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Picaflor: Finding Home in South America

Jessica Talbot

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*finding home
in south america*



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#File Name: 9873347720260 pagesPicaflor Finding Home in South America | File size: 61.Mb

Jessica Talbot : Picaflor: Finding Home in South America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Picaflor: Finding Home in South America:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read! Felicidades!By Mirta Ines TruppI cried and laughed; I cringed and rejoiced throughout Jessica Talbot's story! Picaflor is a heart wrenching, soul-searching, honest look into one woman's courageous journey. What makes it a must-read is how the author inadvertently entices the reader to "go up into the attic" and look through our own boxes; rummage through some of those feelings that might be neatly tucked away. Essentially Universal Truths; the need for Love, Acceptance, and Acknowledgment are feelings which know no boundaries. They are equally at home all over the globe, which is why this story will appeal to a diverse

audience. Jessica's description of Argentina, the food, the culture, the people, the government, all ring true with this "yanqui" - born a portea, but raised in the United States. Excellent read. Congratulations! Felicidades! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. the beautifully written memoir/travelogue by fellow ex-pat Jessica Talbot

By Sandi Borger I'd been living as an ex-pat in Argentina for 3 years when I found Picaflor, the beautifully written memoir/travelogue by fellow ex-pat Jessica Talbot. Though our situations are quite different, her descriptions of the joys and challenges of living as a native English speaker in a South American country really resonated, particularly the theme that runs through Picaflor, that of "finding home." From the moment I started reading, I couldn't put it down. Picaflor begins with Talbot's journey from New Zealand to Peru in search of, well, something; she's not quite sure. And that's the beauty of this book; we are along for the ride, not knowing if a certain romance will work out, if she will go back to New Zealand, if she will find the peace she is longing for, if she will find her home. We begin by knowing that she has lost a very special man, and with profound honesty she shares with us a painful and emotional relationship from which she's trying to heal and move forward. From page one I just wanted to know more--who were the family and friends she left behind in New Zealand; how did she decide to go from Peru to Argentina; will she find love?? Talbot, a psychologist by profession, answered my questions with great insight and raw emotion, and her honest self-reflection really allowed me to get to know who she was. As well, her vivid descriptions of daily life in the mountainous, exotic Cusco and chaotic, intense Buenos Aires brought them to life. She has a beautiful, lyrical prose style that is at turns heartbreaking and hopeful. We root for her as she makes peace with her past to create the life she's meant to live. Picaflor is immensely readable; I highly recommend it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. what a great read....

By Alison D D This was a memoir, which was very worth reading. What a talent the author has for the flow and interest of storyline, while telling the very emotional journey of her life from New Zealand, Australia, Peru to Argentina and places in between. She gives us a heartfelt and very open description of what she went through to get where she is today. I felt I was traveling with her as she has her ups and downs as she tries to find her place in the world. Watching her as her expectations of people and places change. I love her thought process and her ability to draw us in through some major events that happened to her and were a reoccurring subjects, throughout the book, such as the loss of a loved one, family issues, that needed to be clarified, etc. There was a part where she describes Argentina, her adoptive country, which was so cleverly done, and so fun to read. I also grew up in Latin America, so I feel I know how she felt at time. I hope she keeps on writing as she has a huge talent. I cannot believe this book is only .99 cents on kindle.

'Picaflor, that's what they call a hummingbird here: a snacker, nibbler, pecker of flowers. Is that what I am? A restless searcher of sweet nectar?' In Picaflor, a true story, Jessica Talbot invites the reader to travel beside her as she searches for love and meaning, while traversing the fascinating countries of South America. Along the way she lets go of grief, grasps hold of the present and finds herself occupying her own weather beaten shoes. When unexpected signs appear on her path she asks, 'Is this serendipity or fate?' As the journey unfolds she realises that you don't need to know, it can be magical either way. The story starts with Jessica getting a tattoo of a hummingbird, a reminder of new beginnings. Then a kiss at sunrise in the snow-dusted Andes of Peru sends her on a restless, risky journey that ends in Argentina. As she travels through unknown terrain, new friends give her important insights into the meaning of friendship, and old ties strengthen as she frees herself from the past. It's in the exhilarating but complicated city of Buenos Aires that she finally understands what it means to feel 'home'.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Jessica Talbot grew up in New Zealand. After graduating with a Master's degree in psychology and a post-graduate diploma in clinical psychology she moved to Melbourne, where she worked as a child psychologist. She has been living and working in Buenos Aires since 2004. She is married to an Argentine and they have a young son. This is her first book

"This is not just a travelogue; although for anyone considering a move to South America, particularly for a woman, it is great reading. This book is very much a personal journey of self-discovery and growth that we could all take a lesson or two from." - BooksellersNZ. "(Picaflor) is rich with travel tales both bitter and sweet and full of light." - The Argentina Independent. "...I thought the book was a beautiful read and a moving - brave - account of universal themes of longing, loss and acceptance told with warmth and style." - West of Buenos Aires.