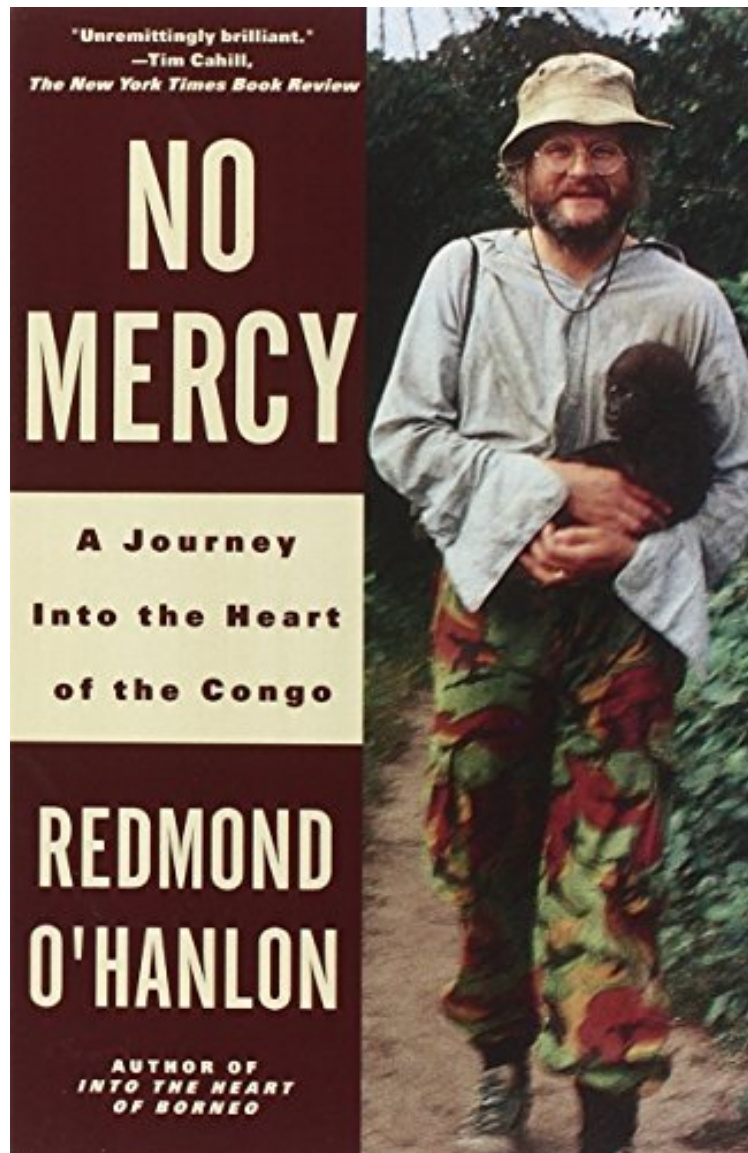


[Download] No Mercy: A Journey Into the Heart of the Congo

No Mercy: A Journey Into the Heart of the Congo

Redmond O'Hanlon

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#559008 in Books Redmond O Hanlon 1998-06-30 1998-06-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.20 x 5.20l, .98 #File Name: 0679737324480 pagesNo Mercy A Journey to the Heart of the Congo | File size: 46.Mb

Redmond O'Hanlon : No Mercy: A Journey Into the Heart of the Congo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Mercy: A Journey Into the Heart of the Congo:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Uneven JourneyBy Rabid ReaderI read a lot of travel writing this is not my 1st O'Hanlon. But boy, did this book seem to take forever to read, and I'm the sort who can burn through several books a week. There are--no doubt about it--flashes of brilliance, either in his insightful and detailed

descriptions of the Congo, its people or wildlife or in O'Hanlon's use of humor (he generally spares himself his companions nothing). He has, in fact, perhaps a talent for choosing travel companions who make the trip more, er, interesting, in the manner of the curse: may you live in interesting times. . . These bits are interspersed with long sections of wandering thoughts, making mountains out of molehills, what appears to be a recurring malarial fever that affects his logic. . . and perhaps a bit too much ETOH? O'Hanlon has a very quick mind and a very literate, British sensibility, so even these sections are well-written, often turning up with absolute gems of sentence-structure and diction. So I give him 3 stars: one for actually surviving his journey, one for troubling to write it down so the rest of us need never visit the Congo get malaria, and one because of his priceless descriptions of birds that will never make it to my own life list! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really wanted to like this book By Mungo Park I really wanted to like this book, especially given that it is unique in that it takes place in the little-written-about Congo (not to be confused with The Democratic Republic of the Congo, it's much larger neighbor), but in the end I cannot say that I really enjoyed this book nor that my time in reading it was well spent. As noted by previous reviewers, the author includes many superfluous conversations en bloc and occasionally has tangents going to nowhere which seriously detract from the story he is trying to tell. The book was about twice as long as it needed to be, and furthermore after finally reaching the end it was highly anticlimactic and there was no payoff. 2/5 stars. much better books on the subject to read, IMHO 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the greatest travel books I have read By Michael A. Smethurst One of the greatest travel books I have read... ever. I'm a big fan of Redmond O'Hanlon. His narrative brings a nice balance of adventure, humor, cultural observations and science (generally biology) to the stories he's telling. This trip up the Congo river to a lake rumored to be inhabited by an ancient dinosaur is at times hilarious, inspiring, horrifying and depressing. Sometimes all in the same sentence.

Lit with humor, full of African birdsong and told with great narrative force, *No Mercy* is the magnum opus of "probably the finest writer of travel books in the English language," as Bill Bryson wrote in *Outside*, "and certainly the most daring." Redmond O'Hanlon has journeyed among headhunters in deepest Borneo with the poet James Fenton, and amid the most reticent, imperilled and violent tribe in the Amazon Basin with a night-club manager. This, however, is his boldest journey yet. Accompanied by Larry Shaffer--an American friend and animal behaviorist, a man of imperfect health and brave decency--he enters the unmapped swamp-forests of the People's Republic of the Congo, in search of a dinosaur rumored to have survived in a remote prehistoric lake. The flora and fauna of the Congo are unrivalled, and with matchless passion O'Hanlon describes scores of rare and fascinating animals: eagles and parrots, gorillas and chimpanzees, swamp antelope and forest elephants. But as he was repeatedly warned, the night belongs to Africa, and threats both natural (cobras, crocodiles, lethal insects) and supernatural (from all-powerful sorcerers to Samalé, a beast whose three-clawed hands rip you across the back) make this a saga of much fear and trembling. Omnipresent too are ecological depredations, political and tribal brutality, terrible illness and unnecessary suffering among the forest pygmies, and an appalling waste of human life throughout this little-explored region. An elegant, disturbing and deeply compassionate evocation of a vanishing world, extraordinary in its depth, scope and range of characters, *No Mercy* is destined to become a landmark work of travel, adventure and natural history. A quest for the meaning of magic and the purpose of religion, and a celebration of the comforts and mysteries of science, it is also--and above all--a powerful guide to the humanity that prevails even in the very heart of darkness. From the Hardcover edition.

.com There are similarities between Redmond O'Hanlon's magnificent *Into The Heart of Borneo* and *No Mercy*. In both, O'Hanlon's keen naturalist eye notes the details (tiny scarlet flowers probed hummingbird-like by purple-red hawkmoths), his wit (usually at his own expense) remains funny, and his travel companions quite human and often endearing. He's off on another jungle trek, this time seeking Mokele-mbembe, the alleged Congo sauropod. But *No Mercy* goes deeper and darker; fear and anger intrude on the levity, rationalistic thought yields to palpable fetishistic fright the deeper in they go, and O'Hanlon emerges a changed, more compassionate man. From Library Journal O'Hanlon's current driving passion? after journeying among the 's headhunters in his most recent *In Trouble Again* (Random, 1990)? is to catch a glimpse of the African version of the Loch Ness monster: the legendary Mokele-mbembe dinosaur residing in the unreachable depths of Lake Tele, deep in the northern Congo forests. Intrepid? or merely insensible to pain? O'Hanlon ventures forth, armed with antivenom serums and innumerable medicines against alarmingly resistant diseases; bribes for officials of the Marxist People's Republic of the Congo; presents for the Pygmies he hopes to find; a crusty scientist companion, Larry Shaffer, from Plattsburgh, New York; and volumes of birding guides and H.M. Stanley's chronicles of travels into Africa before him. Neither hostile local chiefs nor an army of skin-crawling bedevilmens will thwart our O'Hanlon from his goal. His account is minute and ironical, given lively relief by Shaffer's gallows humor. It offers compelling reading, for seasoned travelers and couch potatoes alike, and includes an excellent bibliography of the rich history, wildlife, and exploration of the Congo. Highly recommended.? Amy Boaz, "Library Journal" Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist "No mercy" indeed! Distinguished travel writer O'Hanlon ventured into the politically and environmentally inhospitable

Republic of the Congo to attempt to ascertain the existence of a fabled lost dinosaur. His trek to the far northern region of the Congo in pursuit of his version of El Dorado entailed some of the most appalling hurdles imaginable to the traveler, inveterate or not. Bizarre creatures and institutionalized corruption are only two of the aspects that made his latter-day, Heart of Darknesslike struggle upriver and up-jungle an amazing voyage. Health-and even life-threatening situations followed one after another--which, of course, makes any travel literature even better reading. (Doesn't one really desire most to read about places one would never go to in a million years?) Equal to O'Hanlon's moxie is his writing ability; this is a magnificently rendered book. Descriptive detail is endless and endlessly mesmerizing; he captures the quirks of the people he met and traveled with and commands a powerful narrative drive, all to rival the best fiction writers. Brad Hooper