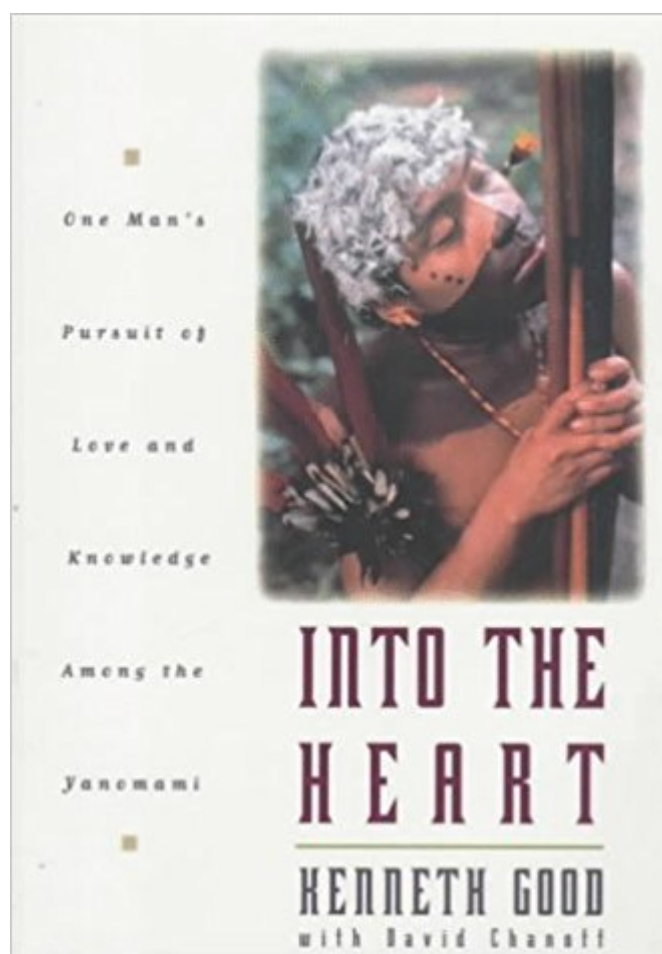


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Into The Heart: One Man's Pursuit Of Love And Knowledge Among The Yanomami



Synopsis

Anthropologist Kenneth Good went to the rain forests of the to study the Yanomami. He found more than one of the few remaining peoples untouched by modern civilization. During more than a decade of observation, Good found himself accepted, indeed virtually adopted, by the tribe and eventually fell in love with a young Yanomami woman. In the process, he made exciting new discoveries about the tribal people and about himself. Into the Heart is the fascinating story of his journey of discovery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very interesting!!

An absolutely fascinating and interesting book.I will recommend it to everybody.

Wonderful book and great service!

This was a fascinating tale. However, the fact that Dr. Good became muddled and unfocused when he crossed over the objective observer line to falling in love was obvious and it made the book drag. It wasn't clear to me what Dr. Good wanted to communicate to us about his experience.

Since I didn't notice that it was mentioned in any other review, it should be noted that Yarima, the Yanoma girl he married, returned to the for good in 1993. Apparently she missed her tribal life and

was very unhappy in NJ. Knowing this helps put the book into perspective. Google "Kenneth Good" & Yarima and you'll find some mentions of this. Still the book is a fascinating read, well-written and worth reading with the following caveats. While reading it, I felt there was something strange about the relationship; it struck me as more of an unusual obsession. Also, I had trouble sharing his perspectives about feeling at home living among the Yanomama, sometimes professing preferring it to modern society and claiming to feel he could comfortably live among them as one with them. Also, anthropologically he seemed rather weak in insightfulness as to the overall meaning of his experience (I was once an anthropology major many, many years ago, and still read occasional books in that area). However, I did feel he was right to discount much of Chagnon's depiction of them as "fierce people", but he flips too far in the other direction and seems to overlook the significance of much violence that he describes in passing. That said, he does make a nice effort at humanizing the Yanomama. I thought the most interesting things of the book are the descriptions of the practical aspects of his experience: getting started with the Yanomama, day to day experiences, travelling back & forth from the . As a story of his experiences, it was a very interesting read. Also, the reactions of Yarima and later her brother, to some aspects of modern society and technology were fascinating. I thought people who read this, should have some understanding of how it later ended. After posting this review, I realized that the really interesting story would be Yarima's. Particularly, her exposures to modernity in Caracas & later to the U.S., her discontent & her experience in returning to her tribal ways in the . There are some snippets in the book from Yarima's perspective & they are among the hi-lights of the book. After her return, she appeared on talk shows in Caracas for a period of time, apparently explaining why she left the US, but within a year disappeared back into the jungle. In 1997, she tugged on the sleeve of a journalist who was researching in the area & had a brief conversation. After asking about her children in the US, she said: "Here good. Jersey bad."

I found this book fun, relaxed, enlightening, adventurous, and personal. It's a page turner. On the downside Mr. Good made little mention of the Yanomami diet although he said part of his anthropological study was, "the question of protein capture." I believe people the world over have been hyper-aware of diet for decades now and it would have been enlightening to understand what these active and strong people ate that kept them that way. My only other complaint does not concern Mr. Good or his fine book, but his dissenters. The ones that suggest pedophilia; his nemesis/rivals? How far off the mark they are. As with most native cultures, and until recently the US, it is the natural progression of

life that young teenage women are ready for marriage once their menstruation has begun. By this time they have become responsible young adults having "worked" & learned alongside their parents and community since they were able to take direction. Through ceremony and rite-of-passage these young people are well equipped emotionally for that next phase of life. In today's modern world much of this has been lost with people becoming adults physically, but emotionally still underdeveloped. I recommend this book and look forward to reading his son's book, *The Way Around: Finding My Mother and Myself Among the Yanomami*.

I read "Into the Heart" when I was a student at NJCU a couple of years ago.... and this book is the one of the few books I never sold back at the end of the semester. It is a wonderful, true story about the Yanomami tribe that lives in the , a specific culture I never knew existed! As a sociology major, this book opened my eyes to a world outside of New Jersey and made me want to travel to the rainforest shortly after reading this book. I personally had the honor and privilege to not only meet the author of this book, but also took a few of his classes. He is a wonderful man, noble and honest yet is constantly scrutinized, criticized and harrassed because of other people's judgement of him and of his character. If students want to comment him as an individual and/or educator, there is a website called RateMyProfessor.com where you can do so, everyone is entitled to their own opinion.... but as a review of the book, which is the purpose of this site... I HIGHLY recommend this book to anyone interested in anthropology, culture and self-discovery. It is inspirational, moving and a flat out great read for just about everyone... I promise, you won't be able to put it down!

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