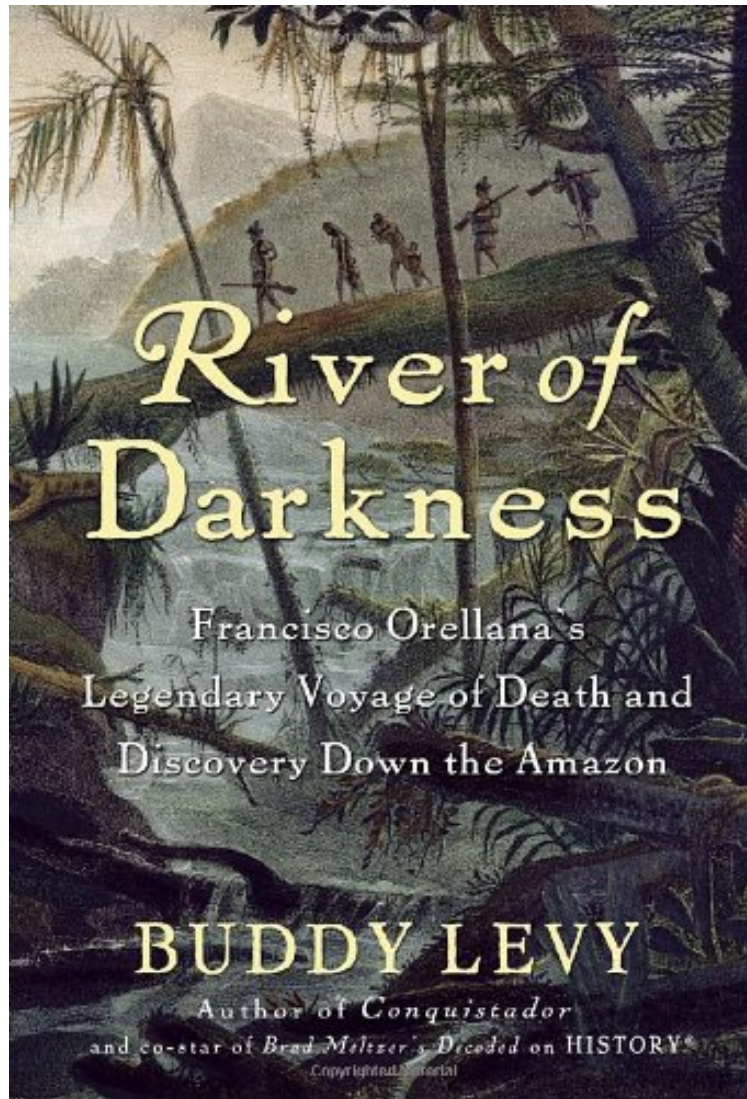


[Pdf free] River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana's Legendary Voyage of Death and Discovery Down the Amazon

## River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana's Legendary Voyage of Death and Discovery Down the Amazon

Buddy Levy

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**Buddy Levy : River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana's Legendary Voyage of Death and Discovery Down the Amazon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana's Legendary Voyage of Death and Discovery Down the Amazon:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Incredible, well written tale of survival and discovery By Brisguy Not much to add to the other positive reviews. Buddy Levy makes history come alive with a nice mix of historical retelling combined with personal motivations and detail derived from thorough research. I was drawn to this story after doing a little reading on early South America and finding that they had a robust trade of not just items, but ideas with the people of the basin. In fact, one archeologist thinks the culture of many of the people of the Andes came from the . My only disappointment with the book was the scant converge of the cultures of the tribes the explorers met along the way, but of course, they were fighting against time for their own survival. I was fascinated by this true tale of adventure and discovery. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Historical account by Levy By Michael A. Nelson Actually what brought me to this book was my interest in the indigenous people of the area and the current archeological findings and their interpretation. The BBC presented a program entitled "The Secret of El Dorado." The program referred to Orellana's trip down the River 1542 which, while apparently well-documented, seemed to be mythical. Scientific investigations have discounted Orellano's account of large communities along much of the River due to an underlying assumption that the basic soils of the basin are not adequate to allow intensive agriculture which is the basis for large community development. Current scientific investigation reveals that indigenous peoples had developed a system of agriculture, termed "terra preta" which allowed adequate production of food for large populations. In addition, archeology has located and examined numerous areas which were probably abandoned because of the indigenous contact with Europeans as happened in North America. The second aspect of Levy's book is the historical material about Conquistadors, Spanish power, and the colonization of the Inca Empire from Francisco Pizarro to Orellana's trip down the and the fate of the Pizarro family in Peru. The workings of the Spanish government and the politics of the time are interesting historically and in comparison with current world governments and situations. I recommend this book for the above reasons. Mike Nelson 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Buddy Levy's Francisco Orellana's book (River of Darkness) By Paulo Reimann All books about an adventure, including the El Dorado, by Conquistadores or more into the modern times is great reading. The one just written by Buddy Levy is simply great. The book approaches a complex moment of history making it serious, historical and fun. The book is page turning from the start to the end (3 days along vacations), actually on a boat. Buddy Levy puts you in the picture of hardship of how the world, from the Andes to the Indian sea discharge was made. Great reading for historians and non. A must read.

From the acclaimed author of Conquistador comes this thrilling account of one of history's greatest adventures of discovery. With cinematic immediacy and meticulous attention to historical detail, here is the true story of a legendary sixteenth-century explorer and his death-defying navigation of the Amazon river of darkness, pathway to gold. In 1541, the brutal conquistador Gonzalo Pizarro and his well-born lieutenant Francisco Orellana set off from Quito in search of La Canela, South America's rumored Land of Cinnamon, and the fabled El Dorado, the golden man. Driving an enormous retinue of mercenaries, enslaved natives, horses, hunting dogs, and other animals across the Andes, they watched their proud expedition begin to disintegrate even before they descended into the nightmarish jungle, following the course of a powerful river. Soon hopelessly lost in the swampy labyrinth, their numbers diminishing daily through disease, starvation, and Indian attacks, Pizarro and Orellana made a fateful decision to separate. While Pizarro eventually returned home barefoot and in rags, Orellana and fifty-seven men, in a few fragile craft, continued downriver into the unknown reaches of the mighty Amazon, serenaded by native war drums and the eerie cries of exotic predators. Theirs would be the greater glory. Interweaving eyewitness accounts of the quest with newly uncovered details, Buddy Levy reconstructs the seminal journey that has electrified adventurers ever since, as Orellana became the first European to navigate and explore the entire length of the world's largest river. Levy gives a long-overdue account of the native populations—some peaceful and welcoming, offering sustenance and life-saving guidance, others ferociously hostile, subjecting the invaders to gauntlets of unremitting attack and intimations of terrifying rituals. And here is the Amazon itself, a powerful presence whose every twist and turn held the promise of new wonders both natural and man-made, as well as the ever-present risk of death—a river that would hold Orellana in its irresistible embrace to the end of his life. Overflowing with violence and beauty, nobility and tragedy, River of Darkness is both riveting history and a breathtaking adventure that will sweep readers along on an epic voyage unlike any other.

From Publishers Weekly In this fluid account, Levy narrates the story of the conquistadors who became the first Europeans to navigate the length of the River. After plundering the Inca empire, Gonzalo Pizarro and Francisco Orellana set out from Quito with an expedition of soldiers and Indian slaves in search of El Dorado. The two explorers became separated and the expedition quickly became lost in the jungle, then decimated by disease, starvation, and native attacks. Desperate, Orellana and the remaining conquistadors built a large boat and sailed downriver. Realizing that he would be unable to wait for Pizarro, Orellana set his sights on the Atlantic Ocean thousands of miles away. Levy does a fine job of organizing an enormous amount of historical material and balancing the accounts of Orellana and Pizarro after they separated. As one conflict follows another in rapid succession, they tend to blur into each other,

though Levy provides enough descriptive detail and pacing to differentiate between the various native groups and aspects of the river. He also addresses the new archeological research that is changing our understanding of the cultures of the pre-Columbian Basin. (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Praise for River of Darkness: "River of Darkness immediately takes its place as the definitive book on one of the great voyages into the unknown of all time, Orellana's accidental first descent of the . Not only is it a solid contribution to the scholarly literature on ia, but it is a riveting and irresistible read, narrative history of a literary quality rarely encountered that compares with Alan Moorehead's great books on the Nile. Bravissimo !" -- Alex Shoumatoff, contributing editor, Vanity Fair; publisher DispatchesFromTheVanishingworld.com, and author of In Southern Light, The Rivers , and The World is BurningIn River of Darkness, Buddy Levy proves that the scariest stories are the true ones. Filled with fascinating details and the terror that comes with exploring something for the very first time, this is history coming back to life.- Brad Meltzer, Bestselling author of The Book of Fate and The Inner CircleBuddy Levy is one of those rare and gifted authors whose books are virtual time machines that effortlessly transport us back through centuries. In River of Darkness, we participate in one of history's signal explorations, Francisco Orellana's descent of the River. We see blood, smell smoke, hear screams of joy and agony. Levy's impeccably researched book is at once harrowing adventure and revealing history. Better than any in recent memory, River of Darkness sheds new light and reveals the darkest aspects of the Conquistadors' brave and bloody New World forays.-James M. Tabor, Author of Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth.About the AuthorBuddy Levy is the author of the recent books No Barriers: A Blind Man's Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon (with Erik Weihe Meyer), Geronimo: Leadership Strategies of an American Warrior (with Mike Leach), and River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana's Legendary Voyage of Death and Discovery Down the . His other books include Conquistador: Hernn Cortes, King Montezuma, and the Last Stand of the Aztecs, which was a finalist for the 2009 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award and nominated for the 2009 Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award and a 2009 PEN Center USA Award, American Legend: The Real-Life Adventures of David Crockett, and Echoes on Rimrock: In Pursuit of the Chukar Partridge. His books have been published in six languages. As a freelance journalist, he has covered adventure sports and lifestyle/travel subjects around the world, including several Eco-Challenges and other adventure expeditions in Argentina, Borneo, Europe, Greenland, Morocco, and the Philippines. His magazine articles and essays have appeared in Alaska Beyond, Backpacker, Big Sky Journal, Couloir, Discover, High Desert Journal, Poets Writers, River Teeth, Ski, Trail Runner, Utne Reader, TV Guide, and VIA. He is clinical associate professor of English at Washington State University, and lives in northern Idaho.