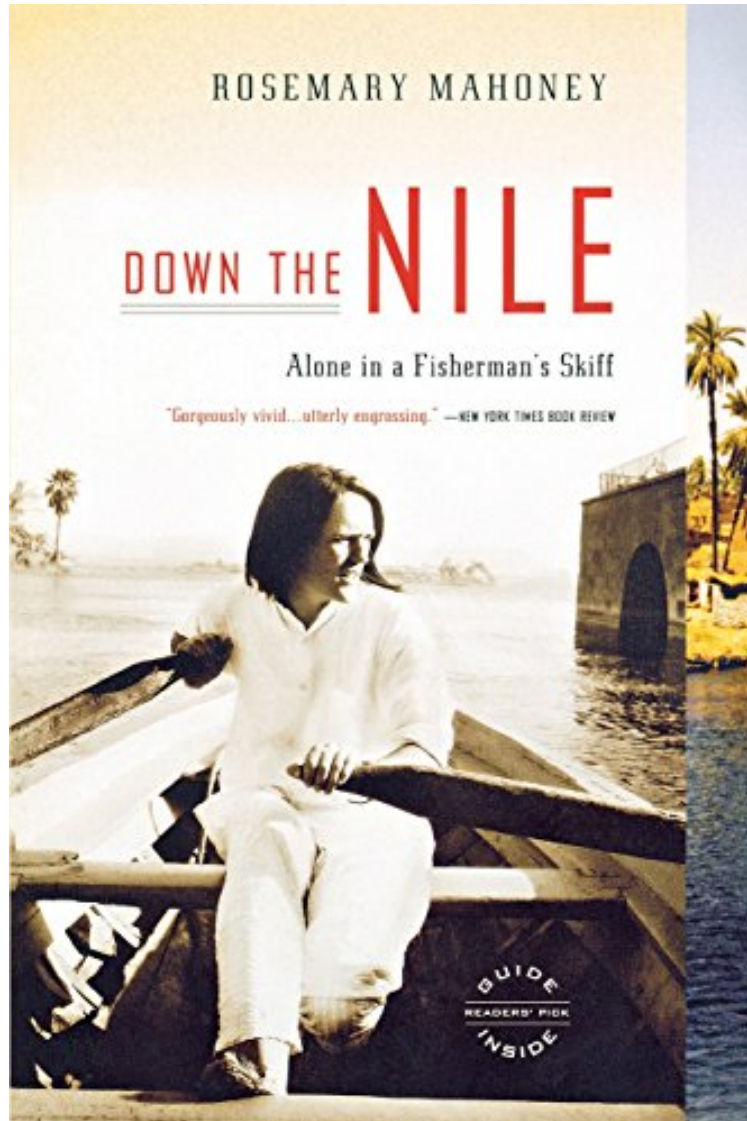


[E-BOOK] Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff

Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff

Rosemary Mahoney

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Rosemary Mahoney : Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Skip reading this book.By signorI really didn't want to give this book one star. I read just a little of the book and found it so boring I didn't attempt to finish it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great adventure!By Annette NewquistA very unusual and interesting read. I felt as if I experienced the journey with the author. A great adventure!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good

ReadBy FranI thought the book was an especially interesting read in the light of current events in Egypt. It's a different perspective on Egypt that I appreciated hearing. Other reviewers have complained that somehow the book was culturally insensitive, that Ms. Mahoney was not fluent enough in the Arabic of Egypt or that she was somehow out of line in wanting to pursue her goal of a solo row down the Nile. But if you take the memoir at face value - as the experience of one American woman on her chosen journey - I think it stands up very well. I also liked the interweaving of her experience with the writings of Florence Nightingale and August Flaubert who took similar journeys at other times. Maybe my attention span for words and description is longer than some but I found Mahoney's descriptive passages and reflection on the people she met and experiences she had to be interesting. The narrative held my attention. It's the honest writing of a woman on a quest who has undertaken to push the envelope and takes responsibility for the outcomes. It's her prism but that does not make it an invalid view. Actually, I'd read it again. A few notes on the Kindle edition. It's my first encounter with shoddy editing which I found a distraction. Many words were hyphenated at syllabication points (sometimes, curiously, all the syllabication points) for no reason I could discern. And for some odd reason, every time the word "nervous" appeared in any form, it was capitalized. Perhaps it's also capitalized in the print version but I doubt it. I just thought all the hyphens and the Nervous-es were sloppy and distracting. All in all, I'd say it's a good and very timely read.

When Rosemary Mahoney, in 1998, took a solo trip down the Nile in a seven-foot rowboat, she discovered modern Egypt for herself. As a rower, she faced crocodiles and testy river currents; as a female, she confronted deeply-held beliefs about foreign women while cautiously remaining open to genuine friendship; and, as a traveler, she experienced events that ranged from the humorous to the hair-raising--including an encounter that began as one of the most frightening of her life and ended as an edifying and chastening lesson in human nature and cultural misunderstanding. Whether she's meeting Nubians and Egyptians, or finding connections to Westerners who traveled up the Nile in earlier times--Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert among them--Mahoney's informed curiosity about the world never ceases to captivate the reader. "A pilgrimage about pilgrims and holy places that is not only enlightening but also very funny." -Paul Theroux (on *The Singular Pilgrim*) "Mahoney is a wonderfully effective catalytic agent: she goes to Ireland and just makes the country happen around her." -Jonathan Raban (on *Whoredom in Kimmage*) "Mahoney, who has been rowing for 10 year, brilliantly juxtaposes an account of her own palm-blistering hours on the Nile....with the diary entries of two Victorian travelers-Gustave Flaubert and Florence Nightingale." -- Lisa Fugard, *New York Times Book Review*

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . This is travel writing at its most enjoyable: the reader is taken on a great trip with an erudite travel companion soaking up scads of history, culture and literary knowledge, along with the scenery. The genesis for the trip is simple: the author's love of rowing. Her plan, "to buy a small Egyptian rowboat and row myself along the 120-mile stretch of river between the cities of Aswan and Qena," is less so. Mahoney (*The Singular Pilgrim*; *Whoredom in Kimmage*) conveys readers along the longest river in the world, through narrative laced with insight, goodwill and sometimes sadness. Mahoney's writing style is conversational, her use of metaphor adept. She cleverly marshals the writings of numerous river travelers but focuses on "two troubled geniuses": Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert. The device allows readers a backward glance at the Edwardian travel accoutrements of sumptuous riverside dinners, staggering supplies of alcohol and food, trunks of books and commodious accommodations. The physical environment is demanding. "When I removed my hat, the sun had made the top of my head sting... it was like having a freshly baked nail driven into one's skull." Yet her biggest obstacle isn't the climate but the slippery hurdles of culture and sex. Whether struggling to buy a boat, visiting historic Luxor or rowing, innocent encounters become sticky psychological and philosophical snares. Still, the ride is smooth, leaving the reader wishing for more nautical miles. (July 11) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Bookmarks Magazine* Boston native and avid rower Rosemary Mahoney, once an assistant to playwright Lillian Hellman, has led a peripatetic life, and her writing reflects the breadth of her travels and the depth of her thinking on cultural matters. Previous efforts include *The Early Arrival of Dreams*, the author's experiences in China just before Tiananmen Square; *The Singular Pilgrim*, a spiritual travelogue; and *Whoredom in Kimmage*, a treatise on Irish gender roles. In *On the Nile*, the author writes beautifully of the connections between culture and history--though critics note how reluctantly she shares details of her own life outside her travels. Still, Mahoney's voice is direct and honest, her Nile as evocative as Paul Bowles's desert, her wit a counterbalance to the unease engendered by such a profound cultural divide. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. Utterly frank; sometimes rather scary; often extremely witty, brave and revealing in its generalizations; and above all essentially kind * Jan Morris * Sensuous and richly textured writing and an eye for vivid and startling details * *NEW YORK TIMES* * Mahoney, who has been rowing for 10 year, brilliantly juxtaposes an account of her own palm-blistering hours on the Nile....with the diary entries of two Victorian travelers-Gustave Flaubert and Florence Nightingale. * Lisa Fugard, *NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW* *