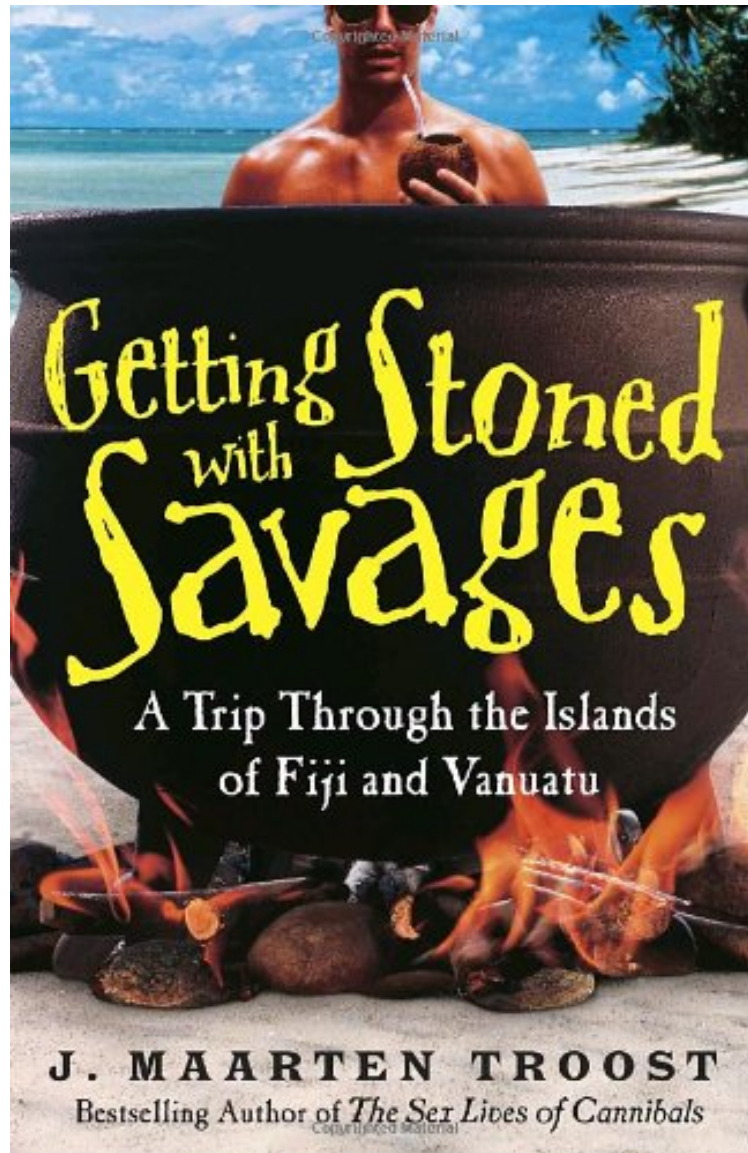


(Library ebook) Getting Stoned with Savages: A Trip Through the Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu

Getting Stoned with Savages: A Trip Through the Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu

J. Maarten Troost

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J. Maarten Troost : Getting Stoned with Savages: A Trip Through the Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Getting Stoned with Savages: A Trip Through the Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the book and went to a kava bar to ...By Frank SnigleyI

enjoyed the book and went to a kava bar to try kava from Vanuatu. I was okay with the fact that it tasted like dirt because I was interested in the effect, but it did nothing more than numb my tongue. Then I was then told that it's supposed to be downed in one fell swoop. So I did that, but it just made me nauseous. Maybe one has to go to Vanuatu to experience what the author did. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this book for book club and I enjoyed it. The author actually went and did what ...By BrandyRead this book for book club and I enjoyed it. The author actually went and did what so many people sit and think about doing every single day. Life is short. We should all take more adventures!! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great for a quick, fun, light read! By JKH This was my first Troost book, and I found it laugh out loud funny, witty, and a light, fun, fast read. It was well worth the day it took to read it. I'm not going to suggest it was profound, thought provoking, or a must read from a literary sense, but it's one of those books that you read when you want something funny and light. It sounds like the people who first read "Sex Lives of Cannibals" were somewhat disappointed in this book. (Which just tells me that "Sex Lives of Cannibals" must be hilarious! Maybe everyone should read this one first.) Without having read that to compare to (therefore rating purely on a stand-alone basis), I found this book really enjoyable. Troost's witty humor, sarcasm, and ability to poke fun at himself make for an enjoyable read (especially between books tackling heavier subject matters). It's like taking your own mini vacation.

With *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*, Maarten Troost established himself as one of the most engaging and original travel writers around. *Getting Stoned with Savages* again reveals his wry wit and infectious joy of discovery in a side-splittingly funny account of life in the farthest reaches of the world. After two grueling years on the island of Tarawa, battling feral dogs, machete-wielding neighbors, and a lack of beer on a daily basis, Maarten Troost was in no hurry to return to the South Pacific. But as time went on, he realized he felt remarkably out of place among the trappings of twenty-first-century America. When he found himself holding down a job one that might possibly lead to a career he knew it was time for him and his wife, Sylvia, to repack their bags and set off for parts unknown. *Getting Stoned with Savages* tells the hilarious story of Troost's time on Vanuatu's rugged cluster of islands where the natives gorge themselves on kava and are still known to eat the man. Falling into one amusing misadventure after another, Troost struggles against typhoons, earthquakes, and giant centipedes and soon finds himself swept up in the laid-back, clothing-optional lifestyle of the islanders. When Sylvia gets pregnant, they decamp for slightly-more-civilized Fiji, a fallen paradise where the local chiefs can be found watching rugby in the house next door. And as they contend with new parenthood in a country rife with prostitutes and government coups, their son begins to take quite naturally to island living in complete contrast to his dad.

From Publishers Weekly Using a format similar to that of his previous work, *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*, Troost creates another comical and touching travel memoir. Troost and his wife, Sylvia, move from busy Washington, D.C., to Vanuatu, a nation made up of 83 islands in the South Pacific. As Sylvia works for a regional nonprofit, Troost immerses himself in the islands' culture, an odd mix of the islanders' thousand-year-old "kastoms" along with imperialist British and French influences. This really means that Troost gets to live in a nice house while he gets drunk on kava; dodges "a long inferno of magma and a cascade of lava bombs" at the "world's most accessible volcano"; and checks out the "calcified" leftovers from one of Vanuatu's not-so-ancient traditions, cannibalism. At the end of the book, the couple move to Fiji so that Sylvia will have state-of-the-art medical care when she gives birth to their first baby. While modern-day Fiji provides little fodder for Troost's comic sensibilities, the birth of his son enables him to share some deeper thoughts and decide it is "time to stop looking for paradise." A funny travelogue with a sentimental heart, Troost's latest work genuinely captures the search for paradise as well as the need for home. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Praise for *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*: A comic masterwork of travel writing. Publishers Weekly Troost has a command of place and narrative that puts his debut in the company of some of today's best travel writers. Elle A delightful, self-deprecating, extremely sly account of life in a place so wretched it gives new, terrible meaning to getting away from it all. National Geographic Adventure About the Author J. MAARTEN TROOST recently returned from his years in Vanuatu and Fiji. He, his wife, and their two children live in Sacramento, California.