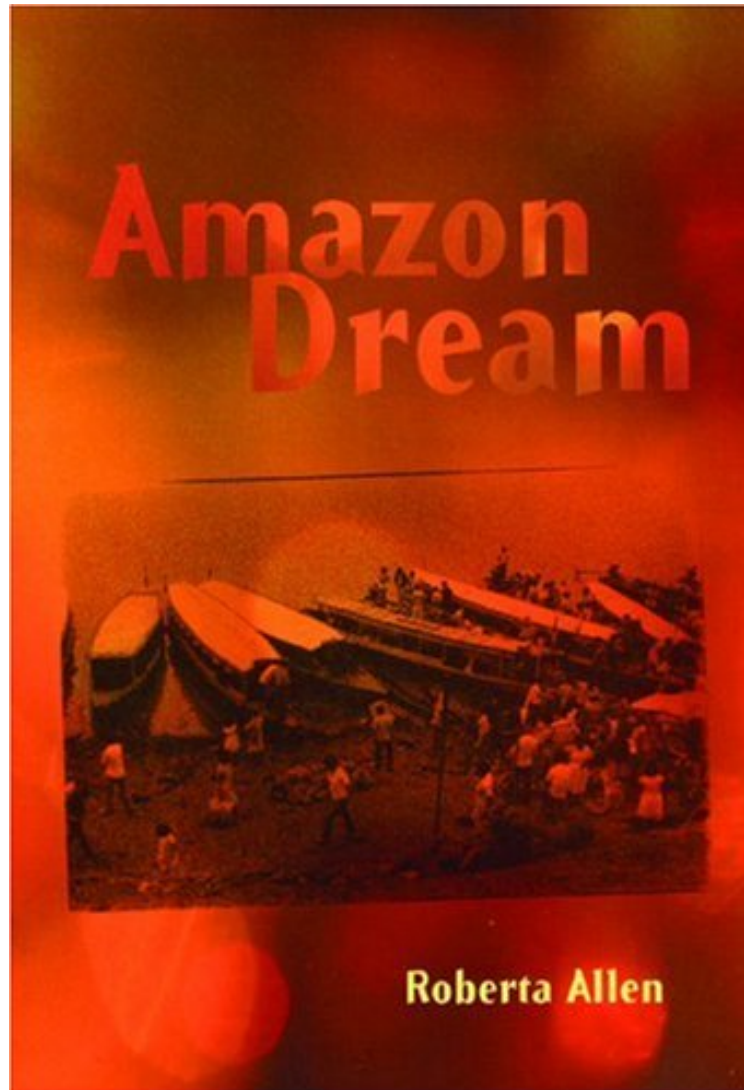


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Roberta Allen : Amazon Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazon Dream:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awakening from the "dream"By D.BeyerA planned trip to Peru evaporated even before I read Allen's book, open to exploring an itinerary for travel in Latin America that included the . " Dream" is a slim book, much of it describing the inhabitants of the arthropod variety feasting on the author's dinner of rice, yucca, plantains and fish, or are otherwise feasting on her. The obsession with insects scurried into boundaries Allen erected to avoid perceived male homo sapien advances. Still, I admired this White, middle-aged somewhat paranoid woman for exploring the jungle as a solo traveler. The last few chapters directed a light out of her dark,

fearful inner world to truly see the faces of the indigenous people, affording her "a glimpse into a different way of being in the world." And THAT is the true value of traveling to such destinations, before (as my mother-in-law likes to say) the world becomes "one big city."

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Shopping Trip
By Customer
This book details the experiences of a New York artist shopping for tribal pottery in the region of Peru in the late 1980s. Allen starts off from Iquitos, spends time in Belen, and Callao, before reaching Pucallpa where she wishes to visit members of the Shipibo tribe to observe their work and purchase pottery bowls from them. She had always been fascinated with the rain forest since she was a small child. But once she arrived in the towns near the jungle, she found herself overwhelmed with the Third World conditions. She hired guides to take her up the rivers to visit villages and see wild life. Not everything worked as planned, and sometimes the guides weren't willing to go, or sometimes she wasn't ready mentally to face the hardships on the river. In the end, though, she finally makes it to some Shipibo villages, buys a few pots, and returns home again. Allen acknowledges her New York sensibilities, noting how careful she is about letting her guard down. One part of the motivation for her trip seems to be the thrill involved with leaving behind the stable, predictable life in the big city to descend into the unknown, uncomfortable and poverty stricken surroundings of the Third World, if only for a few weeks. In the trip described here, which seems to have lasted no more than about two months, she meets no one other than guides and First World tourists like herself. Her dealings with the guides are confined to work related duties, and she holds herself aloof from the other tourists. Most of her interactions seem to be inside her own head. Although she seems to have traveled in the area before, she's not what you might call a seasoned traveler. For instance, on an expedition to a remote area, she finds herself so dirty that she feels compelled to bathe with the group's drinking water, much to the dismay of the guides and other tourists. In this book, Allen doesn't devote much space to vivid descriptions of the scenery. She also never gets around to telling us about the unique characteristics of the Shipibo art. All in all, this is simply a travel journal covering the superficial events of a journey in the Third World.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. AMAZON DREAM
By A Customer
HAVING BEEN RAISED ON A FARM IN THE APPALACHIANS AND A DEGREE IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY, I FOUND THIS TO BE AN AMAZING BOOK. TO SEE HOW A "NYC GIRL" WHO FANTASIZES ABOUT THE JUNGLE, DEALS WITH THE HARSH REALITY OF JUNGLE LIFE IS ENTERTAINING TO SAY THE LEAST. HER DESCRIPTIONS ARE FASCINATING AND AT TIMES HUMOUROUS, AND HER HONEST STRUGGLES WITH DEALING WITH REALITY VERSUS HER FANTASIES OPENS THE DOOR TO SEEING WHERE ONESELF HAS THE SAME PROBLEM AT TIMES, THOUGH WE'D LIKE TO BELIEVE WE DON'T. AMAZON DREAM IS A REALLY GOOD AND FUN BOOK FOR THOSE OF US WHO FIND CITY PEOPLE FUN AND ENJOYABLE TO OBSERVE, BUT ALSO FOR EXPLORING ONE'S OWN FEARS, STRUGGLES, IDEAS AND HIDDEN DESIRES FOR ADVENTURE.

travel memoir by novelist Allen with photographs

.com If there's an opposite to swashbuckling, Roberta Allen's exploration of Peru's is it. Sensitive and in no hurry, she learns the ways of the jungle, the river, and the people, despite her occasional fear and discomfort as an unmarried American woman of 41 traveling on her own through a foreign culture, language, and land. She tells a beautiful, perceptive, and introspective tale that allows the spirit of the to emerge.

From Publishers Weekly
Allen's (*The Daughter*) tale of her journey in the Peruvian is intriguing but strangely detached from the natural wonders she sees and the people she meets. Allen witnesses--and describes in clear, visual terms--the secret life that teems both above and below the surface of the forest, yet her tone seems curiously superficial in light of her claim that she had always fantasized about the . Particularly fascinating are her visits to the isolated villages of the Shipibo peoples, whose delicately painted pottery she admires; but here, too, her perceptions fail to penetrate the surface: having been told that the Shipibo love to bargain, she is disappointed when one artist refuses to negotiate with her. She is at once afraid of and interested in the various men who act as guides throughout her trip, but she seems somewhat ignorant about their culture. Allen reports the many times that someone asks her whether she is married or has children; seeing a photo of the cast of *Dynasty* on the wall of a village hut, she seems surprised to learn that "everyone knows about *Dynasty* ," as one of her guides says. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal
Allen fantasized about the jungle from the time she was a small child. In 1987, she took a trip alone to the Peruvian to fulfill her dream. She found the reality of the jungle quite different from her imaginings. Starting in a conservation camp run by a seedy character, she here recalls her experience: the constant bugs, snakes, and other wild animals, as well as the heat, rain, and mud. The native people she meets are different from what she expects, and they provoke feelings of guilt about her affluent Western background. At one point, she sinks into a state of depression and almost leaves without visiting the people she hoped to see, the Shipibos. Eventually, she visits the Shipibo people and buys some of their pottery. Allen feels a connection to the women of the Shipibo tribe, who are renowned for their art. This book is an interesting and well-written account of a region in flux. Recommended for public libraries.- Lisa J. Cochenet, Rhinelander Dist. Lib., Wis. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.