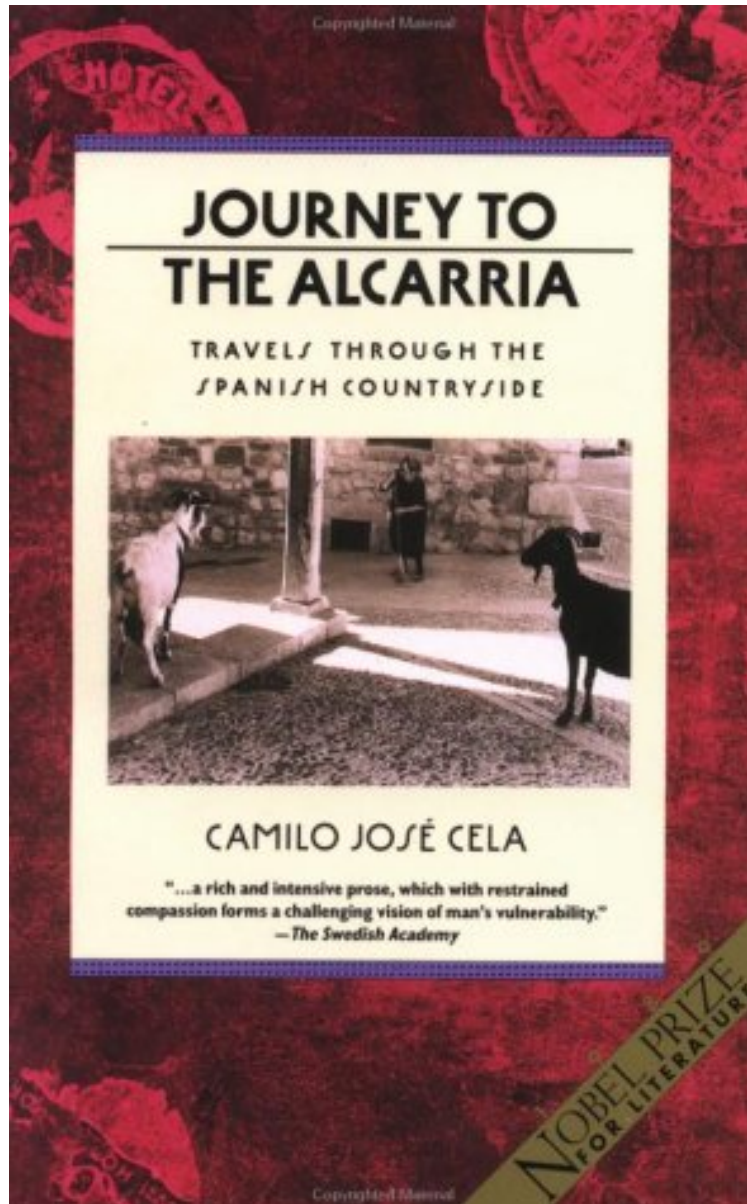


[Free and download] Journey to the Alcarria: Travels Through the Spanish Countryside (Traveler)

Journey to the Alcarria: Travels Through the Spanish Countryside (Traveler)

Camilo Jose Cela

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Camilo Jose Cela : Journey to the Alcarria: Travels Through the Spanish Countryside (Traveler) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to the Alcarria: Travels Through the Spanish Countryside (Traveler):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A classic of the Spanish Literature By Edgar Tejada El Viaje a la Alcarria or Journey to the Alcarria is one of the best books I ever read. Sometimes the reader gets tired of the third person perspective, but it is an interesting book to read after all. You find details about the life in the country side of Spain and you discover how the writer felt in those places after living in Madrid. A must read from the classic literature.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A simple account of rustic Spanish country in the 1940s By R. M. Peterson The Alcarria is a mountainous region northeast of Madrid. In 1946, Cela (who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1989) toured the Alcarria, mostly by foot. JOURNEY TO THE ALCARRIA is his account of that tour. It has the virtue of being short (139 pages). The Alcarria turns out to be rustic and simple, as is Cela's account (giving rise to a variant on the chicken-and-egg conundrum). According to the somewhat academic introduction to this edition, by Cela's standards a travel-writer "must react with genuine and simple surprise to what he sees, and jot it down without inventive alteration." Well, Cela followed that formula to a T. There is a sort of rustic charm to the book, but in truth it quickly becomes boring. I don't understand why it is celebrated (to refer to the introduction once again, JOURNEY TO THE ALCARRIA is the "crowning point" of Cela's travel sketches). Nor do I understand, if indeed JOURNEY TO THE ALCARRIA is near the apex of his literary output, why Cela merited a Nobel Prize.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An easy trip through the countryside By A Customer I needed a short, easy book to read while on my vacation with my sister. She happened to have this book along and lent it to me. I found myself travelling through the countryside of Spain with Camilo Cela and loving it. He included just enough information to let us share his experience without drowning us in too much detail. I'll never have his exact memories but I felt like I could recognize the places and feelings if I ever get to go there. I recommend this as an enjoyable, easy read.

Awarded the 1989 Nobel Prize for Literature, Camilo José Cela has long been recognized as one of the preeminent Spanish writers of the twentieth century. Journey to the Alcarria is the best known of his vagabundajes, Cela's term for his books of travels, sketchbooks of regions or provinces. The Alcarria is a territory in New Castile, northeast of Madrid, surrounding most of the Guadalajara province. The region is high, rocky, and dry, and is famous for its honey. Cela himself is "the traveler," an urban intellectual wandering from village to village, through farms and along country roads, in search of the Spanish character. Cela relishes his encounters with the simple, honest people of the Spanish countryside—the blushing maid in the tavern, the small-town shopkeeper with airs of grandeur lonely for companionship, the old peasant with his donkey who freely shares his bread and blanket with the stranger. These vignettes are narrated in a fresh, clear prose that is wonderfully evocative. As the New York Times wrote, Cela is "an outspoken observer of human life who built his reputation on portraying what he observed in a direct colloquial style."

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