

The Writer's Map: An Atlas of Imaginary Lands

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It's one of the first things we discover as children, reading and drawing: Maps have a unique power to transport us to distant lands on wondrous travels. Put a map at the start of a book, and we know an adventure is going to follow. Displaying this truth with beautiful full-color illustrations, *The Writer's Map* is an atlas of the journeys that our most creative storytellers have made throughout their lives. This magnificent collection encompasses not only the maps that appear in their books but also the many maps that have inspired them, the sketches that they used while writing, and others that simply sparked their curiosity.

Philip Pullman recounts the experience of drawing a map as he set out on one of his early novels, *The Tin Princess*. Miraphora Mina recalls the creative challenge of drawing up "The Marauder's Map" for the Harry Potter films. David Mitchell leads us to the Mappa Mundi by way of *Cloud Atlas* and his own sketch maps. Robert Macfarlane reflects on the cartophilia that has informed his evocative nature writing, which was set off by Robert Louis Stevenson and his map of *Treasure Island*. Joanne Harris tells of her fascination with Norse maps of the universe. Reif Larsen writes about our dependence on GPS and the impulse to map our experience. Daniel Reeve describes drawing maps and charts for *The Hobbit* film trilogy. This exquisitely crafted and illustrated atlas explores these and so many more of the maps writers create and are inspired by—some real, some imagined—in both words and images.

Amid a cornucopia of 167 full-color images, we find here maps of the world as envisaged in medieval times, as well as maps of adventure, sci-fi and fantasy, nursery rhymes, literary classics, and collectible comics. An enchanting visual and verbal journey, *The Writer's Map* will be irresistible for lovers of maps, literature, and memories—and anyone prone to flights of the imagination.

Huw Lewis-Jones is a historian of exploration with a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He was formerly curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, and the National Maritime Museum, London. His books include *Arctic*, *Ocean Portraits*, *In Search of the South Pole*, *The Conquest of Everest*, *The Crossing of Antarctica*, and *Across the Arctic Ocean*. Most recently, he is also coauthor of the internationally bestselling *Explorers' Sketchbooks*.

"Gathers intelligently charming meditations from writers and festoons them with map after map after map after map of imaginary, and sometimes non-imaginary, lands. (Only after several days of staring at the beautifully reproduced images did I force myself to read the words, but I am glad I finally did.) I am so enamored of this book that I bitterly resent what takes me away from it, whether that be the need to eat, or sleep, or write this review." (Weekly Standard)

"One of life's great treats, for a lover of books (especially fantasy books), is to open a cover to find a map secreted inside and filled with the details of a land about to be discovered. . . . *The Writer's Map* contains dozens of the magical maps writers have drawn or that have been made by others to illustrate the places they've created."
(Atlas Obscura)

"This handsome tome is a pure expression of that love [of maps] and of the interplay between magical prose and imaginary cartography. Sumptuous maps of notable fantasy worlds jostle for space alongside essays from fantasy writers. The Writer's Map charts the landscapes of literary imagination with passion and care." (NPR)

"Gorgeously designed. . . This delightful, engrossing exploration is for every reader who's ever admired a book or a map, let alone both." (Shelf Awareness)

"Fascinating." (Financial Times)

"Nothing less than a writer's love letter to the map." (Tor.com)

"[For] the admirer of beautifully designed books often discovered in childhood and never left behind. . . . the quintessential coffee-table book." (Chicago Tribune)

"Lewis-Jones's beautifully produced compendium takes in everything from Utopia, charted for Thomas More's satire of 1516, to Westeros, a continent in that swords-and-sorcery series Game of Thrones. It shows how writers of the past created worlds that have inspired writers of the present, from Joanne Harris to Robert Macfarlane. It's a reminder that a map is far more than a means of plotting a route. Like a book, it can transport you. It can work magic." (Telegraph)

"Will delight the most devoted bibliophile." (Globe and Mail)

"We've hit the jackpot with The Writer's Map. It's a delightful collection of all sorts of literary maps . . . The art is the star here, pages and pages of every sort of map you can imagine, reproduced on oversized pages to delight and confound the viewer with their detail and imaginative depictions of a three-dimensional world reduced to two." (Charles de Lint Fantasy & Science Fiction)

Other Books

The Writer's Time Redeemed.

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