

Memoirs That Read Like Adventure Stories

Callahan, Steven. ***Adrift: Seventy-Six Days Lost at Sea***. Houghton Mifflin, 1986.

This is a riveting story of survival in an inflatable raft, fighting off sharks, hunger, and the elements, a bestseller when it was published.

Casey, Susan. ***The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival Among America's Great White Sharks***. Holt, 2005.

The author followed 2 biologists to the wild and spooky Farallon Islands off California, the only place where these sharks can be studied in their natural habitat.

Grann, David. ***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession***. Doubleday, 2009.

Grann sets off to follow the trail of Percy Fawcett, an early-twentieth century British explorer who ventured in to the Amazon jungle and never returned. Does Grann discover—or suffer—Fawcett's fate?

Grant, Richard. ***God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre***. Free Press, 2008.

Drug runners, bandits, and corrupt police inhabit the lawless, scenic western mountains of Mexico, ready to kill an intruder at a moment's notice. Despite the danger, thrill-seeking Grant just can't stay away; his account of his travels is compulsively readable.

Harrer, Heinrich. ***Seven Years in Tibet***. Dutton, 1954.

The wonderful classic tale of a World War II German POW who escaped and trekked in winter across Tibet to the (then) closed city of Lhasa and became tutor to the Dalai Lama.

Kane, Joe. ***Running the Amazon***. Knopf, 1989.

A riveting account of how a handpicked team of 11 adventurous souls attempted to kayak the entire length of the Amazon River.

Krakauer, John. ***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster***. Villard, 1997.

The author was part of the ill-fated team of climbers that were overtaken by tragedy in 1996 and shares his anguish as well as a history of Everest attempts.

Mahoney, Rosemary. ***Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff***. Little, Brown, 2007.

A single woman becomes obsessed with the idea of buying a boat and rowing down the Nile, despite cultural obstacles.

O'Hanlon, Redmond. ***Into the Heart of Borneo***. Random House, 1985.

A hilarious and fascinating trek into the jungle told by the ditzy British academic who attempted it.

