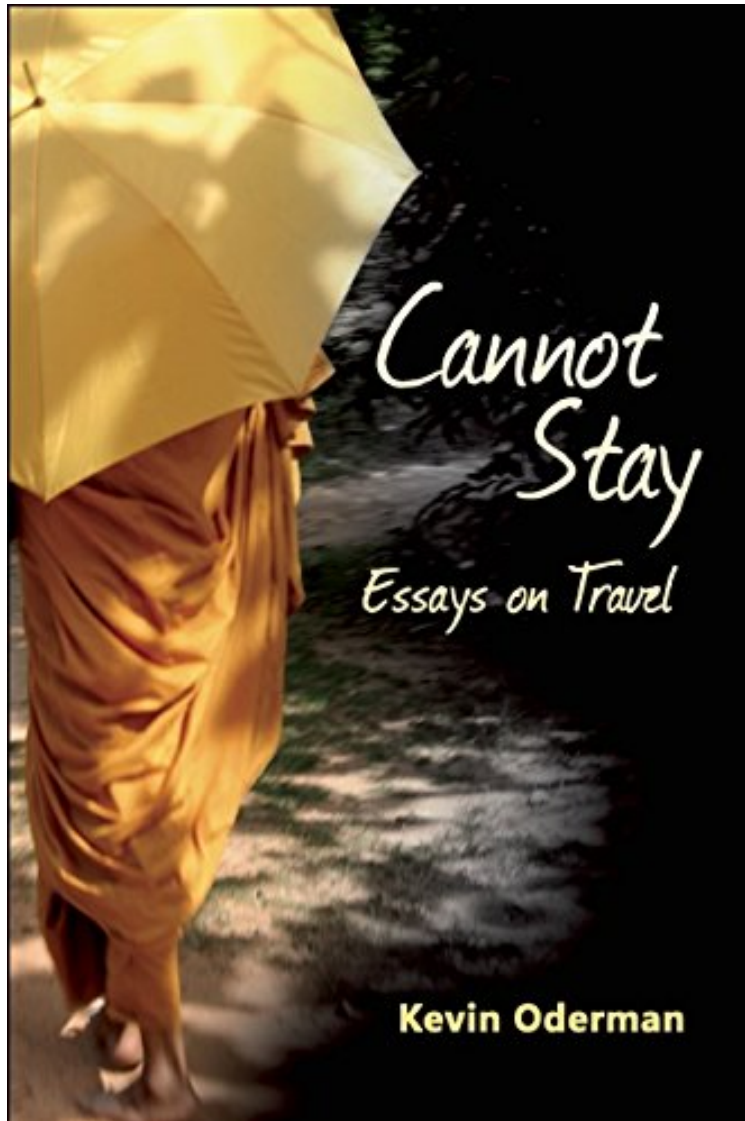


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## Cannot Stay: Essays on Travel

*Kevin Oderman*

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**Kevin Oderman : Cannot Stay: Essays on Travel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cannot Stay: Essays on Travel:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful, literary travel essays -- highly recommended!By Katie FallonThis collection of literary travel essays will inspire readers to travel more often and to be better students of the places they visit. Oderman's essays explore the not only the history, art, and people of the places he travels, but also the act of travel itself--the idea of what it means to travel, and what it means to travel as an American abroad. These essays provide an intimate look at a variety of places, from Cambodia to Bali, the Baltics to Vietnam, Italy, Turkey,

and elsewhere. Highly recommended for thoughtful travelers! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Vivid provocative essays from a seasoned traveler  
By L. Long  
These vivid, meditative essays describe the author's keen experiences of places--most of them where and how few western travelers venture. The essays immerse the reader in a sense of the world, and the self, made fresh and strange through experience and thoughtfulness. This is a generous book that will immerse and intrigue a reader whether one travels afar physically or simply with imaginative openness.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inviting, intelligent and warm  
By Jillian Schedneck  
Beautiful meditations on the meaning of travel, both for the author and for all of us who like to visit somewhere new. I particularly enjoyed Oderman's lovely theory on what moves us to travel, as well as his vivid descriptions of a great variety of cities old and new that made me feel like I had been there. His voice throughout is inviting, intelligent and warm.

This is a book of journeys, but it is not a guidebook. *Cannot Stay* doesn't merely describe traveling to Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Europe. It delves into why we leave our front porch in the first place. These twelve essays take us from Bali to the Baltics, from Corsica to Cambodia. But more importantly, they speak to the experience of travel, to what it means to shake loose of your at-home identity and pack all you need in a worn daypack. *Cannot Stay* bears witness to how travel reawakens us to the world by revealing the strange in the familiar and the familiar in the strange.  
Check in. A subdued line of passengers, everybody waiting their turn. Someone pushes a small bag forward, eyeing with a smirk the woman with the luggage trolley. It's always so. And yet, even that woman is traveling light, leaving behind far more than she could ever pack into a few suitcases. By necessity, the traveler gives up on things, preferring for a time the experience of going.  
Kevin Oderman is the author of two expat novels, including Etruscan Press's *White Vespa*. Winner of the Bakeless Prize in nonfiction, he has taught as a Fulbright Scholar in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Lahore, Pakistan. He teaches at both West Virginia University and Wilkes University's low-residency creative writing graduate program.

About the Author  
Kevin Oderman is the author of two expat novels, *Going* (set in Granada) and *White Vespa* (set in Greece). He won a Bakeless Prize in nonfiction for a book of literary essays, *How Things Fit Together*. He twice taught abroad as a Fulbright Scholar, first in Thessaloniki, Greece, and subsequently in Lahore, Pakistan. He teaches at West Virginia University and in the Wilkes University Low-Residency Creative Writing MA/MFA Program. He lives in Morgantown, West Virginia, with his wife, the writer Sara Pritchard.