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Mark J. Plotkin

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#11451778 in Books 1995-11-01 1995-11-01 Formats: Abridged, Audiobook Original language: English PDF # 2 7.25 x 4.50 x .75l, Running time: 3 Hours Binding: Audio Cassette | File size: 59.Mb

Mark J. Plotkin : Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice (Nova Audio Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice (Nova Audio Books):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Reads like an adventure story By Donna LaFleur This real life tale of an ethnobotanist learning from indigenous South American tribesmen and shamans is a jewel of a book. I didn't want it to end, though it ends in a way that fills me with hope and promise for the human race. Plotkin shares his experiences with native tribesmen as he learns the plants and medicines that they have relied upon, and gives the medicine men a voice at a time when Western Culture begins to dominate tribal life.. He paints a respectful portrait of the cultures and individual personalities in a way that takes you inside his circle of subjects, people who gave freely of their knowledge of the forest plants and their healing combinations and recipes. It's no surprise that I have given this book many times as a gift. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book! By Abe This book was assigned for one of my anthropology classes. I first thought it was going to be one of those books with information like an English book from a high school English class, but as I started reading it, it took me into the story all the way to the end. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent 20 minute chapters read by the author By Dan LeBryk The audio version of this book is a double edged sword, on the one hand it is fabulous to hear the author read his book, on the other it's a bit of a pain to convert to something that can be used in the classroom or played on most normal CD players. This is an incredible book. There are wonderful reviews of this book, and I'd encourage you to read about the content here, Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Rain Forest. As a companion to the

book, I was interested in this audio book. Mark Plotkin reads a slightly abridged version of the book. Mr. Plotkin is not a professional voice, he does a decent job reading his own work. At times his voice sounds a bit strained trying to add some emotion. He also has a bit of trouble maintaining his breath and pace during longer passages. But, his voice is pleasant, and he articulates each word very clearly. The down side to this CD, it is a CD with 8 MP3 files. If you have an MP3 capable CD player, wonderful, this disc will work perfectly. However, if you only have a normal CD player, these files will have to be converted. Fortunately iTunes can do this fairly easily. Other audio programs can do the same thing. The step by step instruction: If you only have one CD/DVD drive, you will have to temporarily copy the MP3 files to your computer. Insert the MP3 CD, copy the 8 MP3 files (ignore everything else on the disc) titled 01 through 08.MP3 to your desktop. If you are lucky and have two CD/DVD drives, simply insert the MP3 CD into one of your two drives. Now open iTunes. In the file menu, choose 'import files'. Once that menu is open, click on browse and either go to your desktop for the copied files (01 through 08.MP3); or browse your computer to find the CD drive and highlight the MP3 files (01 through 08). Click on OK. iTunes will now add 8 song files to your library. Now you need to create a playlist (Audio CD's can only be burned from a playlist). Go up to the File menu and select, create a new playlist. Rename that playlist to something familiar like Shaman. Now highlight your 8 new songs from the CD (you can use 'date added' to float those 8 files to the top of your music library) and drag them over to the newly created playlist. Now you are ready to burn 3 Audio CD's. Click on the new playlist - only 8 songs should be visible. Highlight all 8 files. Click on Burn in the lower right hand corner of the iTunes screen. If you have two CD/DVD drives, select the one not containing the MP3 CD. iTunes will be a little confused for a second and ask if it's OK to burn these Audio CD's on more than one CD. Simply click on Yes and the software will prompt for each consecutive blank CD. To clean up your iTunes library, assuming you don't want this book cluttering up your library (although you could listen to these on an iPod just as easily); highlight the 8 tracks in iTunes and press the delete key. Go to your desktop and highlight the 8 MP3 files there and delete them. All traces of this MP3 craziness is now gone from your computer. The entire program requires 3 audio CD's. Three parts will fit on one CD. Enjoy this fabulous book. The audio version is a great companion. You have to be a bit tech savvy to get these files moved over to an audio CD for listening. But it's not that hard in the end (free tools will work just fine).

Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice has been called one of the greatest adventure stories ever told. As then-chief ethnobotanist for Conservation International, Mark Plotkin spent almost 15 years tracking the shamans of the northeast Amazon. Their knowledge of healing plants may hold the cure to some of today's most devastating diseases. This audiobook is the thrilling account of his apprenticeship to these powerful wise men, a gripping journey into a wild and wonderful world seldom glimpsed by outsiders.