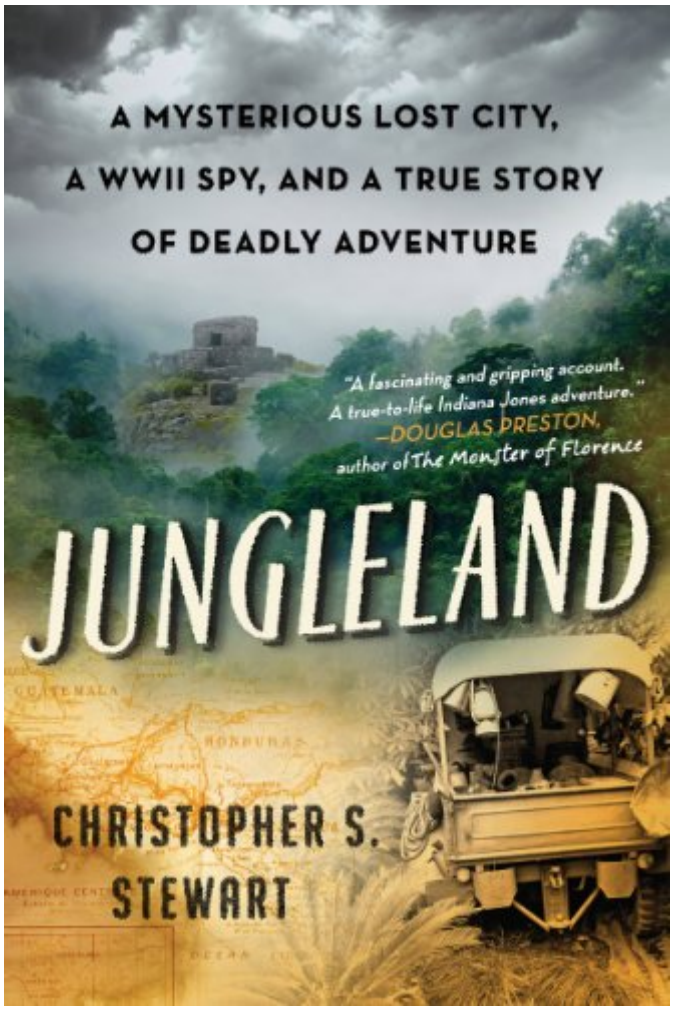
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Jungleland: A Mysterious Lost City And A True Story Of Deadly Adventure (P.S.)



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Synopsis

"I began to daydream about the jungle...."On April 6, 1940, explorer and future World War II spy Theodore Morde (who would one day attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler), anxious about the perilous journey that lay ahead of him, struggled to fall asleep at the Paris Hotel in La Ceiba, Honduras.Nearly seventy years later, in the same hotel, acclaimed journalist Christopher S. Stewart wonders what he's gotten himself into. Stewart and Morde seek the same answer on their quests: the solution to the riddle of the whereabouts of Ciudad Blanca, buried somewhere deep in the rain forest on the Mosquito Coast. Imagining an immense and immaculate El DoradoÃ¢â ¬â œlike city made entirely of gold, explorers as far back as the Spanish conquistador HernÃƒÂ¡n CortÃƒÂ©s have tried to find the fabled White City. Others have gone looking for tall white cliffs and gigantic stone templesÃ¢â ¬â •no one found a trace.Legends, like the jungle, are dense and captivating. Many have sought their fortune or fame down the RÃƒÂ-o PatucaÃ¢â ¬â •from Christopher Columbus to present-day college professorsÃ¢â ¬â •and many have died or disappeared. What begins as a passing interest slowly turns into an obsession as Stewart pieces together the whirlwind life and mysterious death of Morde, a man who had sailed around the world five times before he was thirty and claimed to have discovered what he called the Lost City of the Monkey God.Armed with Morde's personal notebooks and the enigmatic coordinates etched on his well-worn walking stick, Stewart sets out to test the jungle himselfÃ¢â ¬â •and to test himself in the jungle. As we follow the parallel journeys of Morde and Stewart, the ultimate destination morphs with their every twist and turn. Are they walking in circles? Or are they running from their own shadows? Jungleland is part detective story, part classic tale of man versus wild in the tradition of The Lost City of Z and Lost in Shangri-La. A story of young fatherhood as well as the timeless call of adventure, this is an epic search for answers in a place where nothing is guaranteed, least of all survival.

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Customer Reviews

This is an ok read but, in the end, disappointing. The life of spy and adventurer Theodore Morde is in itself worth a book and the trek that Stewart takes into Mosquitia (in Morde's footsteps...kinda) should have been exciting. But the way the book is organized (toggling between chapters on Morde and Stewart's own trek) makes it all a bit disjointed. AND, in spite of sickness, hunger, snakes, mosquitoes, and pirates (yes, pirates), Stewart makes his trek surprisingly mundane. The conclusion is also a bit of a letdown, although its mystical punchline could have been profound. [One final note: reading this at a time when the pundits are going crazy about the lack of democracy in Venezuela is interesting. Part of the back story to this book is how a US-backed military coup displaced a popularly elected President, Mel Zelaya, just before Stewart landed in Honduras. This didn't concern too many folks in North America. Zelaya, like Maduro today, represented the poor...seems like it is ok to abandon democracy when it is only the poor who get hurt.]

Author describes jungle so damp and muddy so deep you'll feel like you're there. Tsk a machete to hack away the mysterious meaning and you find yourself looking for a ticket to the "lost city ". You'll enjoy the bug bites.

I really enjoyed this book. For one thing it's written from the viewpoint of an "expedition amateur" so we get glimpses of problems that other writers might overlook. The history of earlier expeditions is woven into the storyline in a manner that helps to explain the decisions made on the author 's trek. Altogether a good read, JW

Nicely researched. You really feel the environment when reading. Somehow I knew that there would be no clear denouement, just like the Lost City of Z story. Yes, I know it’s the journey, not the destination... I find H. Rider Haggard’s stories more engaging and they have more satisfying endings for me. However, be forewarned; Haggard’s stories reflect the political and racial Euro-centric views of his times.

Recommend to anyone wanting a quick and light adventure tale. Good job with parallel times storytelling. Great ending, though not entirely anticipated.

I love true stories and this was fascinating. I had also read "Lost City of Z" and this is exactly on the same lines. I am planning on purchasing some of his bibliography because I had no idea of the other adventures that wait to be read. Exciting and memorable.

This is a true page-turner. The way he weaves the story back and forth over a seventy year span brings the journey to the mysterious list city to life. I recommend this book especially to those who appreciate wanderlust.

Interesting journey both internally and externally. We seldom read about exploration adventures anymore and this book certainly fills that lack. Fluid writing, interesting details. To me, it was also a book about facing fear, taking stock of one;s mettle and determination, rating the importance of family in one’s life. Other reviewers have complained about the author’s complaining about the difficulty of the trip but I thought those thoughts and hestiations were certainly justified and increased our understanding of how difficult it is to undertake a journey like this .... it was always difficult but perhaps even more so now. Morde’s journey was fascinating. Loved the writing and the details. Will read other books by this author and hope to see more!

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