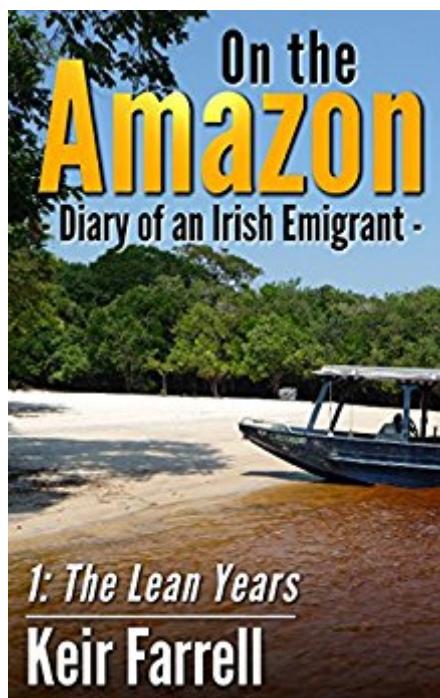


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On The - Diary Of An Irish Emigrant: 1: The Lean Years



Synopsis

"Beat those winter blues - emigrate to the now!" Not an advertising campaign you are likely to see any time soon, I suppose. But really - I mean, apart from the place being hot, humid, violent, corrupt, dysfunctional, full of mosquitoes and hellishly expensive - it might be worth thinking about, right? Believing they had the perfect plan to escape crisis-hit Europe, in 2007 Irishman Keir Farrell and his wife emigrated from Northern Ireland to the middle of the Brazilian . Within months the perfect plan was in shreds, the money was running out and the best that could be said was that at least it wasn't snowing. What happened next is the subject of the On the books. The story is told over the course of a series of river expeditions through 10,000 miles of the . Whether dealing with the immediate problem (caiman, angry sloths, river pirates, piranha - it is all there), reflecting on the couple's wider issues, helping Ed Stafford walk the , or just banging on about Brazil, Keir generally manages to maintain a sense of humour and keep things in perspective.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I met the author and his lovely family about 6 years ago on a trip to Manaus and the . It was fun reading more about his adventures and how he and Naice came to the . The book is well written, with humor and lively descriptions of his life in Brazil. It took me back to a day trip we took with him on the river. He was a very knowledgeable guide but little did I know of his wilder river trips. Navigating the is indeed a work of art and patience and requires a person who is willing to take chances. There are people in this world who refuse to sit at home watching the TV in their comfort zone and Keir is one of them and I am glad he is. Thanks for the great read and sharing your life and river trips with us. It makes me want to come back for more.

10 out of 10, I do recommend this book to any reader with a river in groove. From the banks of Ms. Sippi - I profoundly approve!

First of all, full disclosure... I am reviewing a sample copy that I received from the author whose acquaintance I first made in Manaus some 20 years ago. I have been devouring Keir's book on my daily commute for the last few days (and again in my lunch times) and it is indeed, compelling reading. Keir has produced a number of delightfully written vignettes of his boat trip adventures in the and cleverly woven into this a narrative of his life in Brazil along with its various joys and frustrations (of which there have clearly been many). Keir has certainly had some interesting adventures and it was fascinating to read about them. Having spent some three years living in the north of Brazil, and having spent time in Manaus and its surrounds, I can say that Keir evokes the true spirit of the region in his writing. The descriptions of the river and rainforest aside, he insightfully captures the nature of the people who live in and around Manaus. I was transported back there every time I picked up the book and twice almost missed my train stop as a result. Having also read Don't Sleep there are Snakes and the Lost City of Z, (both of which I enjoyed) this was in my opinion a more engaging read than either of them. This is most definitely a gringo's eye view of Brazil and the , and Keir has fully embraced the experience. The result is akin to his experience picking up a sloth, but you'll have to buy the book to know exactly what I mean by that. Overall, if you are looking for a great escape, or love to live vicariously through the experiences of a (slightly mad) Irishman I highly recommend this book.

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