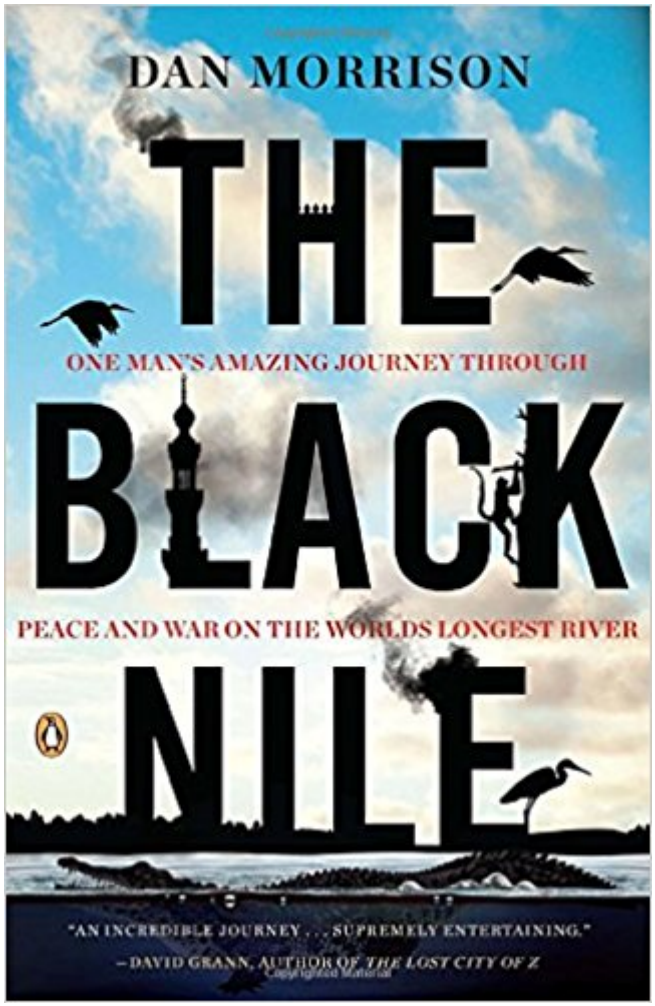
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# The Black Nile: One Man's Amazing Journey Through Peace And War On The World's Longest River




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## Synopsis

"A supremely entertaining work, and also an important one." -David Grann, author of The Lost City of Z  Upon hearing the news of tenuous peace in Sudan, foreign correspondent Dan Morrison bought a plank-board boat, summoned a friend who'd never left America, and set out from Uganda, paddling the Nile on a quest to reach Cairo-a trip that tyranny and war had made impossible for decades. With the propulsive force of a thriller, Morrison's chronicle is a mash-up of travel narrative and reportage, packed with flights into the frightful and absurd. From the hardscrabble fishing villages on Lake Victoria to the floating nightclubs of Cairo, The Black Nile tracks the snarl of commonalities and conflicts that bleed across the Nile valley, bringing to life a complex region in profound transition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Morrison and a buddy embarked from Lake Victoria with the goal of descending the Nile River to the Mediterranean Sea. This was in 2006, when civil wars in countries on their routeÃ¢â ¬â •Uganda and SudanÃ¢â ¬â •had recently subsided. So prospective dangers awaiting the travelers included river rapids, wild animals, malaria, and armed and suspicious men. Solving their first problem, obtaining a boat, the duo discover that their craft is less than seaworthy; as its woes mount, Morrison merrily narrates landings at riverside villages and bargaining for food and accommodations. When his pal has had enough of equatorial Africa and returns to America, Morrison, now boatless, presses on via barge and bus. With sympathetic acuity about the personalities, tribal societies, and mechanical ingenuity of those he encounters, Morrison crafts

impressions that will teach travelogue readers much about contemporary Sudan. ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s enough amusement to balance the seriousness of politics, such that when visa problems interrupt MorrisonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey, his audience will stay to see if he reaches the sea. Recommend this title to readers who enjoyed Tim ButcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Blood River (2008). --Gilbert Taylor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is hard-core African travel." --Hugh Pope, Wall Street Journal"A masterful narrative of investigative reportage, travel writing, and contemporary history." --The Daily Beast"[A] portrait of a fractured country just one spark away from a renewal of hostilities." -Joshua Hammer, The New York Times"This is hard-core African travel...[With] Mr. Morrison's peppery anecdotes, his refreshing honesty and his ability to show how Africans view their difficulties ... the book gives us a compelling portrait of life along the Nile-from lonely fishing communities on Lake Victoria to the cacophonous collisions of Cairo." -Hugh Pope, Wall Street Journal "Dan Morrison takes the reader on an incredible journey in The Black Nile. Weaving together intense travel writing and history, he has produced a supremely entertaining work, and also an important one." -David Grann, author of The Lost City of Z and The Devil and Sherlock Holmes "Morrison's determined travelogue-cum-political reportage...excels in bringing the place, politics and history of this fragile region alive." -Ethan Gilsdorf, Boston Globe "Marvelous...A beautifully written tale of an American on a journey to find out who else is out there, what they're thinking, why they do what they do...Every time you think a stretch of Africa is beyond redemption, Morrison strikes up a conversation with another thoughtful pilgrim with a funny, interesting, and often hopeful things to say." -Tom Robbins, The Village Voice "Beautifully written. A masterful narrative of investigative reportage, travel writing, and contemporary history...The Black Nile is all at once thrilling, sad, and-most of all-thoughtful." -The Daily Beast "Dan Morrison is too young to have been part of the Gonzo movement. But if Hunter Thompson decided to travel the Nile, from its Ugandan source to Alexandria, encountering gun-toting whackos, crazed religious zealots, scary profiteers and a rich cast of characters in one of the world's most contested regions-well, I think he would have loved to share his trek with Morrison. Fasten your seat belts, readers!" -Laurie Garrett, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of The Coming Plague "[The Black Nile] vacillates between racy travel tale and political commentary... [as] Morrison combines wit with deep reporting about the region." - Laura Speyer, Bloomberg News "Part travelogue, part crazy adventure tale, part political reportage . . . Morrison's African river journey is a paradoxical mixture of awe-inspiring discoveries, eye-opening human interactions and perilous escapes." -Chuck Leddy, Minneapolis Star-Tribune "The Black Nile reveals a traveler of dark humor and insight,

equal parts Paul Theroux and Bill Buford." -Robert Twigger, author of Dr. Ragab's Universal Language and Angry White Pyjamas "[Morrison] avoids the evangelical zeal and nanve prescriptions other Africa books fall victim to...[while] the more adventuresome portions of The Black Nile keep it from reading like a textbook...[He] teeters dangerously close to gunfights, disease, and run-ins with the authorities while relying on former rebels, proto-entrepreneurs, and crooked bureaucrats to get him through." -Outside "Morrison's account transcends the travel genre to provide authentic and timely information on a complicated part of the world. Highly recommended." -Melissa Stearns, Library Journal "An unorthodox travelogue... packed with illuminating, gritty detail." -Kirkus "Part On the Road, part Fear and Loathing in Africa, Dan Morrison takes us with him on his journey down the Nile-teaching us, by example, to be explorers of both the world and ourselves." -Kevin Sites, author of In the Hot Zone "The only thing more vivid would be traveling the river yourself. Then again, you may be a little more skittish about contested borders, rampaging militias and tiny plank-board boats than Dan Morrison is. The Black Nile is eye- opening, breath-taking, heart-pounding and, frankly, all the adventure I'm up for now." -Ellis Henican, Fox News Channel

This book details the author's somewhat piecemeal journey from Jinja in Uganda, the purported source of the Nile, tracing as best as could be done under the political and geographical circumstances the course of the Nile until it discharges into the Mediterranean. The author's writing style is typical for a journalist, trying to maintain a sort of forced neutrality of opinion about the characters he meets and countries through which he passes. This has the effect of lessening to impact on the reader of the trials and hardship the author undoubtedly passed through which in turn makes for somewhat bland (ie boring) reading. I honestly struggled to get through this one, my strong interest in the region notwithstanding. 3/5 stars.

I have to admit that it took me a few weeks to pick up this book. My husband bought it and I was thinking "boy book" (I tend to read fiction and memoir). But I did pick it up and then I couldn't put it down. Yes, this is a book about a very troubled part of the world. Yes, it introduces some geopolitical and environmental problems that seem intractable. But what I didn't expect was the sense of humor and wide-open Experience with a capital "E." Morrison takes the reader to a part of the world where few will travel and he gives not just a lay of the land or a catalog of woe but a sense of the people -- as individuals. It wasn't until I was reading "The Black Nile" that I realized most of what I know about Africa and Africans is broad, general, removed. Faraway. This book is individual,

specific, upclose. Vivid. One of the jacket reviewers uses that word and I can't think of a better one. A truly excellent book.

Very informative and entertaining book. I learned a lot about the upper NIle . The author was brave to take this sometimes dangerous journey.

What a terrific and enjoyable read.

I was a little disappointed with the author, having thought that he would have been more prepared for this trip than he was. Perhaps I was spoiled by Dark Star Safari which is a great book. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the insights he gave on South Sudan.

Wow! This guy did hard traveling and lived to tell. Very interesting look into the lesser known parts of the Nile.

A nearly perfect book--entertaining from start to finish, well written, nicely edited and full of great scenes and vivid, larger-than-life characters.

I started out enjoying this audiobook but I'm afraid it just could not hold my attention after about halfway through.

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