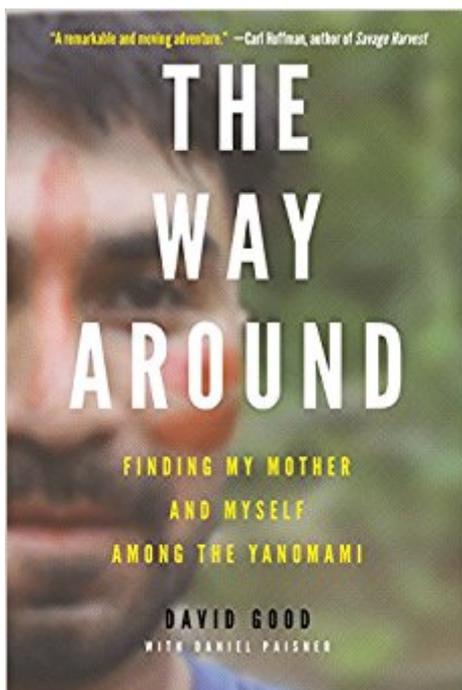


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# The Way Around: Finding My Mother And Myself Among The Yanomami



## Synopsis

Rooted in two vastly different cultures, a young man struggles to understand himself, find his place in the world, and reconnect with his mother and her remote tribe in the deepest jungles of the rainforest in this powerful memoir that combines adventure, history, and anthropology. “My Yanomami family called me by name. Anyopo-we. What it means, I soon learned, is ‘long way around.’ I’d taken the long way around obstacles to be here among my people, back where I started. A twenty-year detour. For much of his young life, David Good was torn between two vastly different worlds. The son of an American anthropologist and a tribeswoman from a distant part of the world, it took him twenty years to embrace his identity, reunite with the mother who left him when he was six, and claim his heritage. *The Way Around is Good* is an amazing chronicle of self-discovery. Moving from the wilds of the Amazon jungle to the paved confines of suburban New Jersey and back, it is the story of his parents, his American scientist-father and his mother who could not fully adapt to the Western lifestyle. Good writes sympathetically about his mother’s abandonment and the deleterious effect it had on his young self; of his rebellious teenage years marked by depression and drinking, and the near-fatal car accident that transformed him and gave him purpose to find a way back to his mother. A compelling tale of recovery and discovery, *The Way Around* is a poignant, fascinating exploration of what family really means, and the way that the strongest bonds endure, even across decades and worlds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A remarkable and moving adventure, the compelling story of a baseball-playing American boy who finds his way from a troubled childhood in the suburbs to the remotest redoubts of the in search of his Yanomami mother.” (Carl Hoffman, author of *Savage Harvest*)

From the wilds of the rain jungle to the paved confines of suburban New Jersey and back, *The Way Around* is David Good’s amazing chronicle of self-discovery. It is also the story of his parents, as he relives his American anthropologist father’s journey encountering the world of his mother, a Yanomami from a distant part of the , and his mother’s painful struggle to adapt to a Western lifestyle. In this powerful memoir, David illuminates the pain of his mother’s abandonment when he was only six, and the toll it took on his childhood; the rebellious teenage years marked by depression and drinking; and the near-fatal car accident that gave him purpose: to find a way back to his mother. A tale of recovery and discovery combining adventure, history, and science, *The Way Around* is a fascinating exploration of what family really means, and the way that the strongest bonds endure across decades and worlds. [www.jointhegoodproject.com](http://www.jointhegoodproject.com)

Who am I? Where do I belong? What do I do? These are universal, elemental, and pivotal questions faced by every human being in some way and degree. They are explored through this unique account about a unique family and individual, the author David Good, with a Yanomami mother and an American father. Furthermore, Good’s struggle to discover his identity and place between two extremely different cultural worlds is something of a microcosm of what Yanomami youth are facing increasingly with rapid cultural change resulting from the encroachment of so-called civilization. This sincere narrative is a most personal, intimate, and revealing story that challenges the ignorance, prejudice, insensitivity, and hurtfulness of individuals who negatively evaluate interracial and/or interethnic marriages and families. In recognizing the humanity and majesty of the Yanomami people and their culture, this account also challenges those who view the Yanomami as ignorant, backward, undeveloped, primitive, savage, and warlike, rather than as an alternative lifestyle in adapting to the ecosystems of the forest that has proven sustainable for millennia. This memoir offers important insights about the Yanomami and American cultures by contrast, including the challenges and rewards of crossing the barriers between these two extremely different societies. At times the story is sad, even tearful, especially in revealing the struggles, pain, and anguish of an indigenous American childhood and youth plagued by inner demons. At other

points this book is funny, even hilarious. Most of all, as a result of his unique experience, in the last chapter the author also offers hope through The Good Project to facilitate indigenous empowerment and self-determination. All in all, this remarkably candid book is most profound, moving, and inspiring. It deserves to be widely and carefully read, understood, and appreciated, including by every anthropologist, among many others.

I read this book 3 times. It's a one of a kind true life story written with incredible honesty and insight. The author chronicles his struggles growing up with feelings of abandonment after his mother decided to stay with her tribe in Venezuela rather than return to the US to be with her family. It's hard to read at times as he describes his pain and need to fit in as a regular American kid. The transformation that ensues once he decides to reconnect with his mother in the jungle after 20 yrs. is wonderful to read. He will soon be returning to the jungle for the 4th time to visit his mom. He is so happy now to have immersed himself into the Yanomami culture of which is a part. I've had the pleasure of getting to know David Good since reading the book and he is a sensitive, caring, down to earth guy with an amazing story to tell.

Such an amazing story which details David's search from childhood into early adulthood trying to discover himself and reconcile the two worlds from which he comes. David does a great job in covering his heartbreaking journey from feeling abandoned by his Yanomama mother as a child. In great depth, he shares the struggles he faced growing up, the resentments he felt towards his mother, the lack of support he received from his somewhat distant and aloof father, to the struggles he felt with not being a "normal" American kid. David is very transparent in sharing how his struggles led to problems with alcohol, drugs, school problems, and relationship failures. You can feel his pain and heartache come alive on the pages. His book thoroughly covers the story of how his father worked in the and came to marry his mother and bring her to the U.S. It explains the struggles his mother faced and how she eventually came to return to the and leave her three children behind. My favorite sections of the book are when David decides to seek reconciliation with his mother and sets off in search of her deep in the jungle. The new insights and understanding he gains among his people in the leads him to a place of acceptance, forgiveness, and understanding. He goes even further and begins to fall in love with his people and comes to appreciate their unique way of life. He finally finds the acceptance and love he spent so long searching for. In essence, by going back to his "roots" which he ran from for so long, he finally finds a sense of identity and "who he really is". I enjoyed every minute of this book and highly recommend this book. I hope that David

writes a follow-up book in the future on the progress of "The Good Project" organization he started to help indigenous tribes around the globe.

I found this book enjoyable and very interesting., the emotional journey that was his life though such an unusual beginning, eventually caused him to seek peace for himself and the understanding and love of his mother., it was good to see the changes this experience brought to his life and the meaning that it gave him to reach out and help others understand the life of those living in such area's such as the Forests of South America

Sorry for the wrong click before, it should have been 5 stars, not 1. It was an easy sale with a fair price, going to a good cause.It was a win all around. Thanks

This is a very good book written by the son of an anthropologist, Dr. Kenneth Good, who spent a number of years living among the Yanomama tribe in the Jungle, and marrying a young girl, who then became the mother of David Good. That story is told in the book "Into the Heart" by Kenneth Good, which simply must be read before this book.

Had to read this book for class. Horribly written. If you don't have to read it, don't.

You have never read such an interesting story!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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