

Running the Amazon

Joe Kane

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Joe Kane : Running the Amazon before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Running the Amazon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really like this book - I read it years ago because ...By J. HutchinI really like this book - I read it years ago because I was into kayaking and white-water rafting and identified with the subject matter. Recently at a company meeting someone did an ice-breaking thing where everyone around the dinner table had to state a "bucket-list" adventure they wanted to do. Someone said "canoe the " and it immediately brought this book to mind. I couldn't find my old copy, so I bought a new one to give to that person (and gave to him tonight, after re-reading the book again first).. I liked how the story was told, it was an interesting read, and will be even if you are not into whitewater adventure. Joe Kane did a good job with the descriptions of the canyons, forests and local people, tying them into the history of the well. I found the reading difficult at first solely because of the foreign names of the team members, which to my English mind were difficult to pronounce internally to myself as I was reading. Once I overcame that through force of will, the pages turned quickly and I enjoyed the adventure as much the second time reading it as I did the first.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BoringBy Felicia DemosUgh, can't keep up with the characters and it was like reading the life of a person who did the same thing every day. I was very disappointed. You'd think reading about someone "running the " would be exciting, but I never felt the thrill that I assumed I would.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinary adventureBy Doctor.GenerosityI first became aware of writer Joe Kane when the New Yorker a few weeks ago reprinted an article of his from 1993. This was about the Huaorani tribe of Ecuador and their efforts to hold off big oil companies from destroying their

land. It was heartfelt work by the author. This led me to his other books, *Savages*, which is a deeper study of the Andean Indians, and *Running the River*. *Running the River* is a page turner. I ordered it from Amazon, started to read and could not put it down. Kane was attached to an expedition of ten, mostly Europeans, who planned to raft the river from its headwaters high in the Peruvian Andes all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, 4200 miles. Kane gives a vivid narrative of the country they pass, the locals they encounter - including armed Sendero Luminoso Maoist guerillas - and the divisive relationships within the expedition. The effort was poorly planned and the team badly organized. Some members were world class white water experts while others - including the expedition organizer and Kane himself - were unskilled or even complete novices. Their lives were put at risk thereby. The upper Apurimac river is one of the most violent and dangerous cascades in the world; Class Five does not begin to grade it. About half the international whitewater expeditions over the past fifty years have lost members by drowning, some within minutes of putting boat to water. From Kane's account, it seems clear he and others should have died on the river, and narrowly escaped several times by sheer good fortune. Only four of ten made it to the Atlantic six months from the start. The book slows down when the river does, but is still interesting as Kane and his Polish partner kayak all the way to Belem. A thrilling story and classic of outdoor adventure. Highly recommended. Kane is a passionate advocate for native peoples and wild lands, and I was disappointed that he appears to have abandoned serious writing after the two books. His career now is administrator of a land trust and environmental organization in Olympia, Washington. Thanks for your books Joe and best wishes.

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