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Entertainment :: Books

The Faraway Nearby

by Daniel Scheffler

EDGE Contributor

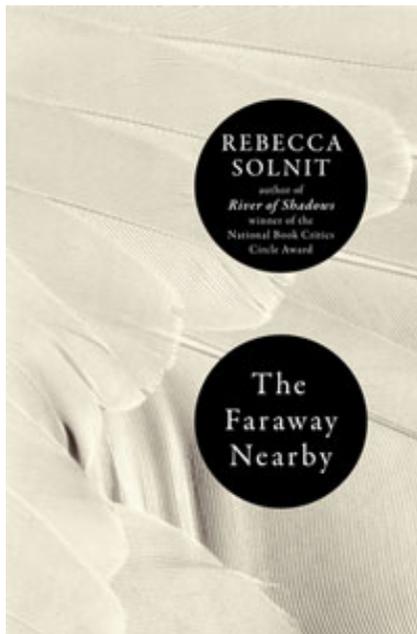
Wednesday Jun 19, 2013

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Rebecca Solnit's "**The Faraway Nearby**" takes you on an inventive, fabulous odyssey. You could be forgiven if you forget all about your real life while reading this book - the other life you're supposed to be living.

Solnit's new memoir aptly starts with the age old, dead-in-the-water-but-forever-alive question, "What's your story?;" and it stumps, thrills or enrages just about everyone.

"What's your story? It's all in the telling. Stories are compasses and architecture; we navigate by them, we build our sanctuaries and our prisons out of them, and to be without a story is to be lost in the vastness of a world that spreads in all directions like arctic tundra or sea ice. To love someone is to put yourself in their place, we say, which is to put yourself in their story, or figure out how to tell yourself their story."

"Memory, even in the rest of us, is a shifting, fading, partial thing, a net that doesn't catch all the fish by any means"



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and sometimes catches butterflies that don't."

— Rebecca Solnit, *The Faraway Nearby*

Solnit has an amazing ability to take us, the now no longer innocently bystander readers, to new places in the closing of an eyelid. I guess Solnit has a lot to say: She skipped school altogether and has worked on environmental and human rights campaigns since the '80s. She also worked with antiwar activists throughout the Bush era. Say it she does, and eloquently.

Her memoir, if you prefer to call it that, runs through the history of her relationship with her mother (who eventually fades from Alzheimer's) and the common stories we create about parents. Solnit, like so many of us, realizes that parents are also human beings with their own stories. What Solnit so poignantly discovers and puts to paper is the journey of seeing that her mother's story for her was just that - a story she could never fulfill, as it wasn't her own. And what a

revelation that is.

She swims with the concepts of empathy, art, fiction, the art of literature, sickness and health, place and travel, and anxiety. All of these concepts flow freely with style through this book, and more comes as she explores it all through the thoughts and ways of telling stories. The stories we tell define us, and Solnit defines her place as a conceptual and thought provoking writer in this deep and insightful book. Of course the gift of apricots, a physical gift, that reappears as a metaphor throughout this beauty of a book, will stay with you forever.

"The Faraway Nearby"

Rebecca Solnit

\$16.12

Viking Adult

by Rebecca Solnit

Daniel Scheffler is a writer who spends his time in New York, Cape Town and India. Follow him on Twitter @danielscheffler



Cory Krueckeberg's directoral debut is a sweet, sexy tale about a country boy and a big-city guy who forge a friendship that turns into something more... much more. Krueckeberg tells EDGE all about it.



Pilobolus at the Joyce

By Meghan Feeks | Jul 11

Pilobolus is in residence at The Joyce, with the help of Penn & Teller and a talented troupe of dancers.



Gregory Nalbone Turns Up The 'Summer Heat'

By Kevin Scott Hall | Jul 7

Model-turned-singer Gregory Nalbone has been selling out cabarets in New York for the past few years. EDGE spoke to the rising star about his life, his fears of singing & how he stays fit.

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