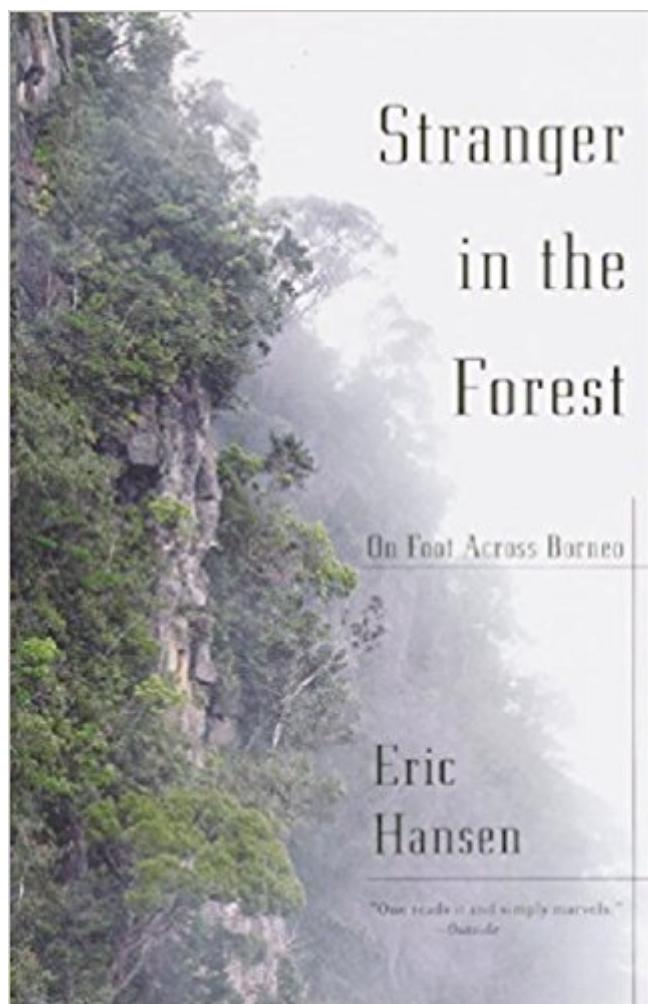


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Stranger In The Forest: On Foot Across Borneo



Synopsis

Eric Hansen was the first westerner ever to walk across the island of Borneo. Completely cut off from the outside world for seven months, he traveled nearly 1,500 miles with small bands of nomadic hunters known as Penan. Beneath the rain forest canopy, they trekked through a hauntingly beautiful jungle where snakes and frogs fly, pigs climb trees, giant carnivorous plants eat mice, and mushrooms glow at night. At once a modern classic of travel literature and a gripping adventure story, *Stranger in the Forest* provides a rare and intimate look at the vanishing way of life of one of the last surviving groups of rain forest dwellers. Hansen's absorbing, and often chilling, account of his exploits is tempered with the humor and humanity that prompted the Penan to take him into their world and to share their secrets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hansen's adventurous walk across Borneo took place in the 1980s, but the forest and culture that he encountered have changed little during the past century. Though he documents his reactions to isolation and to the tropical forest environment and its culture, he is not successful in describing the indigenous people or the forest; a more sophisticated treatment would have enriched the reader's experience. Despite this weakness he conveys the drama of the adventure, not least his naivete in undertaking such an effort with such little planning. James R. Karr, Smithsonian Tropical Research Inst., Balboa, Panama

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"[A] book in the highest tradition of travel writing, encompassing grace, curiosity, and fear."--The Washington Post "[A] gracefully written and passionate--account of a strange world made palpable, written with disarming modesty and rare sensitivity."--The New York Times Book Review "One reads it and simply marvels."--Outside

Wow! Amazing read. The solid reporting in first person is outstanding. The attempt by this sentient humanoid (Eric Hansen), who is unskilled in basic outdoor survival, let alone in a dense tropical rain forest, to walk across Borneo is riveting. His adaptability to conditions turns out to be his lifeline and his willingness to become near native in the process stands out in my mind. The vivid descriptions of the relentless trek with its exceedingly difficult challenges for an American city boy are captivating. You can hear the jungle sounds, feel the sticky heat, swat at the insects, eat food way out of your habitual comfort zone, and meld with strangers upon whom you must now depend for safety and guidance over great distances and many weeks of travel. The book transformed my thinking about survival as an art form. We don't have any opportunity to master these skills anymore in modern life, much less describe them adequately to anyone else. This book is a treasure of information about taking care of the body in an extreme environment and at the bravest edge for a western man today. Highly recommended.

As advertised

Eric Hansen's first novel takes place in the forests of Borneo in the 1980's. His writing style is honest and straight forward. He is often reflecting on his pre-conceived notions from being a middle class white male from the USA and makes interesting juxtapositions with the people that he is around. His account is far from being an exotic tale of a far away land full of brown-skinned natives. Instead, he takes care to present the native people in the jungle as just people doing their thing. I have not been able to put the book down and often during the day when I am working I am wondering about Eric's adventures in the next chapter.

This is a very good read. I enjoyed his writing style and how he described and portrayed the people of Borneo that he met during his travels.

Charts a disappearing world. Amazing.

I enjoyed reading this book.

A very good read. I loved his humor, descriptions, perceptions. Really great writer, great story telling. I learned a lot about the native tribes, their customs and the animals and way of life there in Borneo. Was surprised he had no encounters with orangutans though. I kept waiting for that, though I have a few pages left to go still...

A very enjoyable story. I liked this book a bit better than similar tales from Redmund O'Hanlon. It was slightly more cerebral versus O'Hanlon's action-oriented style, at least to me. The only reason I didn't give it five stars was that the end of the story seemed somewhat rushed.

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