

## Around the World in 80 Trains by Monisha Rajesh

This follow-up to Rajesh's previous book 'Around India in 80 Trains' was an easy read compared to our usual choices. Essentially a travel book written with a journalist's eye but rather contrived, trying to fit her journeys into a framework to reach her total figure of eighty journeys. We felt that that she did not take the opportunity to provide historical background in her accounts of the places she stopped off at. One exception was her discussion with a survivor of the bombing of Nagasaki. As a British woman of Indian heritage, she gives interesting insights into her experiences of racism and sexism on different stages of her journey. When travelling in Asia she seems much more at home and her observations are much more interesting, especially when she gets to China and Tibet. She also has a rare opportunity to visit North Korea. Although a somewhat slight book it gives us many snapshots into parts of the world few of us will have the chance to visit. A good undemanding book for a long train journey, one could choose to read sections of specific interest.