

Journey to the end of Russia

Out of Reach

LOTTE LOLA VERMEER

This book is the total opposite of the famous ‘Voyage autour de ma chambre’ by Xavier de Maistre, although initially Lotte Lola Vermeer explores the world without leaving her room. Google Street View enables her to travel cheaply and tirelessly at her desk, since modern technology allows us to go absolutely everywhere, from dazzling Alaska to icy Siberia. That at least is the idea on which the author was relying. On one of her many digital journeys, however, she discovered that Street View ends abruptly at apparently random places.

The ‘non-existent’ places she came upon stayed with her, so Lotte Lola decided to exchange her desk chair for a seat in a plane and set off in search of what cannot be found online, travelling straight to the digital end of Russia. There she met people of all types and talked with them about happiness and calamity, prejudices and internet videos, about belonging or not belonging somewhere and about what exactly we should now understand by the Russian soul.

‘Out of Reach’ is an ode to wonderment, a vivacious book about a lived experience that inspires us to resist fear of the unknown, indeed to seek it out.



AUTHOR



Lotte Lola Vermeer (b. 1992) is a writer, dramatist and scriptwriter. She studied Writing For Performance at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Utrecht (HKU) and gained a Master's in Audiovisual Arts – Writing, at the Royal Institute for Theatre Cinema & Sound (RITCS) in Brussels. Lotte Lola writes, acts and creates theatrical productions with theatre company Radicale Gezelligheid. She also reflects upon performances, podcasts, digital interventions and other kinds of poetry. She works as national coordinator for De eenzame uitvaart in Belgium, an initiative in which poets provide support in the form of poems to be read at funerals for people who have no relatives.

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