

ALEXANDER THEROUX is an award-winning novelist, poet, essayist and teacher. He was born in Medford, Massachusetts and educated at the University of Virginia and Brasenose College, Oxford. Recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts, Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships, he has lectured at the Universities of London, Harvard, Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is the author of several prominent novels including *Three Wogs* (1972), *Darconville's Cat* (1981), and *Laura Warholic* (2007), in addition to books of poetry, essays, fables and two artist monographs on the cartoonists Al Capp and Edward Gorey. *Darconville's Cat* was chosen by Anthony Burgess as one of the 99 greatest post-war novels.

His literary style is a direct descendent of Laurence Sterne, James Joyce and Thomas Pynchon—a labyrinthine playground of allusions, neologisms, anachronisms and eccentricities. Hyperliterate, maximalist and endlessly inventive; to read the work of Theroux is to experience the rare pleasure of language in its purest form.

Estonia: A Ramble Through the Periphery is his first book of travel writing.



Advance Praise for *Estonia*:

“Alexander Theroux reads like a thoroughly modern avatar of eighteenth-century English literature. He puzzles like Sterne, spins adventures like Fielding, bends genres like Defoe, and holds forth like Dr. Johnson.” — **JONATHAN FRANZEN**

Praise for *Laura Warholic* or *The Sexual Intellectual*:

“*[Laura Warholic]* is brilliantly written.” — **NORMAN MAILER**

“Not since William Gaddis’s *The Recognitions* has a novel addressed the fallen present with such anger, love, and eloquence. Theroux writes with a vehemence that grows out of affection, an assertion of value phrased as an attack.” — **PAUL MALISZEWSKI, BOOKFORUM**

“*[Laura Warholic]* is] a work that screams ‘literary event.’ Theroux takes up a signature theme, thwarted love. Undeniably funny and compelling, linguistically and intellectually dazzling, as well as offensive and outrageously prolix, Theroux’s spiky catchall satire of the myriad ills of contemporary culture and the divide between idealized love and unbridled lust grinds and thrashes its way to an obliterating conclusion.” — **BOOKLIST**

“A massive compendium of vituperation against contemporary society, jabs at pop culture, exposés of office politics, and exploration of life and love in modern times... a funny, sad and original satire of our funny, sad contemporary culture.” — **RAIN TAXI**

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Alexander Theroux

ESTONIA

* A Ramble Through the Periphery *

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Any journey with Alexander Theroux is an education. Possessed of a razor-sharp and eidetic mind, he stands as one of the most astute cultural commentators of our time. So when he decided to accompany his wife—the artist Sarah Son-Theroux—on her Fulbright Scholarship to Estonia, it occasioned this penetrating examination of a country that, for many, seems alien and distanced from the modern world.

For Theroux, the country and its people become a puzzle. His fascination with their language, manners, and legacy of occupation and subordination lead him to a revelatory examination of Estonia’s peculiar place in European history. All the while, his trademark acrobatic allusions, quotations and digressions—which take us from *Hamlet* through Jean Cocteau to *Married... with Children*—render his travels as much internal and psychological as they are external and physical. Through these obsessive references to Western culture, we come to appreciate how insular the country has become, yet also marvel at its fierce individuality and preternatural beauty, such is the skill of Theroux’s gaze.

This travelogue of his months abroad also brims with anecdotes of Theroux’s encounters with Estonian people and—in some of its most bitterly comedic episodes—his fellow Americans whom he at times feels more alienated from than the frosty, humorless Europeans.

As biting and satirical as it is witty and urbane; as curious and lyrical as it is brash and irreverent. It marks a new highlight in an already stellar career.