



Footsteps

By Richard Holmes

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Footsteps By Richard Holmes

Richard Holmes's great work of biographical exploration, published alongside its sister volume 'Sidetracks'.

In 1985, Richard Holmes published a small book of essays called 'Footsteps' and the writing of biography was changed forever. A daring mix of travel, biographical sleuthing and personal memoir, it broke all the conventions of the genre and remains one of the most intoxicating, magical works of modern literary exploration ever published.

Sleeping rough, he retraces Robert Louis Stevenson's famous journey through the Cévennes. Caught up in the Parisian riots of the 1960s, he dives back in time to the terrors of Wordsworth and of Mary Wollstonecraft marooned in Revolutionary Paris and then into the strange tortured worlds of Gérard de Nerval. Wandering through Italy, he stalks Shelley and his band of Romantic idealists to Casa Magni on the Gulf of Spezia.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Follow the footsteps of this absorbing and delightful author as he attempts to trace the paths of four sometimes intractable, but always fascinating, Romantic writers. Robert Louis Stevenson's travels through the Cevennes with a donkey; Mary Wollstonecraft's revolutionary Paris and friends; Percy B. Shelley's Italian exile (a postscript to Holmes's acclaimed Shelley biography); and Gerard de Nerval's deranged vision and sad pilgrimage are all presented with rigor, charm, and historical and personal sleuthwork. Holmes's interest in each biographical subject is palpable and seems at times a fixation. But he rewards the reader with a growing understanding of each writer's life, as well as much insight into the technique and art of biography. Enjoyable, informative reading for literati, this book is recommended for larger general and academic collections. Carol J. Lichtenberg, Washington State Univ. Lib., Pullman

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Review

'This exhilarating book, part biography, part autobiography, shows the biographer as sleuth and huntsman, tracking his subjects through space and time.' Hilary Spurling, *Observer* 'Nothing is simple in this intricate, complicated and fascinating book, which is like a set of Russian dolls, biography containing travel-writing containing autobiography containing and so on! Holmes is indeed a biographer and a romantic in every sense.' Richard Boston, *Guardian*

From the Back Cover

Richard Holmes knew he had become a true biographer the day his bank bounced a check that he had inadvertently dated 1772. Because for the acclaimed chronicler of Shelly and Coleridge, biography is a physical pursuit, an ardent and arduous retracing of footsteps that may have vanished centuries before. In this gripping book, Holmes takes us from France's Massif Central, where he followed the route taken by Robert Louis Stevenson and a sweet-natured donkey, to Mary Wollstonecraft's Revolutionary Paris, to the Italian villages where Percy Shelly tried to cast off the structures of English morality and marriage. *Footsteps* is a wonderful exploration of the ties between biographers and their subjects, filled with passion and revelation.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathryn Richardson:

Reading can be called imagination hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book mainly book entitled *Footsteps* your head will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The *Footsteps* giving you another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Renee Wood:

Footsteps can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing Footsteps nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

Benjamin Torres:

The book untitled Footsteps contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official website and order it. Have a nice go through.

Eddie Barber:

You are able to spend your free time to learn this book this book. This Footsteps is simple bringing you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

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