

A Proposal for

The End of the World

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

A traveler sometimes gets a particular feeling. You put all your stuff in a bag, and make lots of arrangements, and spend a load of money, and push out as far as you can get. And then, in the rush of leaving, moving, reaching, you lose track of how far you've gone. The dust cloud settles and you see in a moment of clarity that you took one small step too many. And that's it; you're too far away from home to be sure you can make it back safe, or ever.

You never forget that feeling, when the corner of your brain inquires politely, "Pardon me, is this when we die?" The memories surprise you years later, haunting, tempting, and vivid. As if you opened the door of your honeymoon suite to find the first girl you kissed calling for you.

The End of the World, a collection of first-person tales culled from a year of around-the-world travel, delves into the mystery, humor, terror, ecstasy, and awe that

comprise a modern traveler's life. Reading *The End of the World* will be like sitting around the bar with a knowledgeable, articulate, and amusing friend.

These days, travelers no longer buzz about lost cities or tigers under the billiard table. The ends of the Earth look disappointingly within our reach. Can a traveler hope to escape the rapacious reach of Coca Cola? Can one get far from home when email stalks us all across seas and over mountains? The answer, as the author discovers, is definitively yes.

In *The End of the World* by Zack Kushner, each story candidly recounts actual events drawn from a year of non-stop travel across Asia and Europe. Each combines lively description of modern traveler realities—such as using a scoop shower or ordering food from menus written in Hindi—with accounts of the outlandish occurrences that make a story and a trip mesmerizing. All the stories in *The End of the World* demonstrate how modern travel retains all of the potency of its extinct counterpart.

Utilizing anecdotes and humor *The End of the World* speaks to the reader as a confidant and friend. The 296-page manuscript is divided into twenty chapters and an introduction.