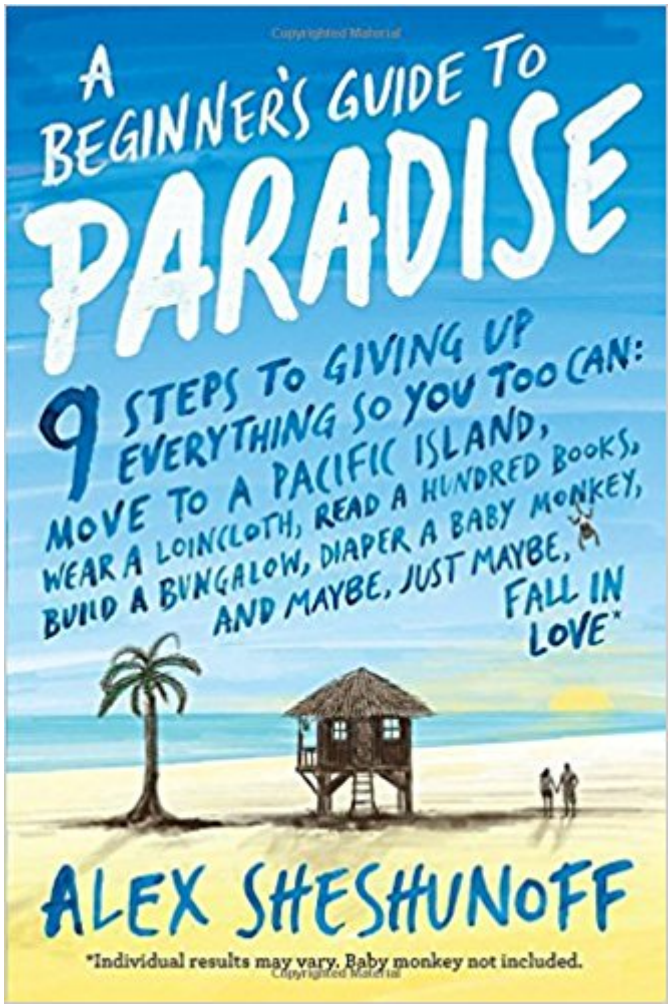
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A Beginner's Guide To Paradise: 9 Steps To Giving Up Everything



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Synopsis

So You Too Can: Ã Â - Move to a South Pacific Island - Wear a Loincloth - Read a Hundred Books - Diaper a Baby Monkey - Build a Bungalow Ã Â And Maybe, Just Maybe, Fall in Love! * Ã Â * Individual results may vary.The true story of how a quarter-life crisis led to adventure, freedom, and love on a tiny island in the Pacific. From the author of a lot of emails and several Facebook posts comes A BeginnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Guide to Paradise, a laugh-out-loud, true story that will answer your most pressing escape-from-it-all questions, including: 1. How much, per pound, should you expect to pay a priest to fly you to the outer islands of Yap? 2. Classic slumber party stumper: If you could have just one movie on a remote Pacific island, what would it definitely not be? 3. How do you blend fruity drinks without a blender? 4. Is a free, one-hour class from Home Depot on Ã¢â ¬Å“Flowerbox ConstructionÃ¢â ¬Â• sufficient training to build a house? Ã Â From Robinson Crusoe to Survivor, GilliganÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Island to The Beach, people have fantasized about living on a remote tropical island. But when facing a quarter-life crisis, plucky desk slave Alex Sheshunoff actually did it. While out in Paradise, he learned a lot. About how to make big choices and big changes. About the less-than-idyllic parts of paradise. About tying a loincloth without exposing the tender bits. Now, Alex shares his incredible story and pretty-hard-won wisdom in a book that will surprise you, make you laugh, take you to such unforgettable islands as Yap and Pig, and perhaps inspire your own move to an island with only two letters in its name. Answers: 1) $1.14 2) Gas Attack Training Made Simple 3) Crimp a fork in half and insert middle into power drill 4) No.

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Customer Reviews

"Hilarious and brilliantly written."Ã¢â ¬â •AJ Jacobs, editor-at-large, Esquire Ã Â "A must read!"Ã¢â ¬â •New York Post Ã Â "The male answer to Eat, Pray, Love!Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •BookPage Ã Â "Charming and ferociously entertaining.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Peter Mountford, author of A Young Man's Guide to Late Capitalism Ã Â "Witty and immensely entertaining!"Ã¢â ¬â •Passport Magazine Ã Â "Sincerely funny."Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews Ã Â "Nonfiction Winner"Ã¢â ¬â •Faulkner Society's Words & Wisdom Award Ã Â "1st Place New Nonfiction"Ã¢â ¬â •Los Angeles Book Festival

Burnt out and facing a quarter-life crisis, Alex Sheshunoff quit his Internet job in New York City and bought a one-way ticket to Yap, bringing with him a few t-shirts and the hundred books he was most embarrassed not to have read. While out there, he'd read those books, meet a woman, build a bungalow, adopt a baby monkey, and write his own book- a hopefully-humorous memoir called A Beginner's Guide to Paradise.Ã Â Ã Â Because of his unique last name, Alex is often asked if he's somehow related to Ian Shenanigan Sheshunoff, the first-place winner of the Diaper Derby Crawling Contest at the 2008 Alaska State Fair. Ã Â They are indeed related. Ian is his son. Ã Â Today, Alex and his wife, Sarah, live in Ojai, California with Ian and his equally talented younger brother, Andrew Commissioner Sheshunoff.

When is Alex SheshunoffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A BeginnerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Guide to ParadiseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• a good book to read?When you are:a. Considering moving to a remote island in search of paradise?b. Waiting for a root canal procedure to commence?c. Trapped beneath something heavy and the only item within reach is this book to pass the time before help arrives?d. Procrastinating from writing your own book?e. Wanting to read a delightfully absurd and insightful memoir by a talented, debut author?orf. All of the above?To give you a hint, SheshunoffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s treasure chest of poignant witticisms sprinkled with reflective prose embodies universal appeal. We have all dreamed of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“getting awayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• from it all, but few of us have the moxie to do it. Albeit fueled by a quarter life crisis and an embarrassment for not having read several literary classics, SheshunoffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s pursuit is familiar and captivating, bringing us closer to understanding ourselves as we follow along with his outlandish adventures.Do yourself a favor; make a frothy, fruity drink, sit beneath a palm tree (or poster of a palm tree) and read this book. YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll laugh, cringe, and be fully engaged with SheshunoffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life choices and results. Fun, creative, and sharp-witted, "A BeginnerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Guide to Paradise" is a book you

donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t want to miss.The answer, by the way, is f.

My wife keeps asking me 'what's so funny' every time I snort while reading it. It's hilarious, introspective and speaks to the wanderlust in us that would love to pull up stakes and find out what's out there. Definitely worth a read!

"Worse still, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d embraced the time-sucking illusion that loyalty to bad choices would somehow make them better."It's insights like this that drive this memoir from mere vanity to a narrative describing a transformation of perception, a transformation many of us need. I read this book in a fever while outside it was extremely cold and blustery for what felt like two weeks straight and while I was sitting under the fluorescent light bulbs for hours on end, I really wished to be on Yap with Alex. I had reservations about the memoir because I had already read The Beach but A Beginner's Guide To Paradise does not blow the same tired south easterly winds, this memoir was a breath of fresh air.The style is not only approachable but the format is engaging. Each bite-sized morsel chapter is equally delicious and adds momentum to the memoir. Alex grabbed me particularly because I too have flirted with wanting that start-up success and lifestyle and he has it all, but yet he leaves it. I could not understand why and so I too unwillingly, but in the end, satisfyingly reevaluated what exactly I was looking for.One thing that I think readers on the fence should know is that Alex really goes into great detail not just about his emotional response to the stimuli around him but the actual physical things he packs and prepares for and experiences. Above all else, the tangible nature of his narrative and his voice, like that of your good (albeit, also funny) friend recounting his tales of his great adventure, makes it an extremely fast and accessible read, good for the lazy poolside days as well as the nightly last few moments before sleep with the sleet beating on the window pane.This next section little blurb really resonated with me and I want to share it because he touches on the exact thing I would think on the precipice of such a risky adventure but he jumps and after reading this I think I might be able to as well:"I asked him to give me a second to think it over. Suddenly, I felt afraid. When is it a good idea to listen to fear and when is it a good idea to fight it? Maybe this was the moment when most people turned back to the deep-cushioned couches of their familiar lives and said, 'Nope, not for me.'"

I thoroughly enjoyed Alex's funny and entertaining account of his time in the South Pacific. It's structured in a smart way that keeps momentum -- I read the book quite quickly, indeed -- and I laughed out loud several times. It gives a window into Micronesian culture -- one which is more and

more threatened by climate change and the encroachment of outside influences -- and tells an honest tale of what happens when paradise isn't exactly what one expected. I highly recommend this book to anyone with a sense of adventure, a wry sense of humor, and an interest in learning lessons about the appropriate gift for a chief's funeral, barter systems, and how to diaper a baby monkey on a budget, among other things.

In the BeginnerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Guide to Paradise, Alex Sheshunoff spins a tale that will entertain and inspire you.Simply stated, I laughed my ass off reading it. Sheshunoff is witty, insightful, honest and self-deprecating, unafraid and turning his missteps into ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“lessons learned,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• finding humor in it all.I started the book on a rainy Saturday morning in front of the wood stove and, pulled on by the poignant storytelling, kept churning through the pages even after the sun began to shine and all my friends went outside.This book is highly advised for anyone that aspires to adventure and love and wants to view a life outside the conventional norm.

During a quarter life crisis Alex leaves everything he's known for a true adventure searching for paradise. Alex's sense of humor is witty and unique and I found myself often laughing out loud while reading this book. I tore through the pages and could not wait to hear what was going to happen next. I found Alex's adventure engaging and honest. He takes a leap many are not able to make and the outcome is fabulously entertaining for us all.

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