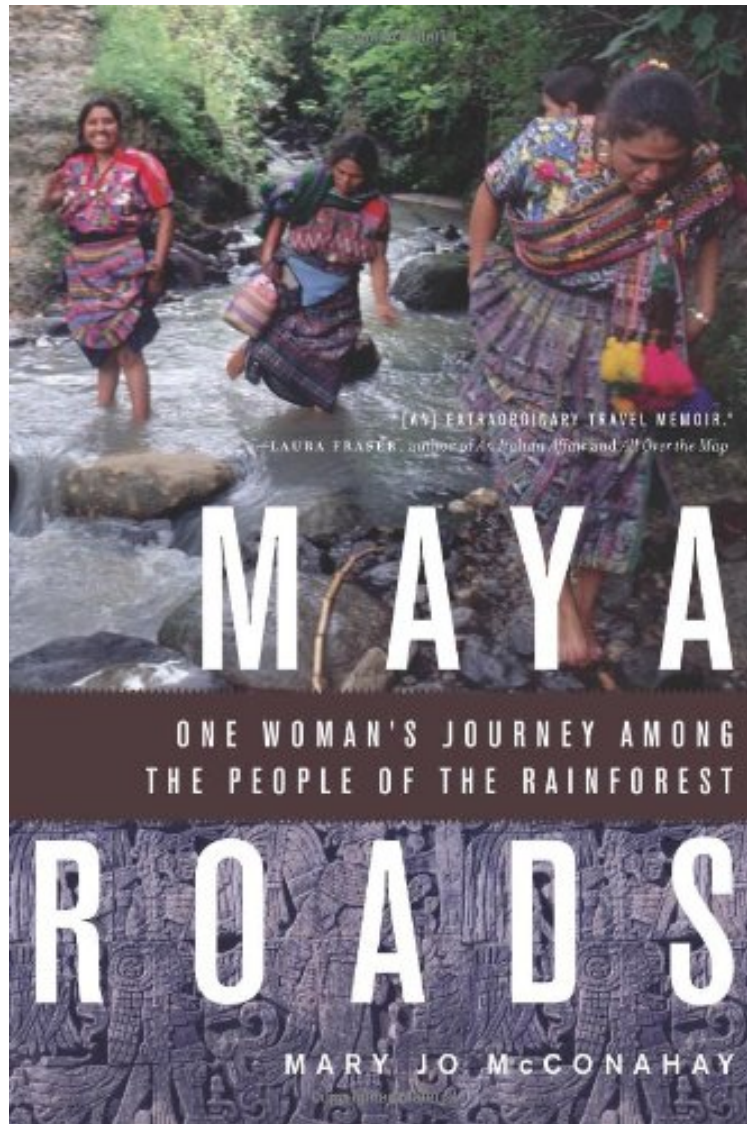


(Read now) Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey Among the People of the Rainforest

Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey Among the People of the Rainforest

Mary Jo McConahay

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Mary Jo McConahay : Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey Among the People of the Rainforest before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey Among the People of the Rainforest:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. My first review By Darrell Reads I have never written a review here but I have never read a book like Maya Roads. It took me along with the author through the Central American

jungle, noticing the smallest flower or the sound of jaguars, but also gave eyewitness descriptions of some of the most important historical scenes in the last 30 years, including war and the aftermath of massacres. I had no idea the place, a continuous rainforest which is half in Chiapas, Mexico, and half in Guatemala, was so rich and so close; you don't have to go all the way to the to find the jungle. The author describes the ancient rainforest cities, and explains the spiritual life of the Maya, the calendar, and their symbols. She spends time with the Lacandon, who live in deep jungle and were never conquered and still dress in white gowns, men and women, direct descendants (some people believe) of the original Maya. You can see the author is in love with the place, and holds its modern-day Maya people in high respect, but she is not blind to drug running and corruption happening now. Some characters are unforgettable: a quirky archaeologist who is also a kind of visionary; a sad Maya priest whose language is about to disappear; a middle-age former Zapatista guerrilla who is just learning to read. The writing is very beautiful. I feel like I've just come back from a real world, but about as far away as you can get from my ordinary life.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. McConahay does a wonderful job of bringing the reader into the details of ...By maria fadimanMcConahay does a wonderful job of bringing the reader into the details of someone's home in the forest of Central America, while also giving detailed and thorough personal and historical of the political upheaval of the times and how this affects the people of a region. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the Maya, politics, human justice and just for a good read!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Evocative journey and more than travelogBy Avid ReaderMaya Roads demonstrates its author's great love for Central America's rain forest and deep concern for the land and its people. It brings the locale to life, interweaves history and archaeology and brings us up to date with current issues. The writing is clear and journalistic in style but with enough poetry to see the geography through eyes that took it in and loved it from youth to elder years, returning and remembering its conflicts and hardships.I am about the same age as the author and loved the rain forest of Sarawak, Malaysia from my Peace Corps years from 1966-1969. I too returned and was struck by the loss of the trees and forest habitat owing to the sale of the timber and political corruption. This similarity of experience made Maya Roads especially meaningful to me, but the insights should bring the Central American rain forest and its people, history and culture to life for many readers. It's a good read and not a stodgy labor.

In *Maya Roads*, McConahay draws upon her three decades of traveling and living in Central America's remote landscapes to create a fascinating chronicle of the people, politics, archaeology, and species of the Central American rainforest, the cradle of Maya civilization. Captivated by the magnificence and mystery of the jungle, the author brings to life the intense beauty, the fantastic locales, the ancient ruins, and the horrific violence. She witnesses archaeological discoveries, the transformation of the Lacandon people, the Zapatista indigenous uprising in Mexico, increased drug trafficking, and assists in the uncovering of a war crime. Over the decades, McConahay has witnessed great changes in the region, and this is a unique tale of a woman's adventure and the adaptation and resolve of a people.

"Every once in a while I stumble upon a book that is so beautifully written and infused with so much intelligence and heart that it leaves an indelible mark on me. Mary Jo McConahay's *Maya Roads* is such a book. In its hungry passion and wide-eyed wonder, it's an extraordinary literary journey and a moving testament to a region and a life." Don George, *National Geographic Traveler*, August 2011 Book of the Month