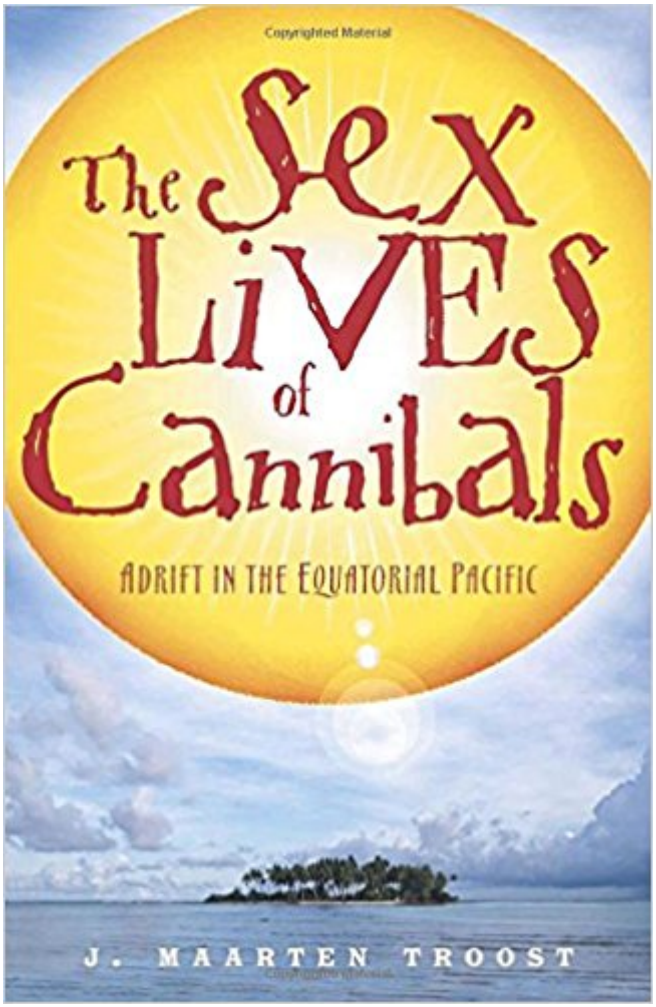
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The Sex Lives Of Cannibals: Adrift In The Equatorial Pacific



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Synopsis

At the age of twenty-six, Maarten TroostÃ¢â ¬â •who had been pushing the snooze button on the alarm clock of life by racking up useless graduate degrees and muddling through a series of temp jobsÃ¢â ¬â •decided to pack up his flip-flops and move to Tarawa, a remote South Pacific island in the Republic of Kiribati. He was restless and lacked direction, and the idea of dropping everything and moving to the ends of the earth was irresistibly romantic. He should have known better.The Sex Lives of Cannibals tells the hilarious story of what happens when Troost discovers that Tarawa is not the island paradise he dreamed of. Falling into one amusing misadventure after another, Troost struggles through relentless, stifling heat, a variety of deadly bacteria, polluted seas, toxic fishÃ¢â ¬â •all in a country where the only music to be heard for miles around is Ã¢â ¬Å“La Macarena.Ã¢â ¬Â• He and his stalwart girlfriend Sylvia spend the next two years battling incompetent government officials, alarmingly large critters, erratic electricity, and a paucity of food options (including the Great Beer Crisis); and contending with a bizarre cast of local characters, including Ã¢â ¬Å“Half-Dead FredÃ¢â ¬Â• and the self-proclaimed Poet Laureate of Tarawa (a British drunkard whoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s never written a poem in his life).With The Sex Lives of Cannibals, Maarten Troost has delivered one of the most original, rip-roaringly funny travelogues in yearsÃ¢â ¬â •one that will leave you thankful for staples of American civilization such as coffee, regular showers, and tabloid news, and that will provide the ultimate vicarious adventure.

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Customer Reviews

At 26, Troost followed his wife to Kiribati, a tiny island nation in the South Pacific. Virtually ignored by the rest of humanity (its erstwhile colonial owners, the Brits, left in 1979), Kiribati is the kind of place where dolphins frolic in lagoons, days end with glorious sunsets and airplanes might have to circle overhead because pigs occupy the island's sole runway. Troost's wife was working for an international nonprofit; the author himself planned to hang out and maybe write a literary masterpiece. But Kiribati wasn't quite paradise. It was polluted, overpopulated and scorchingly sunny (Troost could almost feel his freckles mutating into something "interesting and tumorous"). The villages overflowed with scavengers and recently introduced, nonbiodegradable trash. And the Kiribati people seemed excessively hedonistic. Yet after two years, Troost and his wife felt so comfortable, they were reluctant to return home. Troost is a sharp, funny writer, richly evoking the strange, day-by-day wonder that became his life in the islands. One night, he's doing his best funky chicken with dancing Kiribati; the next morning, he's on the high seas contemplating a toilet extending off the boat's stern (when the ocean was rough, he learns, it was like using a bidet). Troost's chronicle of his sojourn in a forgotten world is a comic masterwork of travel writing and a revealing look at a culture clash. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Although accustomed to globe trotting, Troost and his wife, Sylvia, were truly innocents abroad when they moved to the island of Tarawa in the South Pacific, where Sylvia had accepted a government position. Tarawa is the capital of Kiribati--a republic of tiny atolls located just above the equator--and the place where Troost's dreams of paradise were shattered. Although Tarawa has much to offer, such as stultifying heat, dogged bureaucracy, toxic water, La Macarena, and the fantastic rituals of the I-Kiribati people, it lacks running water, television, restaurants, air-conditioning, and, the most crucial amenity, beer. Culture shock ensued for Maarten and Sylvia, and he chronicles their two years on Tarawa in a hilarious, sardonic travelogue. Among the more memorable episodes is the time a simple fishing trip turns into a hunt for a giant thresher shark and when Troost blasts a Miles Davis CD to combat the incessant repetition of La Macarena. Troost's mystified admiration for the I-Kiribati people shines through it all, and readers learn how humor itself can be a necessary tool for survival. Jerry EberleCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

There's no real plot here, no through line that makes you curious what will happen next. But it is a charming account of remote island life - realistic, quirky, disease-ridden, lively. - from an outsider's

point of view. It also has some interesting history about the area that will make you shake your head in shame over the way we treat this planet.

Personally, I only got as far as Hawaii, but this book about Kiribati echoes what I intuited while there. In brief: the natives are NOT happy and it is NOT paradise, at least for them! This book also captured more accurately than most the dissolute atmosphere of the South Pacific and the ennui of the place. You can't get this stuff in the official guidebooks which scream "aloha" and "paradise". This is what real life is like in this part of the world and in this part of a very large, isolating ocean. The brief section on gender relations was, to my mind, especially revealing.

Hilarious. Highly recommended for those who appreciate adventurous travels and living around the world.

The Sex Lives of Cannibals is a terrific recap of Maarten and Sylvia's adventure to life in the equatorial pacific. This a very well written, humorous, and honest portrayal of a young couples move to Tarawa (Sylvia takes a government job, Maarten joins her to "write"). Troost makes you feel as if you are actually there going through the daily trials and tribulations of their minimalist, island life. From bathroom relief in the ocean, to replay of la macarena, learning about non-pet vs. pet dogs, and island food this book kept me thoroughly entertained. It's impressive that these 2 survived 2 years and even more so that they endeared themselves to the natives and the natives and island to them! Though it may have ended appropriately, I felt the end was a bit rushed-- I would have liked more of a look at their return and subsequent move (attempting to avoid a spoiler alert with any more details). I will definitely read another one of Troost's books!

I liked this book, I found myself laughing out loud a few times. I enjoyed the lessons learned by the author and his wife.....the simple life isn't so simple, but ultimately it's better than chaos.

This book with the fetching title introduced me to J. Maarten Troost. Like his, my childhood began in Mitteleuropa.Although he doesn't know me from Adam's house cat, I immediately felt a bond with him. He has the kind ofhumor that appeals to Europeans. He's also exceedingly well read and intelligent.

the title pulled me in, the entertaining writing kept me engaged, and in the midst of it all, I learned

geography, cultural history, and anthropology. As a former peace corps volunteer, i could completely relate with the author's shock at the heat and filth that awaited him on a tropical island. Adventure fantasies quickly turn into a living hell, and fortunately for us, Mr. Troost has a witty, charming style that converts it all into hilarious reminiscence. He reminds me of a younger, trendier, more succinct Bill Bryson. Buy the paper copy and share it; you'll be finished with it before you know it.

Funny book

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