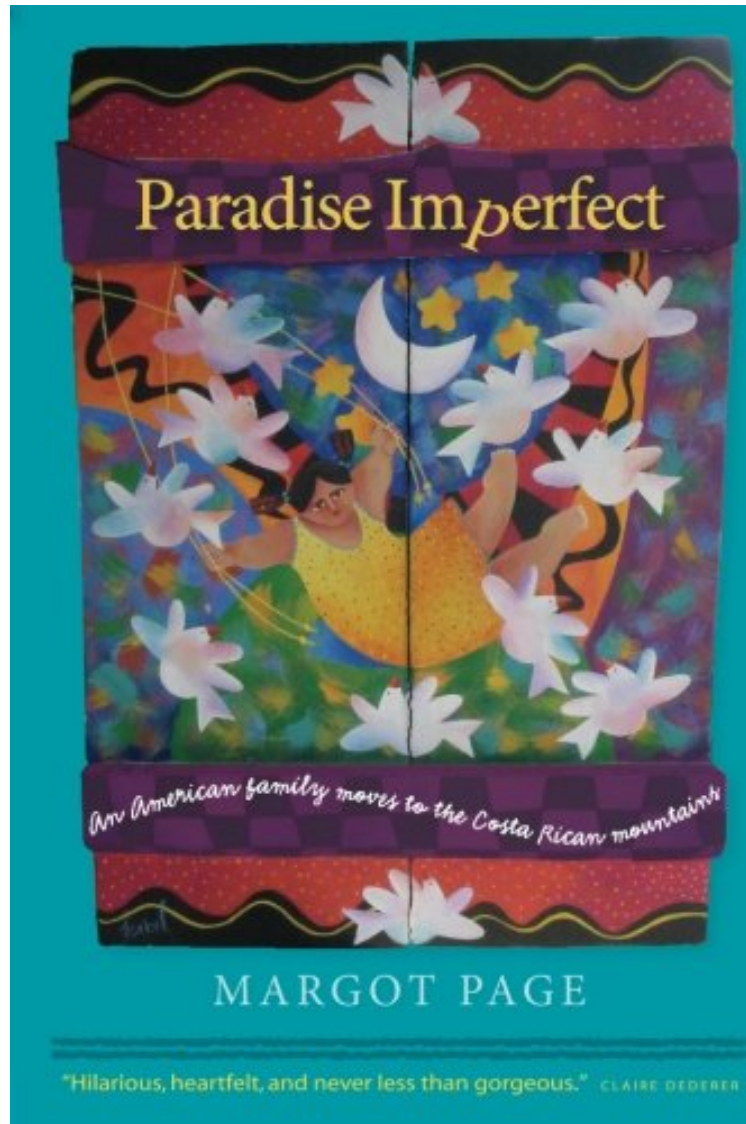


Paradise Imperfect: An American Family Moves to the Costa Rican Mountains

Margot Page

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Margot Page : Paradise Imperfect: An American Family Moves to the Costa Rican Mountains before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paradise Imperfect: An American Family Moves to the Costa Rican Mountains:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Funny, great insights By Erika Fransz I read this book RIGHT after I returned to the States from Monteverde and I loved it. But I promise you do not have to move to Costa Rica and back

to "get" it. This is a universal story about marriage, parenting, and taking risks instead of staying complacent, and overall just appreciating where you are in life. I had seen Margot's work in *Brain, Child* and was impressed with her humor and down-to-earth narrative. This book was that and even more, as I read about Margot's "warts and all" approach to making an international move. She is very frank about her experiences, and is not afraid to call herself out on a few things along the way. Just the type of writer I like.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required reading if you're considering taking your family on an extended vacation in a new culture.

By robobarr We heard about family friends who had taken their two young boys and moved from New York to Costa Rica to expose them to an entirely different culture. This sounded amazing to us. I did some searching online and found a blog that talked about Cloud Forest School, which pointed me towards this book. It also turned out to be the place where our friends went, so all signs were positive. The author of the book is intelligent, from a big city, but not exactly sure of herself. The way she tells the stories of their adventure is exciting to follow along with, but also easy to relate to. After reading this book I'm fairly certain that we want to try this out for at least a month (summer school) when our children are a bit older. If you're considering something similar, this is required reading.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Couldn't put it down

By Jodi M Goodman This hilarious and heart-felt story gripped me from the first page. I currently live in Monteverde and am a teacher at the Cloud Forest School where Page's children studied. I live in the neighborhood of Canitas where Page's family lived and her story is so relatable. I felt myself nodding in agreement and feeling relieved that someone had found the words to express so many of the sentiments I experienced when I moved here. I felt like Margot Page let me in on the most intimate, funny, and insightful parts of her life. Having lived in Monteverde for almost 2 years myself, I feel she did a beautiful job of depicting Monteverde, Costa Rica, and a relatable story of the expat experience.

Margot and Anthony were ordinary parents. With two jobs and three kids, there was soccer and carpool and too much to do, and a little chronic stress about money. Then one night, following a day that was a regular amount of hectic, Margot had an idea: I think we should move to Costa Rica. Seven weeks later, there they were, jobless on top of a mountain, hours from the nearest paved road. This witty, insightful memoir of a family's struggle to right itself in a leafy new world is about parenting and privilege, loneliness and connection. It's about what happens when a stressed-out technology professional escapes with her loved ones to an idyllic mountaintop...and finds that even when everything changes, some things remain the same.

Delightful and immensely readable. Margot Page's memoir reminds me of Anne Lamott and Barbara Kingsolver—the power, the beauty, and the accessibility of its prose—yet Page's brash charm and dark humor are her own. Feeling out of step with the super-vigilant parenting culture of the metropolis, Page felt suddenly done with it all. *Paradise Imperfect* is the story of the year she moved her family to Central America, and its insights into the nature of family, faith, friendship, do-gooderism, poverty, and materialism are both morally complex and surprisingly, poignantly hilarious.

- Bob Shacochis, winner of the National Book Award, author of *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*

Paradise Imperfect is a travel story, but it's also a love letter to the tangled and beautiful mess that comes from taking big chances. A truly refreshing voice in the landscape of shiny travel writing.

- travel website Nerd's Eye View

Margot Page's writing brings together three elements all too rarely found in combination: fierce intelligence; genuine, irresistible funniness; and authentic sweetness. In *Paradise Imperfect*, Page—an overextended, oft-frustrated working mom—spirits her husband and three children away to the misty forests of Costa Rica. In the year she and her family spend there, Page learns about slowing down, about being a less-than-perfect mom, and about the possibilities that arise from having and doing a lot less. All this she does in prose that is hilarious, heartfelt, and never less than gorgeous.

- Claire Dederer, author of *Poser: My Life in 23 Yoga Poses*

Margot Page's intelligent and witty prose style is at its best; every word seems uniquely chosen. The pages of *Paradise Imperfect* brim with possibility, inspiration, and even a bit of hilarious how-to. An ordinary family lived an extraordinary adventure. In their eating, praying, and loving, it becomes clear that readers can, too.

- Marcelle Soviero, Editor-in-Chief, *Brain, Child: The Magazine for Thinking Mothers*

Hilarious and heartfelt. With keen observation and dry wit, Page puts to words the things the rest of us have only suspected and half-thought.

- Theo Nestor, author of *Writing is my Drink*