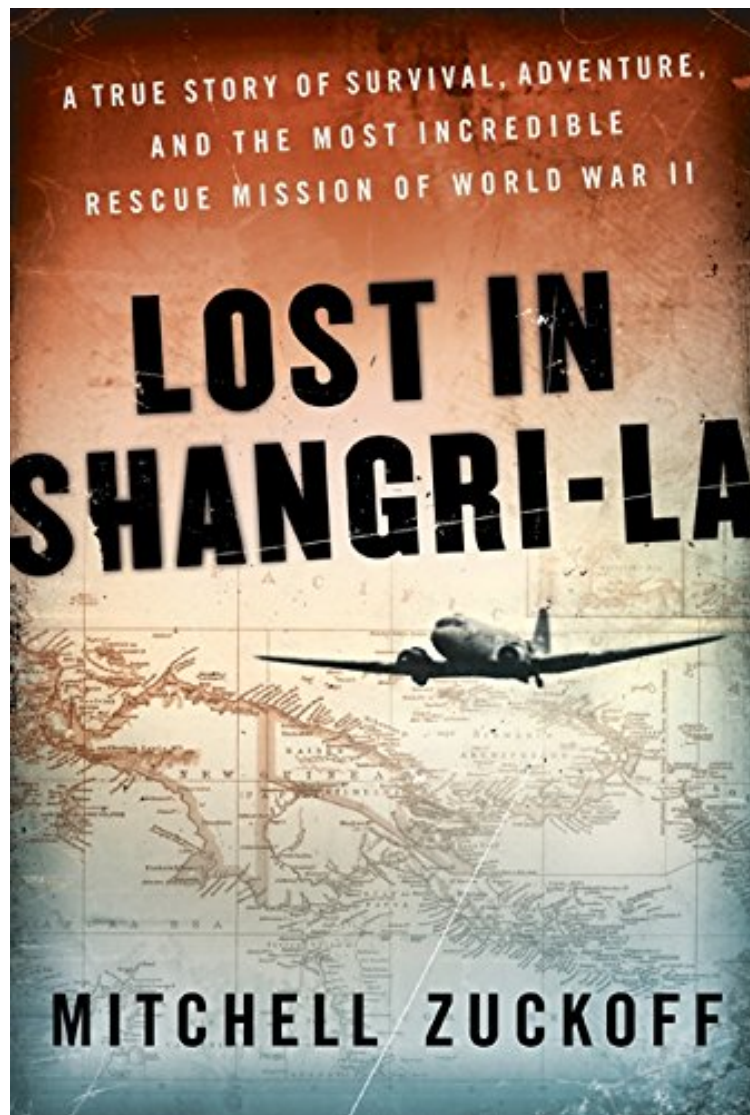


[Read ebook] Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II

Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II

Mitchell Zuckoff

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#203293 in Books HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS 2011-04-26 2011-04-26Format: Deckle EdgeOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.25 x 6.00l, 1.34 #File Name: 0061988340400 pagesGreat product! | File size: 71.Mb

Mitchell Zuckoff : Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Remarkable True Story - loved it!By Nancy McI loved this book! It was a great story and absolutely remarkable that Zuckoff was able to find all the first-hand documentation. Diaries, film footage, interviews. Just amazing. We are all really missing out if this isn't made into a movie. One of the really sad parts is how exposure to 'modern' civilization transformed the indigenous people. The anthropological observations were very interesting. I would like to have known a bit more about that. I continue to be awed by the way these WWII veterans went about doing their jobs, with little fuss or muss, and changed the future of the world. Well done!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great story about survival and the intersection of culturesBy T. BallouThis well researched and very well written account of very real heroism and survival deserves a place on the bookshelf of everyone interested in WWII history. Not about a battle, intelligence intrigue or even politics, it's about real, normal people who go for a "joy ride and find them selves crawling out of a burning aircraft and alone in a mountaintop jungle among a people that time never even found, much less forgot. Their story was front page news at the time, but since has been eclipsed by the great "war stories" about battles and codebreaking. It's worth reading!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating non-fiction book if you ignore the "real life adventure thriller" marketingBy Ella HillWith the subject matter (plane crash survivors stranded in New Guinea) and press this book has gotten, it'd be easy to think this is a thriller. It's not. It's still a historical non-fiction book -- it just reads like a very interesting one.4 stars:-I liked how the author integrated first person accounts and journal entries with what we know today. It makes for a richer read because you're essentially getting 3 sides to the story: the survivors' 1945 account; the natives' story, based on oral tradition and childhood memories, told today; and information historians and anthropologists gathered for decades after the crash.-Zuckoff is objective. He addresses racial and cultural stereotypes without being heavy-handed. He doesn't blame characters for their views, but instead points out their errors. More of a "today, anthropologists know..." instead of "it's ridiculous he'd think the natives were dangerous cannibals."-It could have been a little more cohesive -- Zuckoff seems to jump around a bit. For example, he could transition better from one person's background/account to the next person's story. I noticed some people thought there was too much detail about the key players' backgrounds. I think the detail helps shape the characters. For example, reading about why and how each of them ended up stationed in New Guinea makes their survival in Shangri-la even more remarkable. For me, it was more about how the detail was presented than the quantity.-I think this book would appeal to a wide-range of audiences -- I'm not a World War II buff and I don't read a ton of historical non-fiction. The story is intriguing, the writing has a good balance between providing context and moving the story along, and it's a manageable length.Tip: I think the way this book is being marketed ("real-life adventure thriller!!!!") could set some readers up to be disappointed. If you're a fiction reader, go into this remembering this isn't a "story inspired by true events," but rather an actual account of true events. It'd be like watching an engaging documentary of King George VI instead of the movie The King's Speech -- they're both good but they do different things. That said, this is still a remarkable story worth reading.

A lost world, man-eating tribesmen, lush and impenetrable jungles, stranded American fliers (one of them a dame with great gams, for heaven's sake), a startling rescue mission. . . . This is a true story made in heaven for a writer as talented as Mitchell Zuckoff. Whew what an utterly compelling and deeply satisfying read!" Simon Winchester, author of Atlantic Award-winning former Boston Globe reporter Mitchell Zuckoff unleashes the exhilarating, untold story of an extraordinary World War II rescue mission, where a plane crash in the South Pacific plunged a trio of U.S. military personnel into a land that time forgot. Fans of Hampton Sides Ghost Soldiers, Marcus Luttrell's Lone Survivor, and David Grann's The Lost City of Z will be captivated by Zuckoff's masterfully recounted, all-true story of danger, daring, determination, and discovery in jungle-clad New Guinea during the final days of WWII.

.com Best Books of the Month, May 2011: Near the end of World War II, a plane carrying 24 members of the United States military, including nine Womens Army Corps (WAC) members, crashed into the New Guinea jungle during a sightseeing excursion. 21 men and women were killed. The three survivors--a beautiful WAC, a young lieutenant who lost his twin brother in the crash, and a severely injured sergeant--were stranded deep in a jungle valley notorious for its cannibalistic tribes. They had no food, little water, and no way to contact their military base. The story of their survival and the stunning efforts undertaken to save them are the crux of Lost in Shangri-La, Mitchell Zuckoff's remarkable and inspiring narrative. Faced with the potential brutality of the Dani tribe, known throughout the valley for its violence, the trios lives were dependent on an unprecedented rescue mission--a dedicated group of paratroopers jumped into the jungle to provide aid and medical care, consequently leaving the survivors and paratroopers alike trapped on the jungle floor. A perilous rescue by plane became their only possible route to freedom. A riveting story of deliverance under the most unlikely circumstances, Lost in Shangri-La deserves its place among the great survival stories of World War II. --Lynette Mong Exclusive: Hampton Sides's Lost in Shangri-La Hampton Sides is the editor-at-large for Outside magazine and the author of the international bestseller Ghost Soldiers, which won the 2002 PEN USA Award for nonfiction and the 2002 Discover Award from Barnes Noble, and also served as the basis for the 2005 Miramax film The Great Raid. Although World War II was the greatest conflict in the history of this planet, many a

jaded reader has come to the reluctant conclusion that there arent any more World War II stories left to tell. At least not good onesnot tales of the ripping good yarn variety. Yet remarkably, in his new book *Lost in Shangri-La*, Mitchell Zuckoff has found one, and hes told it with reportorial verve, narrative skill, and exquisite pacing. What makes this World War II story all the more fascinating is that it isnt really a war storynot in a strict military sense. Its more of an exotic adventure tale with rich anthropological shadings. In 1945, near the end of the war, an American plane crashes in a hidden jungle valley in New Guinea inhabited by Stone Age cannibals. 21 Americans die in the crash, but three injured survivors soon find themselves stumbling through the jungle without food, nursing terrible wounds and trying to elude Japanese snipers known to be holding out in the mountains. The first contact between the three Americans and the valleys Dani tribesmen is both poignant and comical. The Americans, Zuckoff writes, have crash-landed in a world that time didnt forget. Time never knew it existed. The tribesmen, who have never encountered metal and have yet to master the concept of the wheel, think the American interlopers are white spirits whove descended on a vine from heaven, fulfilling an ancient legend. Theyre puzzled and fascinated by the layers of removable skin in which these alien visitors are wrapped; the natives, who smear their bodies in pig grease and cover their genitals with gourds, have never seen clothes before. The Americans, in turn, are pretty sure their boartusk-bestudded hosts want to skewer them for dinner. What ensues in Zuckoffs fine telling is not so much a cultural collision as a pleasing and sometimes hilarious mutual unraveling of assumptions. Though the differences in the two societies are chasmic, the Americans and the Dani become in a guarded, tentative sort of way friends. But when armed American airmen arrive via parachute to rescue the survivors, relations become more tense. The Americans make their camp right in the middle of a no-mans land between warring Dani tribesa no-mans land where for centuries they have fought the battles that are central to their daily culture. Here, Zuckoff notes, the ironies are profoundly rich. The Dani, untouched by and indeed utterly unaware of the great war thats been raging all across the globe, become thoroughly discombobulated when their own war is temporarily disrupted. Yes, there are still a few good World War II stories left to tell. And yes, this one meets all the requirements of a ripping good yarn. Zuckoff, who teaches journalism at Boston University, is a first-rate reporter who has spared no expense to rescue this tale from obscurity. His story has it all: Tragedy, survival, comedy, an incredibly dangerous eleventh-hour rescue, and an immensely attractive heroine to boot. Its extraordinary that Hollywood hasnt already taken this tale and run wild with it. If it did, the resulting movie would be equal parts *Alive*, *Cast Away*, and *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. Its as though the Americans have arrived in the Stone Age through a wormhole in the space-time continuum. The Dani dont know what to do with themselvesand life, as any of us know it, will never be the same. A truly incredible adventure. (New York Times Book) [A] grippingly cinematic account.... A remarkable cast of characters.... A. (Entertainment Weekly) This is an absorbing adventure right out of the Saturday-morning serials.... *Lost in Shangri-La* deserves a spot on the shelf of Greatest Generation nonfiction. It puts the reader smack into the jungle. (Cleveland Plain Dealer) Zuckoff transforms impressive research into a deft narrative that brings the saga of the survivors to life. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Zuckoff delivers a remarkable survival story. . . . In this well-crafted book, Zuckoff turns the long-forgotten episode into an unusually exciting narrative. . . . Polished, fast-paced and immensely readable ready for the big screen. (Kirkus s (starred review)) [An] engaging story. . . . This excellent book will be enjoyed by anyone who loves true adventure stories. (Library Journal (starred review)) A riveting tale in the hands of a good storyteller. . . . *LOST IN SHANGRI-LA* is the most thrilling book, fiction or nonfiction, that I have read since I cant remember when. (Seattle Times) Mitchell Zuckoff has uncovered, and vividly reconstructed, such an astonishing tale. . . . Zuckoff skillfully builds narrative tension and deft character portraits. . . . He has pulled off a remarkable feat and held the reader firmly in the grip. (David Grann, Washington Post) From the Back Cover On May 13, 1945, twenty-four American servicemen and WACs boarded a transport plane for a sightseeing trip over Shangri-La, a beautiful and mysterious valley deep within the jungle-covered mountains of Dutch New Guinea. Unlike the peaceful Tibetan monks of James Hiltons bestselling novel *Lost Horizon*, this Shangri-La was home to spear-carrying tribesmen, warriors rumored to be cannibals. But the pleasure tour became an unforgettable battle for survival when the plane crashed. Miraculously, three passengers pulled through. Margaret Hastings, barefoot and burned, had no choice but to wear her dead best friends shoes. John McCollom, grieving the death of his twin brother also aboard the plane, masked his grief with stoicism. Kenneth Decker, too, was severely burned and suffered a gaping head wound. Emotionally devastated, badly injured, and vulnerable to the hidden dangers of the jungle, the trio faced certain death unless they left the crash site. Caught between man-eating headhunters and enemy Japanese, the wounded passengers endured a harrowing hike down the mountainside a journey into the unknown that would lead them straight into a primitive tribe of superstitious natives who had never before seen a white man or woman. Drawn from interviews, declassified U.S. Army documents, personal photos and mementos, a survivors diary, a rescuers journal, and original film footage, *Lost in Shangri-La* recounts this incredible true-life adventure for the first time. Mitchell Zuckoff reveals how the determined triodehydrated, sick, and in pain traversed the dense jungle to find help; how a brave band of paratroopers risked their own lives to save the survivors; and how a cowboy colonel attempted a previously untested rescue mission to get them out. By trekking into the New Guinea jungle, visiting remote villages, and rediscovering the crash site, Zuckoff also captures the contemporary natives remembrances of the long-ago day when strange creatures fell from the sky. A riveting work of narrative nonfiction that vividly brings to life an odyssey

at times terrifying, enlightening, and comic, *Lost in Shangri-La* is a thrill ride from beginning to end.