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"Someone in Kabul told me that a crazy Scotsman had walked from Herat to Kabul right after the fall of the Taliban...I thought the story was an urban legend. I was wrong. The crazy Scotsman was called Rory Stewart, and the book he has written about his travels is wise, funny and marvelously humane."

— Michael Ignatieff

THE PLACES IN BETWEEN

by Rory Stewart

In January 2002, only months after the United States and its allies had invaded Afghanistan and brought down the Taliban, Rory Stewart walked across its countryside and through its cities – surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. By day he passed through mountains covered in nine feet of snow, hamlets burned and emptied by the Taliban, and communities thriving amid the remains of medieval civilizations. By night he slept on villagers' floors, shared their meals, and listened to their stories of the recent and ancient past. Along the way, Stewart met heroes and rogues, tribal elders and teenage soldiers, Taliban commanders and foreign-aid workers. He was also adopted by an unexpected companion – a retired fighting mastiff he named Babur in honor of Afghanistan's first Mughal emperor, in whose footsteps the pair was following.

THE PLACES IN BETWEEN (Harvest Paperback Original; May 8, 2006; ISBN 0-15-603156-6; \$14.00) is Stewart's beautifully written account of these encounters. By turns touching, confounding, surprising, and funny, **THE PLACES IN BETWEEN** makes tangible the forces of tradition, ideology, and allegiance that shape life in the map's countless places in between.

RORY STEWART has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Granta*, and *The London Review of Books*. A former fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire by the British government for services in Iraq. He is also the author of *The Prince of the Marshes*, which Harcourt will publish in hardcover in August 2006. Stewart lives in Scotland.

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