

(Free read ebook) Running the Amazon

## Running the Amazon

Joe Kane

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**Joe Kane : Running the Amazon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Running the Amazon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really like this book - I read it years ago because ...By J. HutchinI really like this book - I read it years ago because I was into kayaking and white-water rafting and identified with the subject matter. Recently at a company meeting someone did an ice-breaking thing where everyone around the dinner table had to state a "bucket-list" adventure they wanted to do. Someone said "canoe the " and it immediately brought

this book to mind. I couldn't find my old copy, so I bought a new one to give to that person (and gave to him tonight, after re-reading the book again first).. I liked how the story was told, it was an interesting read, and will be even if you are not into whitewater adventure. Joe Kane did a good job with the descriptions of the canyons, forests and local people, tying them into the history of the well. I found the reading difficult at first solely because of the foreign names of the team members, which to my English mind were difficult to pronounce internally to myself as I was reading. Once I overcame that through force of will, the pages turned quickly and I enjoyed the adventure as much the second time reading it as I did the first. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BoringBy Felicia DemosUgh, can't keep up with the characters and it was like reading the life of a person who did the same thing every day. I was very disappointed. You'd think reading about someone "running the " would be exciting, but I never felt the thrill that I assumed I would. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinary adventureBy Doctor.GenerosityI first became aware of writer Joe Kane when the New Yorker a few weeks ago reprinted an article of his from 1993. This was about the Huaorani tribe of Ecuador and their efforts to hold off big oil companies from destroying their land. It was heartfelt work by the author. This led me to his other books, *Savages*, which is a deeper study of the Andean Indians, and *Running the Amazon*. *Running the Amazon* is a page turner. I ordered it from Amazon, started to read and could not put it down. Kane was attached to an expedition of ten, mostly Europeans, who planned to raft the Amazon from its headwaters high in the Peruvian Andes all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, 4200 miles. Kane gives a vivid narrative of the country they pass, the locals they encounter - including armed Sendero Luminoso Maoist guerillas - and the divisive relationships within the expedition. The effort was poorly planned and the team badly organized. Some members were world class white water experts while others - including the expedition organizer and Kane himself - were unskilled or even complete novices. Their lives were put at risk thereby. The upper Apurimac river is one of the most violent and dangerous cascades in the world; Class Five does not begin to grade it. About half the international whitewater expeditions over the past fifty years have lost members by drowning, some within minutes of putting boat to water. From Kane's account, it seems clear he and others should have died on the river, and narrowly escaped several times by sheer good fortune. Only four of ten made it to the Atlantic six months from the start. The book slows down when the river does, but is still interesting as Kane and his Polish partner kayak all the way to Belem. A thrilling story and classic of outdoor adventure. Highly recommended. Kane is a passionate advocate for native peoples and wild lands, and I was disappointed that he appears to have abandoned serious writing after the two books. His career now is administrator of a land trust and environmental organization in Olympia, Washington. Thanks for your books Joe and best wishes.

The voyage began in the lunar terrain of the Peruvian Andes, where coca leaf is the only remedy against altitude sickness. It continued down rapids so fierce they could swallow a raft in a split second. It ended six months and 4,200 miles later, where the Amazon runs gently into the Atlantic. Joe Kane's personal account of the first expedition to travel the entirety of the world's longest river is a riveting adventure in the tradition of Joseph Conrad, filled with death-defying encounters: with narco-traffickers and Sendero Luminoso guerrillas and nature at its most unforgiving. Not least of all, *Running the Amazon* shows a polyglot group of urbanized travelers confronting their wilder selves -- their fear and egotism, selflessness and courage.

.com In 1985 a team of hand-picked adventurers, including writer Joe Kane, embarked on a journey that would take them to the remote headwaters of the Basin. But that was just the beginning of the trip. Their goal: to navigate the world's longest river from source to mouth, a feat never before recorded. After reaching (via a goat trail) a glacial trickle above 17,000 feet--debatably the farthest source of the Amazon--the team descends to a point where kayaks can be deployed. From there the trip entails kayaking through one of the nastiest white-water canyons on the planet, a stretch of water that has previously claimed the lives or quickly halted the plans of all who attempted to conquer it; navigating an unmapped gorge known affectionately as the Abyss; sneaking through the "Red Zone," an area closed to foreigners and occupied by the notorious Shining Path rebels; and, finally, paddling to the Atlantic by sea kayak through 3,000 miles of hot jungle. Hired initially to chronicle the project from dry land, Kane quickly assumes a more integral role as a much-needed paddler, and as such he is able to provide vivid, first-hand descriptions of the treacherous water encountered. But in many ways the water is the least imposing obstacle to success. Along the way the team is beset by financial difficulties, a crisis of leadership, attacks from armed rebels, and the defection of team members. Kane's account of this six-month ordeal is much more than a travelogue of athletic endeavor--it's a fascinating portrait of the planning, politics, and personal struggles involved in mounting a modern-day expedition through a vast expanse of largely uncharted territory. From Publishers Weekly It was an ill-assorted multinational party of 10 men and one woman; their object was to run the 4200 miles of the Amazon, from a snowfield in the Peruvian Andes to the Atlantic Ocean. Kane was the only American in the group. Of the original 11, only four, Kane among them, reached the sea, six months after the start. This is a spine-tingling adventure narrative that leaves the reader eager to learn what next will befall these hapless travelers. They encountered extremes of weather, altitude sickness, suicidal rapids, armed guerrillas; they met Indians who had never encountered white people; they camped on the grounds of a cocaine

factory. Kane gives a vivid account of running the rapids--some of the members were swept into the river, barely escaping death. It was a grueling journey and a historic one--this expedition was the first to paddle the entire length of the . Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.From School Library JournalYA-- From the continental divide in the Peruvian Andes to the Atlantic Ocean, Kane hauls readers along with the multi-national crew striving to be the first group to traverse the River from its snowfield source to its fog-clad drain into the Atlantic. Originally hired to document and report the expedition, Kane found himself learning to kayak in order to survive and to earn a permanent place on the troubled expedition. Plagued by freezing temperatures, flu, heat, malaria, violent storms, and an ineffectual leader, the six months on the river brought deadly white-water rapids, communist guerrillas, and thrills that only four of the original ten crew members were able to endure to the climax of the expedition. This action-packed adventure story will appeal to young adult fiction and nonfiction readers alike. --Gwen Salama, Hastings High School, Alief I.S.D., TX :Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.