Because we were walking away

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servatism and the lack of women in public office.

Bias against women is "one global thing we share", says Mr Salopek. Women wake up early to do chores, and go to bed late. Men dominate public spaces, own most property and bully their wives. Several times, in remote parts of Central Asia, a woman would wait for Mr Salopek on the road outside her village and tell him, weeping, of the injustices she endured. Such women "entrusted us with their secrets because we were walking away". In South Korea, where an unprecedented number of women are opting out of marriage and children, he found the casual misogyny—the way men talked about women when they were sitting

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around a table with some beers—"breathtaking".

It has been hard to find female walking partners, Mr Salopek laments. He has walked with more than 100 people: journalists and jihadis, camel herders, biologists, historians, artists and a judge who had been sacked for graft. In Korea he walked with an expert on frogs. Some people join him for a few days, others for weeks. His wife meets him on the road, as do friends and family. "Walking with someone is very intimate," says Mr Salopek. "It unlocks something in your heart; you become friends very quickly."

Over the years, a network has grown up around Out of Eden. Mr Salopek encourages his walking partners to contribute their own stories to the website. Several have garnered *National Geographic* and other grants for projects. A Saudi walking partner has become an online storyteller with hundreds of thousands of followers; an Indian walking partner has set up a charity to fund conservation. One woman he walked with is

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