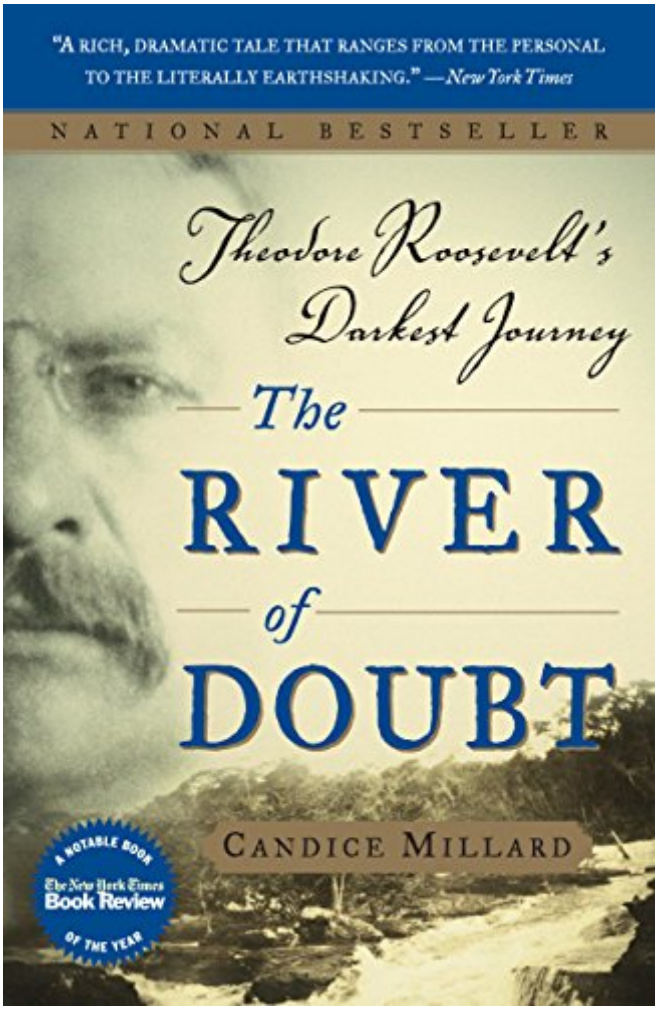
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The River Of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey



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Synopsis

At once an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait, The River of Doubt is the true story of Theodore RooseveltÃ¢â ¬â„¢s harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth.The River of DoubtÃ¢â ¬â •it is a black, uncharted tributary of the that snakes through one of the most treacherous jungles in the world. Indians armed with poison-tipped arrows haunt its shadows; piranhas glide through its waters; boulder-strewn rapids turn the river into a roiling cauldron.After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the . Together with his son Kermit and BrazilÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most famous explorer, CÃƒÂ¢ndido Mariano da Silva Rondon, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. In the process, he changed the map of the western hemisphere forever.Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Three men died, and Roosevelt was brought to the brink of suicide. The River of Doubt brings alive these extraordinary events in a powerful nonfiction narrative thriller that happens to feature one of the most famous Americans who ever lived.From the soaring beauty of the rain forest to the darkest night of Theodore RooseveltÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life, here is Candice MillardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dazzling debut.From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent account of Teddy Roosevelt's "trip" down a wild tributary of the mighty . The author captures the huge ego yet compassionate nature of Roosevelt as he recovers from a crushing election loss and attempts to redeem himself yet again through a severe physical and mental "test". This is not just a travelogue through almost impenetrable rivers and jungle teeming with seemingly alien fish, animal and plant life but also a clash of wills between highly accomplished and powerful men. Millard's writing pulls off a superb account of all this without losing the reader in unnecessary details yet while fully retaining interest in the personal and grandiose events that occur. The finely described "characters" in this true story, include the ian jungle itself, contend with and against each other to produce an absorbing, never boring and ultimately highly satisfying true tale of survival and loss while battling seemingly impossible odds. These odds are not just those posed by the journey itself, but also those generated by the almost unbelievably cavalier approach to planning this very difficult project and by the clashing personalities and personal objectives involved. Millard seems to have the knack of getting right inside the characters' heads and making us fully aware of all their varied motives, strengths and particularly weaknesses. A tour-de-force worthy of the top literary awards.

Almost unbelievable journey on the . Extremely arduous trip, not sure why people put themselves in such danger. Super interesting & hard to put down, best read in years. Excellent debut for this author, reads like a novel but so full of facts & info.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's part adventure story, part presidential biopic, part naturalist story. It's rare that I can really enjoy a book towards the end of a very long flight but this one made the time pass quickly on my 15+ flight to China. It's an easy read but a ton of careful research has also gone into it.

The author is a gripping narrator. I had previously read her Destiny of the Republic, which I found so

compelling that I searched for other books she had written. That led me to this one.Theodore Roosevelt was one of the most original characters in American history (see Edmund Morris' three volume biography). His life was filled with challenging, courageous adventures, and this was surely his most challenging and most courageous. It is a wonder any member of this expedition lived to tell about it. It is impossible to put down this compelling story. Millard has thoroughly researched, painstakingly organized, and masterfully written this book. Her writing style is fluid and spell-binding.My only criticism relates to a small bit of her history. Among the many dangers encountered by this expedition was being stalked by a Stone Age Indian tribe, the Cinta Larga. The Cinta Larga was so isolated that civilization did not make contact with them until the late 1960s, more than a half century after they stalked the Roosevelt mission. Yet the book tells us in significant detail what these invisible stalkers were thinking and discussing as they were deciding whether to attack the Roosevelt mission. I was so surprised by this that after I finished the book, I searched her notes for some factual basis for these assertions. Her notes indicate that she interviewed some members of the tribe, but that must have been at least three generations after the events recorded. While she may have some basis for speculating on what went through the minds of the stalkers, I would have preferred for her to temper that part of the chronicle with "probably" and "likely," rather than reporting it as fact. But that criticism should not be read as tainting the book as a whole, which is superb.I highly recommend this book.

Intriguing and well-written story about a period in the life of an ex-US president that most Americans don't know about. As the book description indicates, it tells of Roosevelt's exploration of an unmapped and unexplored region of the rain forest.Millard is a natural story teller, with the ability to intertwine multiple lines into one fluid story. It was extremely well researched, as I learned some fascinating things about nature that I had never heard of before. The section on the predators and parasites was absolutely fascinating.A very compelling story about an interesting person.

A part of our world's history, this is an amazing true story with twists and turns, tragedy and triumph, and reminder of man's strong will to survive and ability to do so against overwhelming odds. I first heard this story condensed in a book club review, and just finished reading it to my teenage son who often tried to keep me reading it far past his bedtime. We both enjoyed it and learned important parts of history and the amazing life in the rainforest. I encourage everyone to read this book.

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