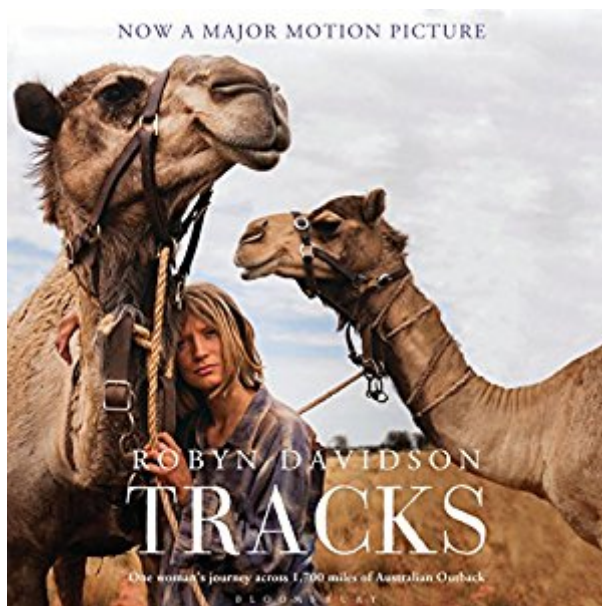


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# Tracks: One Woman's Journey Across 1,700 Miles Of Australian Outback



## Synopsis

"I experienced that sinking feeling you get when you know you have conned yourself into doing something difficult and there's no going back." So begins Robyn Davidson's perilous journey across 1,700 miles of hostile Australian desert to the sea, with only four camels and a dog for company. Enduring sweltering heat, fending off poisonous snakes and lecherous men, chasing her camels when they get skittish and nursing them when they are injured, Davidson emerges as an extraordinarily courageous heroine driven by a love of Australia's landscape, an empathy for its indigenous people, and a willingness to cast away the trappings of her former identity. Tracks is the compelling, candid story of her odyssey of discovery and transformation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This truly enjoyable and fascinating story has been brought to my attention through the waves of promotion generated by the film--upcoming or already available, I am not sure. Regardless, I am glad it somehow sifted out. It is different, a well-written tale of a brief but unusual episode of a woman's life. I think, actually, that it was the camels that hooked me in. Then there is the romance of an Australia I have never seen, and never will see--it's changed now. There's also the nostalgia for the era of time. Altogether, it was good.

Robin Davidson wrote her story for those of us who are still "too afraid or feel too "old" to make our own journey of self-discovery. Thank you Robyn for letting us join you and your wonderful camels and your very special dog as you made your way across the beautifully described land of the

Aboriginal people.

This is an incredibly interesting, thought provoking read which takes the reader beyond the journey described and into the recesses of the of the travelers' thoughts as she trecks across the vastness of the Australia. As the story unwinds one can almost feel they have joined the author on her quest.

A true journey with the author! I'd read it again. She captured a time in her life that we can all relate to and travel, vicariously with her, to feel the power of the knowledge she gained and the truth in the understanding of what really matters in life for each of us is different, yet very much the same.

This is the amazing tale of a woman who decided to trek across Western Australia, from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean. A large fraction of the book deals with the challenges she faced in Alice Springs, learning to train camels and developing the equipment and skills she would need. Her major problems were not the camels but the people with whom she had to deal, some of whom were ready to take advantage of her in any way they could. Her efforts to relate to the native people were often frustrated by the terrible ways these people had been treated, but a few of the older people were very helpful. She mostly travelled along the "tracks," dirt jeep trails which might see only a few vehicles per year. Many of the vehicles she met along these tracks contained people she would just as soon have missed. A great deal of this book deals with the mental anguish she felt at the disrespect of people for the natives and the land. I would have liked to read a bit more about the land and the wildlife - for example there was almost no mention of kangaroos or emus. This account brings us back to an era when we didn't all have GPS's and satellite maps, an era when a person was a bit more on their own than today.

Knowing nothing about camels she goes to Alice Springs to learn how to handle them and journey alone to the West coast of Australia. Her bonding with her camels is heart warming. The difficulties in just learning about them, how to make the gear on a shoe string, dealing with the harsh treatment she receives on that learning curve are just the start of her greater learning in the challenges of the desert- just the beginning of what she overcomes. Her connection with the Aboriginal people, their help and wisdom just another small part of this many faceted story.

I think this was written maybe 20 years ago, but it has experienced a resurgence of interest. The writing wasn't the most polished, however, the story was priceless, and the author's candidness

made this a real treat. They play up the romance a little too much, really this was a story about an individual path to discovery...

Upon seeing the movie, I immediately downloaded the book. An initial impression of the book: From the movie, she didn't seem smart enough to be such a good writer. Continuing the book, I soon concluded though that nobody could possibly write so vividly without having actually lived it. This is not the kind of book that I normally read, but it turned out to be certainly one of the most enjoyable. The movie & the book are so different that I can't compare them. The movie is about what she did, while the book is about what was going on in her head.

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