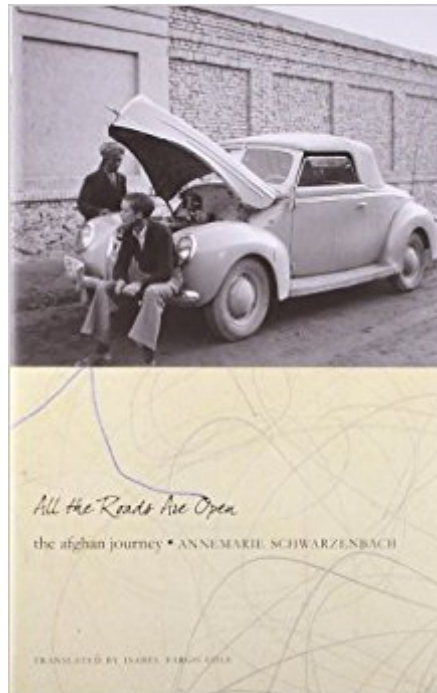




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All The Roads Are Open: The Afghan Journey (The Swiss List)



Synopsis

In June 1939 Annemarie Schwarzenbach and fellow writer Ella Maillart set out from Geneva in a Ford, heading for Afghanistan. The first women to travel Afghanistan's Northern Road, they fled the storm brewing in Europe to seek a place untouched by what they considered to be Western neuroses. The Afghan journey documented in *All the Roads Are Open* is one of the most important episodes of Schwarzenbach's turbulent life. Her incisive, lyrical essays offer a unique glimpse of an Afghanistan already touched by the "fateful laws known as progress," a remote yet "sensitive nerve centre of world politics" caught amid great powers in upheaval. In her writings, Schwarzenbach conjures up the desolate beauty of landscapes both internal and external, reflecting on the longings and loneliness of travel as well as its grace. Maillart's account of their trip, *The Cruel Way*, stands as a classic of travel literature, and, now available for the first time in English, Schwarzenbach's memoir rounds out the story of the adventure. Praise for the German Edition "Above all, [Schwarzenbach's] discovery of the Orient was a personal one. But the author never loses sight of the historical and social context. . . . She shows no trace of colonialist arrogance. In fact, the pieces also reflect the experience of crisis, the loss of confidence which, in that decade, seized the long-arrogant culture of the West." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

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author never loses sight of the historical and social context. . . . She shows no trace of colonialist arrogance. In fact, the pieces also reflect the experience of crisis, the loss of confidence which, in that decade, seized the long-arrogant culture of the West. (SäfÄ ddeutsche Zeitung)

Annemarie Schwarzenbach (1908–1942) was a writer, journalist, and photographer who worked periodically as an archaeologist. She is the author of the poem Aus TäfÄtouan, Der Krater der Tiere, Das Wunder des Baumes. Isabel Fargo Cole is a US-born, Berlin-based writer and translator.

These women were cool travelers way before it was cool for women to travel the world by themselves. Find out how they did it and why.

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