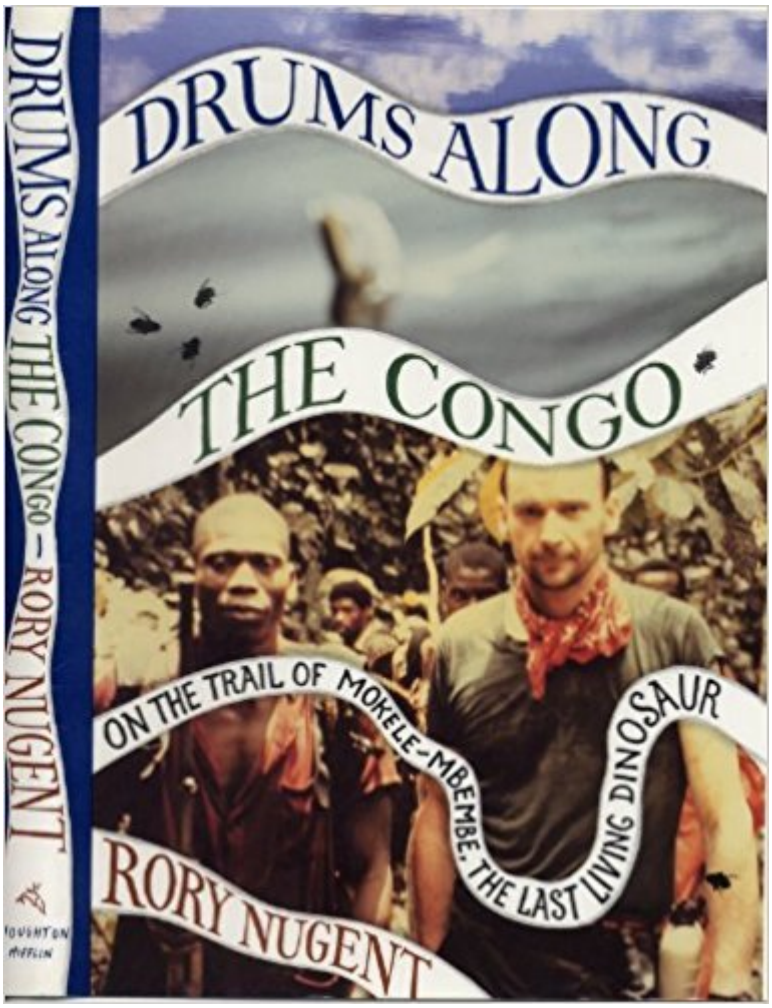
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Drums Along The Congo: On The Trail Of Mokele-Mbembe, The Last Living Dinosaur



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Synopsis

In the heart of the Congo, in the deep waters of Lake Tele, is rumored to live a dinosaur-like creature called Mokele-Mbembe, the god-beast. The rumors are convincing enough to have inspired a handful of scientific expeditions over the years, including a recent solo effort by American explorer and cryptozoologist Rory Nugent. After a ritual exorcism in Brazzaville, Nugent made his way by plane, boat, and foot to the lake's muddy shores, an environment little changed since the age of the dinosaurs. Paddling and trekking for weeks, living on snakes and snails, he finally spotted a brontosaurus-like shape far across the water. But when he tried to get closer, his guides ordered him back at gunpoint, explaining that "the god can approach man, but man never approaches the god".

Book Information

Hardcover: 248 pages
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 1st edition (June 28, 1993)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0395587077
ISBN-13: 978-0395587072
Package Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.6 x 1.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 1 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #1,778,696 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Democratic Republic of Congo #1383 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > General #4822 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel

Customer Reviews

"Being more interested in chasing a dream than in the precise diameter of a footprint, I'm here to substantiate the obscure," says explorer Nugent, who takes us on an energizing, entertaining spin through the Congo in pursuit of a prehistoric creature purported to be still roaming the rain forest: the legendary dinosaur called Mokele-Mbembe, the God-Beast. Along the way, a witch doctor takes Nugent's money, strips him naked, covers him with a foul-smelling jellied substance and exorcises his devils. Nugent tangles with government bureaucrats to obtain necessary travel permits, he meditates on the African notion of river spirits and on animism, suffers from diarrhea and scorching heat, witnesses a celebration in honor of a girl's first menstruation, tries to coax music and magic out of a set of bongos, hunts and eats crocodiles (he finds that a roasted croc steak is tasty but very

greasy), and is threatened by Pygmies with bows and arrows. From a distance, Nugent finally spots the God-Beast. But the natives are spooked and, by gunpoint, prevent him from getting closer; he only sees a vague image and, he relates, even the experts who examine his photographs later in New York aren't sure what Nugent has captured on film. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. (June) Nugent's The Search for the Pink-Headed Duck , about his quest for a rare bird in India, is a June paperback reprint from Houghton Mifflin, $10.95 *Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Nugent, in his second travel tome, continues his quest for the unknown and unreachable. His Search for the Pink-Headed Duck (Houghton, 1991) took him deep into the wilds of the Himalayan kingdoms. In his latest travel adventure, Nugent takes his captivated readers to Lake Tele, deep in the heart of the Congo, in search of a dinosaur-like creature named Mokele-Mbembe, a legendary deity that exhibits all the frightening qualities of the Loch Ness Monster. The author, once again employing his sublime sense of humor and adventuresome sense of the outrageous, visits with local witch doctors and tribal chiefs while making his way through the Cretaceous-period jungle and the threatened rain forest. He provides us with a fascinating account of an almost unexplored and wild region.- Melinda Stivers Leach, Wondervu, Col.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Central Africa is in many ways one of the still-blank parts on the map of the continent. Especially northern Congo-Brazzaville, south-east Cameroon and southwest CAR remain off the map of most people except loggers, anthropologists (a very few), and even government officials from those countries. Here is a book which realistically recounts what working and travelling in the area is like. The writing is good, and the reading is, to me, gripping. I have lived in both Cameroon and the Central African Republic, and from my occasional experiences in those forested areas, the book brings back realistic memories for me. I highly recommend this book with those people in love with Africa (I have been here for over 40 years) and interested in gaining more insight into the parts of Africa not totally modernized and homogenized.

Drums along the Congo is an interesting book for people who are interested in Crytozoology (the search for hidden animals).This book deals with the search for Mokele Mebembe, believed by locals and some explorers to be a living dinosaur similar to brontosaurus. Author and explorer Rory Nugent takes the reader on a detailed journey to west Africa and the Congo Basin (the 2nd largest rainforest on Earth). Nugent actually spotted near the end of his expedition what he believes to be

the famous cryptid,a insert of photos is included. We are left to decide for ourselves if we believe in dinosaurs living in the modern day. The Congo is the only place on earth that could support a relic population of prehistoric animals since the temperature and flora are much as they were in the Mesozoic Era-the age of dinosaurs. What if??

Rory Nugent was so close to me in actual footage for so many years here in my home town of New Bedford. Only hearing stories of some cat who live in one of the city's old textile brick building mills. Stories of his adventure lost at sea and adrift for weeks before Coast Guard planes see this impossible little spot...stranded.Strange how I never new him until he's long gone on the other side of the planet when I read On The Docks...Pink Headed Duck....and this beauty.Well done classic scenario appealing to every human being. The great unknown and the quest in search of is a long way from our modern day touch of a button, but.....after all it's in our cellular makeup/DNA. It wasn't too long ago in human history when we were all "on the road" if you will...in order to survive...and educate ourselves.Rory's a throwback in a good and completely useful way.Buy the book man.....what are you thinking about?pistolpete

Entertaining read with enough background information included to explain the author's motives for his quest without needlessly bogging down the narrative. Overall a solid adventure book interesting enough to hold my attention and easy enough to be read in 2-3 days or even quicker.

Nugent writes well,has a fun sense of humor,but was very little actual monster searching done, as most of his time was spent tied up in beauracratic red tape. Still I enjoyed the sense of adventure, the culture he spied and shared with us. Over all not a bad read,but not what i had hoped for, in that i wanted more monster action, although it did demonstrate the difficulties an expedition faces or in Mr.Nugent's case, a single man has in achieving the goals of their dreams .

5 stars for Rory Nugent's great dinosaur hunt! Captivating read that leaves one wondering: What if all we know of earth's history is the real fiction....

Travel along with Rory Nugent, and you will experience an adventure not soon to be forgotten.I very much enjoyed the premise of his trip, as outlandish as it may seem.

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