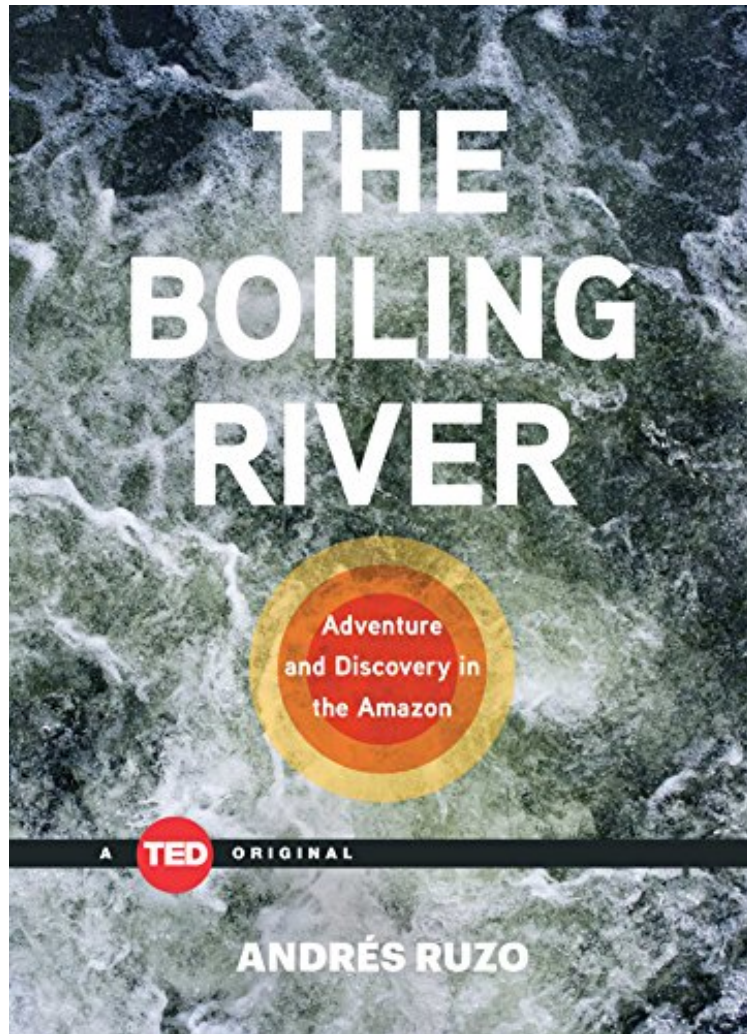


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The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery in the Amazon (TED Books)

Andrs Ruzo

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Andrs Ruzo : The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery in the Amazon (TED Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery in the Amazon (TED Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Science, Adventure, Mystical Magic all in a modern tale!By TTSuch a great read and wonderful story! It's such a cool tale that feels more like something from a hundred or two hundred years ago than the present day, which adds to the magic of the story. The magic of the story is grounded in solid

science - a great combination of the modern meeting the mystical. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gripping story. By S. Smith Well written documentary about a natural phenomena and a young man's thirst for first hand knowledge! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By James B. Soileau Great book...

In this exciting adventure mixed with amazing scientific study, a young, exuberant explorer and geoscientist journeys deep into the Amazon where rivers boil and legends come to life. When Andrs Ruzo was just a small boy in Peru, his grandfather told him the story of a mysterious legend: There is a river, deep in the Amazon, which boils as if a fire burns below it. Twelve years later, Ruzo now a geoscientist hears his aunt mention that she herself had visited this strange river. Determined to discover if the boiling river is real, Ruzo sets out on a journey deep into the Amazon. What he finds astounds him: In this long, wide, and winding river, the waters run so hot that locals brew tea in them; small animals that fall in are instantly cooked. As he studies the river, Ruzo faces challenges more complex than he had ever imagined. The Boiling River follows this young explorer as he navigates a tangle of competing interests: local shamans, illegal cattle farmers and loggers, and oil companies. This true account reads like a modern-day adventure, complete with extraordinary characters, captivating plot twists, and jaw-dropping details including stunning photographs and a never-before-published account about this incredible natural wonder. Ultimately, though, The Boiling River is about a man trying to understand the moral obligation that comes with scientific discovery to protect a sacred site from misuse, neglect, and even from his own discovery.

About the Author Andrs Ruzo is a geoscientist and a National Geographic Young Explorer. The Boiling River is his first book. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Boiling River 1 Revelations in the Dark I am standing on a rock in the middle of a river. Nighttime in the jungle pours around me. Instinctively, I reach up and turn off my headlamp. The blackness is complete now and I pause, waiting. I had missed the darkness. I breathe in. The air is thick and abnormally hot, even for the . As my eyes adjust to the dark, the outline of the jungle slowly distinguishes itself from the night: blacks, grays, dark blues, even silvery whites. Its amazing what we miss when the lights are on. The moon is hardly a sliver, and innumerable stars dominate the sky above, illuminating the vast jungle and bathing each leaf and rock with their soft light. All around me, vapors rise like ghosts in the starlight. Some are thin streams of mist; others are clouds so large that their billowing appears to be in slow motion. I lie down on the rock and am still, watching the steam rise into the night. When a cool breeze blows, the mists thicken and roll, forming pale gray-blue eddies against the sky. The rock beneath my body glows dimly white in the faint light. Where my back and legs touch the rocks surface, I'm sweating lightly. A torrent of water, hot enough to kill me, wider than a two-lane road, surges past my rock, emitting a roar that drowns out the jungles nighttime chorus. My senses are sharp and every movement is keenly deliberate. I'm in the heart of the Peruvian . The other members of my team are in bed in the tiny community nearby, but there is no way I can sleep not with what is before me here. My heart is beating hard, but I feel a complete calm. My eyes follow the rivers vapors as they rise and melt into the firmament. The Milky Way flows across the sky like a reflection of the river below. The Inca referred to the Milky Way as the Celestial River, a path to another world, a place inhabited by spirits. So the vapors join two great rivers here. Its clear why the people who live here regard this jungle as a place of such spiritual power. The shamans words echo in my head: The river shows us what we need to see. This is becoming one of the greatest adventures of my life. This will be the story I tell my children and grandchildren and every action I make in this moment adds a new piece of the story. Every passing second now seems to hold a greater significance. Burning-hot water splashes on my right arm. I sit up, pulling my arm to my chest, no longer lost in thought. I recall my professors words from volcanology field school: The people who die on volcanoes are the inexperienced who are ignorant of the dangers and the experts who have forgotten they are dangerous. I stand, make sure I have a firm footing, and jump back onto the nearest shore. As I look back at the Boiling River I cant suppress an excited whisper: This place exists. This place actually exists. I remember the shaman saying the river has called me here for a purpose, and I can feel a greater mission about to take place. I wont get much sleep tonight. The vapors dance in the starlight as I make my way back to my hut, my mind filled with thoughts of the river, the dark jungle surrounding it, and the story that remains to be written. Its a story that began with a legend heard in childhood a story of exploration and discovery, driven by a need to understand what initially appeared unbelievable. Its a story where modern science and traditional worldviews collidenot violently but respectfully united in their sense of awe for the natural world. At a time when everything seems mapped, measured, and understood, this river challenges what we think we know. It has forced me to question the line between known and unknown, ancient and modern, scientific and spiritual. It is a reminder that there are still great wonders to be discovered. We find them not just in the black void of the unknown but in the white noise of everyday life in the things we barely notice, the things we almost forget, even in a detail of a story.