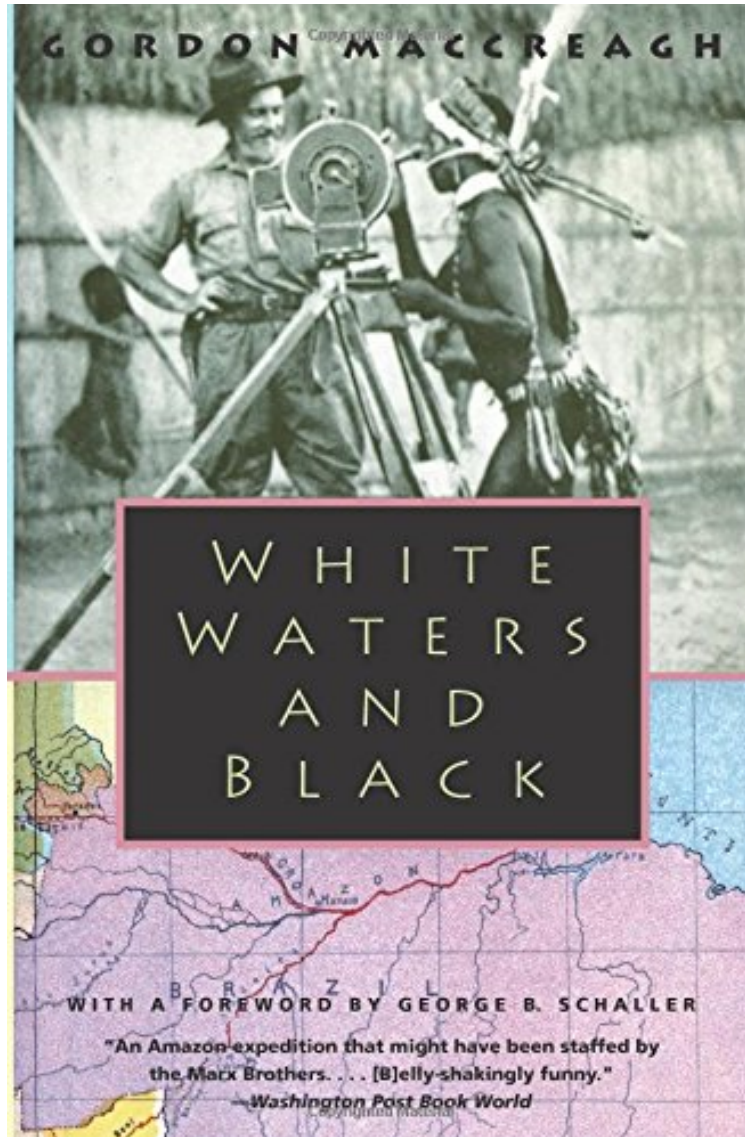


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White Waters and Black

Gordon MacCreagh

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Gordon MacCreagh : White Waters and Black before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Waters and Black:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well worth reading By jjcI've read numerous books on travel and exploration and this is one of the best. This is an account of the Mulford Expedition of 1921. The goal of the expedition was to collect biological specimens in the Basin. They were going to start in Boliva, cross the Andes, and then spend a year collecting specimens before exploring a new route back over the Andes. The purpose of the book,

written by Gordon MacCreagh, the anthropologist on the expedition, is to give the reader a true understanding of what such expeditions entailed. MacCreagh never uses the real names of the expedition members; they are simply known as their titles. There is the Distinguished Director (Henry Rusby), a man of advanced age and paranoia. There is also a Distinguished Botanist, a Statistician, an Entomologist, and a young, idealistic lad they call Young America. The expedition suffers from poor planning and bad tempers. The personalities are truly priceless. The Statistician becomes so cranky that he refuses to talk to anybody except the Anthropologist. The Entomologist is afraid of firearms and wants to give all their rifles, shotguns, and pistols away. The Distinguished Director issues type-written proclamations to his fellow eight travelers, warning them of bandits and admonishing them for bad attitudes. We also learn a great deal about the and what it was like in the 1920s. This is a great piece of travel writing.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. GREAT BOOK ABOUT AN UNREMARKABLE EXPEDITIONBy Denis Benchimol MinevMr MacCreagh has managed to write an outstanding book based on a rather unsuccessful expedition. It is the tale of an expedition of eight eminent scientist in the , who were put together not for their ability in the outdoors, but for their scientific knowledge.The author is a helper/manager of the expedition. He manages to describe the expedition from its beginning in the Bolivia highlands out to the plains and to its disintegration. It is quite clear that the scientist were not sure what to expect, and so had not prepared accordingly. Huge volumes of luggage went unused and were a huge burden. Egos and discomfort made the scientist into bickering children and inept explorers. The author masks their names because apparently these were well known figures of their time.There is a bit of scientific content in the book, but clearly the main reason to read it is for the good humor of the author in describing the situations they get themselves in. One learns more about people and how they behave when taken to extremes than one does about the .1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bungle through the jungleBy William J. Higgins,IIIOver the Andes and through the jungle to ineptness we go. A quite humorous account of science gone jumbled. But not all is lost here.In 1923 eight scientists plus the author venture through the South American mountains and rainforests to make further discoveries in their respective fields of study. Touted as, "The most perfectly equipped expedition that has ever started to explore South America", it quickly unfolds into a blundering journey with many problems and mishaps.Thanks to MacCreagh's sense of humor and wit we see how every imaginable incident went from bad to worse. One by one these scientists quit the expedition to forsake the author and one other to travel up the remote Uaupes and Tiquie Rivers meeting face to face with hostile natives. What transpires is a remarkable short term study into the culture of these indigenous peoples.Entertaining read.

With a wicked eye for absurdities, Gordon MacCreagh recounts his adventures with eight "Eminent Scientificos" as they set out to explore the Amazon in 1923 without any idea of what lies ahead of them: rapids, malaria, monkey stew, and "dangerous savages." A combination of Twain's *The Innocents Abroad* and a cautionary tale for explorers, this is one of the most honest accounts ever written of a scientific expedition.

From the Inside FlapIn *White Waters and Black* Gordon MacCreagh, with a wicked eye for absurdities, Gordon MacCreagh recounts his adventures with eight "Eminent Scientificos" as they set out to explore the in 1923 without any idea of what lies ahead of them: rapids, malaria, monkey stew, and "dangerous savages." A combination of Twain's *The Innocents Abroad* and a cautionary tale for explorers, this is one of the most honest accounts ever written of a scientific expedition.