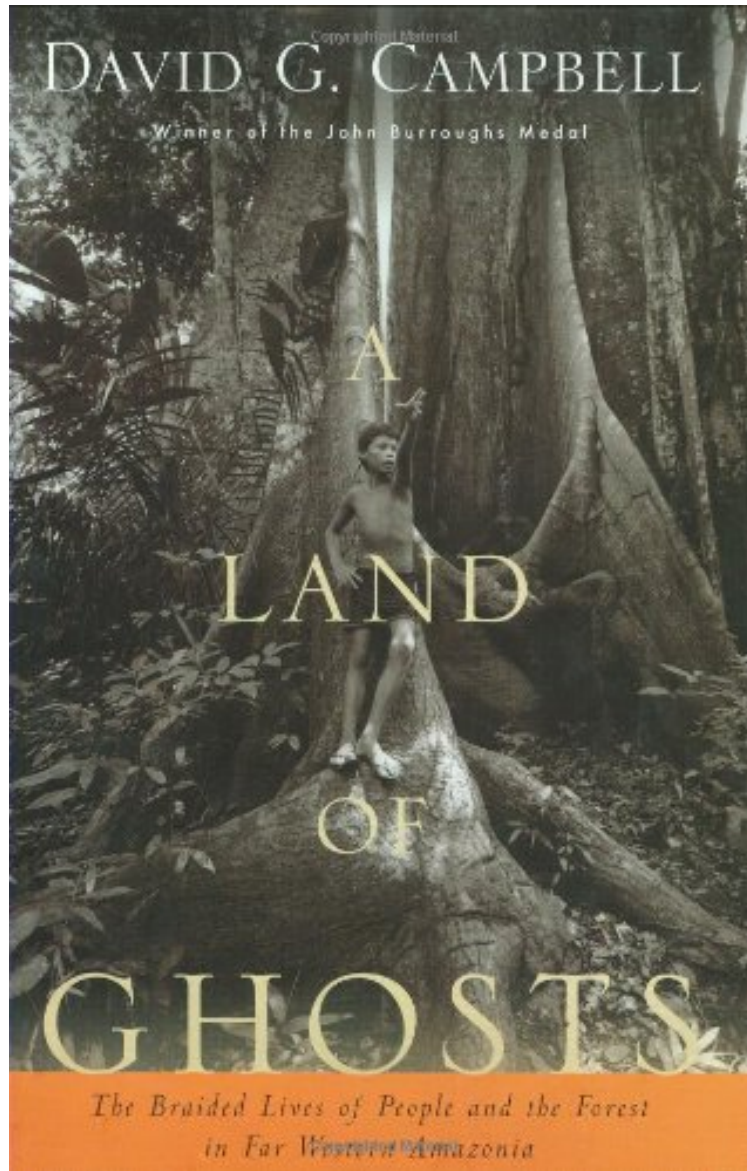


(Download) A Land of Ghosts: The Braided Lives of People and the Forest in Far Western Amazonia

A Land of Ghosts: The Braided Lives of People and the Forest in Far Western Amazonia

David G. Campbell

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David G. Campbell : A Land of Ghosts: The Braided Lives of People and the Forest in Far Western Amazonia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Land of Ghosts: The Braided Lives of People and the Forest in Far Western Amazonia:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. AMAZING TRAVEL AND SCIENCE WRITING ON THE

AMAZON By Denis Benchimol Minev Though there are many books that describe nature in the , David Campbell definitely is among the top writers on it. In this book he offers, from start to finish, a very interesting mix between storytelling with lyrical qualities and scientific analysis with social commentary. He is a scientist, focused on botany, and his knowledge of all aspects of science related to the forest are outstanding. We learn about the strategies employed by frogs to reproduce, or by snakes to identify prey, or by trees to attach pollen to beetles. While learning about the science behind such activities and how they evolved, the author leads the reader through his travel log, meeting people and species and learning much about the history of the region he is visiting. Besides all the interesting science, the author also provides a very deep character description of the people who live in this remote frontier. The stories range from rubber tappers left over from a period of abundance, to old Indians who became westernized, to occupants moving there from the south due to government incentives. Each has a story and a way to deal with the challenges of the forest; some have a way to prosper in the exact same circumstances in which others fail. Some characters are presented as integrated in the forest, some as aliens beaten by the forest, some as leaders beating the forest. Most amazing than all the history, social aspects and science however are the narrative abilities of the author. The book is a work of art, as it becomes clear that every word has been hand picked and every metaphor was chosen to provide the reader with the correct image, texture, taste, sound and smell of the forest. Reading is an experience of immersion and is to be savoured as very few books provide such a deep experience. It becomes quite clear to anyone reading the book that the author has a deep connection with his subject, much beyond science. This book is the very best description of the I have encountered, written with gusto. It is the kind of book you will wish you had written. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the region, in nature writing or in popular science. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Forest By Customer I have taught Geography including subjects like the Rain Forest. I was always emphasizing that the gives the earth some 24% of our oxygen. But was not truly aware of the difficult of life on the and its rivers toward the Pacific and the natives who died living in the region and those who were forced to work in the area under severe weather, dangers and health hazards. Those promoting the issues of current warm climate now should read this book and visit the outsider destruction of this region. Hats off to the author; the reader should have a dictionary all with the book given the author's vocabulary. Great book for the classroom for vocabulary, Latin, Biology and Geography. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant By William J. Higgins, III Modern day botanist Dr. Campbell's account of thirty years in this remote rainforest is both a captivating read of adventure and more importantly a daunting paradigm of what has happened to this esoteric land. Every molecule of the natural, physical and anthropological world is magically transformed with zesty and passionate prose. The author's own escapades with jaguars, caimans and deadly snakes, to legends of tribes with tails and spirits with backward feet leaves the reader mesmerized. Blend historical blunders of rubber exploitation, cattle farms, slavery, the Trans- Highway, etc. with the resulting decimation of native populations by disease and dilution of heritage, this book is a soothsayer of how humankind has not been so kind. Everyone and everything loses from self-righteous and mindless practices such as occurred here. The outcome are ghosts with haunting apparitions from the past.

The western Amazon is the last frontier, as wild a west as Earth has ever known. For thirty years David G. Campbell has been exploring this lush wilderness, which contains more species than ever existed anywhere at any time in the four-billion-year history of life on our planet. With great artistic flair, Campbell takes us with him as he travels to the town of Cruzeiro do Sul, 2,800 miles from the mouth of the Amazon. Here he collects three old friends: Arito, a caiman hunter turned paleontologist; Tarzan, a street urchin brought up in a bordello; and Pimentel, a master canoe pilot. They travel together even farther into the rainforest, set up camp, and survey every living woody plant in a land so rich that an area of less than fifty acres contains three times as many tree species as all of North America. Campbell knows the trees individually, has watched them grow from seedling to death. He also knows the people of the Amazon: the recently arrived colonists with their failing farms; the mixed-blood Caboclos, masters of hunting, fishing, and survival; and the refugee Native Americans. Campbell introduces us to two remarkable women, Dona Cabocla, a widow who raised six children on that lonely frontier, and Dona Ausira, A Nokini Native American who is the last speaker of her tribe's ages-old language. These people live in a land whose original inhabitants were wiped out by centuries of disease, slavery, and genocide, taking their traditions and languages with them -- a land of ghosts.

"[The Brazilian rain forest] is . . . marvelously described and movingly evoked . . . Campbell offers what feels like a lover's last, lingering look." --William Grimes The New York Times "A fluent and highly intelligent book." --Joe Kane, Orion Magazine "There are dozens of entertaining up-the- narratives, but A LAND OF GHOSTS stands out among them." --Elizabeth Royte The New York Times Book