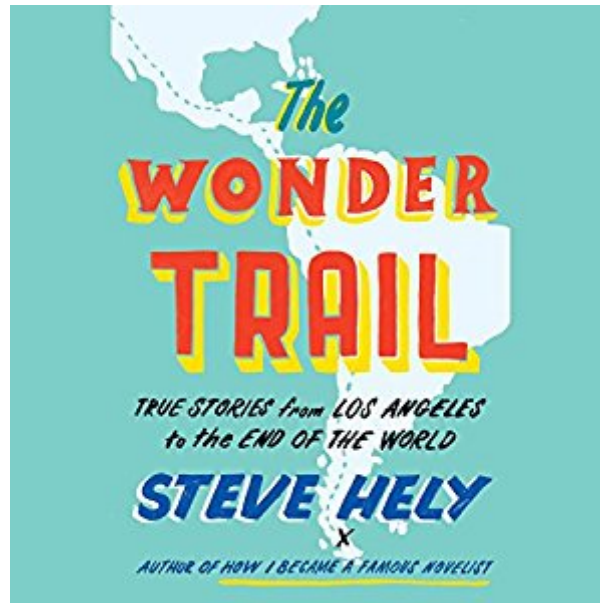


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# The Wonder Trail: True Stories From Los Angeles To The End Of The World



## Synopsis

Steve Hely, writer for *The Office* and *American Dad!*, and recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor, presents a travel book about his journey through Central and South America. Part travel book, part pop history, part comic memoir, Hely's writing will make listeners want to reach for their backpacks and hiking boots. *The Wonder Trail* is the story of Steve's trip from Los Angeles to the bottom of South America, presented in 102 short chapters. The trip was ambitious - Steve traveled through Mexico City, ancient Mayan ruins, and the jungles, coffee plantations, and remote beaches of Central America; across the Panama Canal; by sea to Colombia; to the wild Easter celebration of Popayán; to the rainforest, the Inca sites of Cuzco and Machu Picchu; to the Galápagos Islands and the Atacama Desert of Chile; and down to the jagged and wind-worn land of Patagonia at the very end of the Western Hemisphere. Steve's plan was to discover the weird, wonderful, and absurd in Central and South America, to seek and find the incredible, delightful people and experiences that came his way. And the book that resulted is just as fun. A blend of travel writing, history, and comic memoir, *The Wonder Trail* will inspire, inform, and delight.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was drawn to this book because I very much enjoyed Steve Hely's "How I Became A Famous Novelist", the tongue in cheek tale of how a callow youngster sets out to write a best seller. I figured that the same cheerful, sneakily edgy, perceptive approach would be an excellent fit for an improvisational travel memoir. I was right. This book isn't, and doesn't appear to be intended to be, inspirational, educational, culturally profound or deeply observant. It is, rather, a flippant entertainment that occasionally sidles up to an arresting aside or a bracing note, but more often

goes for the more casual personal funny throwaway line. A disclaimer. I really enjoy travel books - of a certain type. I was disappointed by how Theroux morphed into just grumping about how everything now isn't as good as it used to be. Bryson headed that way before getting a grip. I like the romantic perception of Jan Morris and Bruce Chatwin and the knockabout adventuring of people like Eric Newby. I enjoy classical derring-do in the Wilfred Thesiger and Richard Halliburton style. I absolutely avoid "travel books" that are really just tedious confessionals about girlfriends, daddy issues, mommy issues, gender confusion, career stagnation, or otherwise finding oneself. I mention this not to be a sourpuss, really, but to emphasize that Hely doesn't share any personal issues, is open to just about any experience, has no particular axe to grind, and feels no need to either eat, pray or love to excess. He also makes no pretense of having written an actual travel guide; this is not Lonely Planet with jokes. So, you don't get Rick Steves' insider secrets, but you also don't get tedious Tripadvisor-style gripes about how rude the hotel receptionist was or about weird stains on the pillowcases.

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