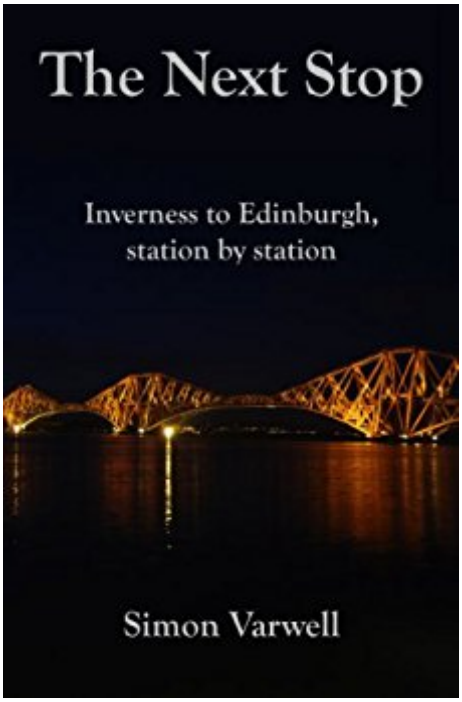
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The Next Stop: Inverness To Edinburgh, Station By Station



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Synopsis

After years travelling by train between Inverness and Edinburgh, Simon Varwell realised that he knew very little about the places he would merely pass through, and to which he would pay no attention as they rushed by in a train window blur.So over the course of six days in 2012, he travelled the line and stopped at all twenty-three stations.It was a trip that led him to the unknown, the beautiful, the isolated, the depressingly mundane, the run-down, and the haunting. From picturesque Highland villages to post-industrial towns, and from crumbling castles to dodgy pubs, a host of curious nooks and crannies across Scotland lurking virtually on his doorstep were finally demystified.He finished the week with some places he was eager to return to for a deeper exploration, and a few others he will be quite happy to never visit againÃ¢â ¬Â¦"The real joy of "The Next Stop..." is the revelation that with a little imagination and effort, it is still possible to devise journeys of discovery that are worth making. This book is the story of his journey, told in an engaging style that allows you to see the places he visited through his eyes... The result is an ideal book for anyone who, like the author, has ever wondered what lies beyond the stations and the briefly glimpsed settlements along this line." - Undiscovered Scotland

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am planning a trip to Scotland next year and am glad I read this book. It helped me get an idea of whether some of the places I wanted to stop would be worth it. He solidified my desire to stop at the Highland Folk Museum. I enjoyed reading this as it also gave me a kind of Day in the Life look at Scotland instead of just from the eyes of a travel guide.

I’m not a big reader. I read news on the internet, I read articles in magazines, I read the newspapers. But books...too laborious for my liking.But this book grabbed me. I was initially taken by its premise - ’The Next Stop’ details Simon Varell’s adventures in every rail station stop between the Scottish cities of Inverness and Edinburgh. I’ve travelled the route many times so I have prior knowledge of some of the places described. While some were familiar, others were not. But that didn’t matter.Simon Varell’s descriptions, the intricacies and detail of the towns and villages visited, the subtleties of it all - I found it captivating. I’m not going to use the clichÃƒÂ© and describe how I felt transported to those locations, but I feel my understanding of life between the two cities has been much improved.Varell has a gift. I can only compare it to that of Bill Bryson’s in ’Notes from a Small Island’. He has a genuinely ’laugh out loud’ means of describing the people and places he’s visited, finding humour in so many unexpected ways. I can’t say I know the places he visited like a local would, but I can say I’ve gotten to know Varell himself. A man who decided to visit the places many just pass through. You don’t even have to know where the places he’s talking about are, but simply revel in the fact that 23 stations along 150 miles of railway can unearth such unexpected vitality.

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