



The Lost Raft: The True Story of Madness, Mutiny, Mud, Sharks, Shipwrecks, Survival, and Extraordinary Discovery

John Haslett

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"You won't be able to put it down." **National Geographic Adventure**

Modern-day explorers leave the world behind in this compelling portrayal of life aboard a raft at sea.

Beautifully written ... **Dallas Morning News**

The Raft

Author John Haslett travels to the birthplace of an ancient culture to build a 30,000-pound raft made of balsa wood and bamboo. His goal is to sail the vessel to Hawaii. Over the next five years, however, Haslett and his crews struggle through a steamy, tropical odyssey. Along the way, the strain reveals itself in a cast of characters who range from the patently heroic, to an Ahab-like crewman who teeters on the brink of insanity. At its heart, the book is a frank, revealing look inside a modern-day expedition.

"Our entire relationship with Earth and Reality had been reduced to two ideas, the raft and the sea."

Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica

As the story progresses, the rafts and their crews are driven by the elements into remote coves and beaches throughout South and Central America, where they live like castaways for weeks at a time. In these sections, the author offers a more conventional travelogue, describing life in forgotten places, the existence of improbable cultures, and the hardships of being marooned in the tropics.

"We could see from the deck that we were entering into a world of the most beautiful shade of green. Healthy trees rose up and exploded in verdant splendor. Flat and angular leaves glittered with rainwater."

Life aboard a balsa raft

The author spends 125 days on the open sea, and in those chapters he describes his encounters with whales, porpoises, sea turtles, sea snakes, sharks, storms, and great periods of calm. Other passages in the book are dedicated to describing practical living in a small bamboo hut on the sea, cooking, cohabitation, and, at times, surviving. Ultimately, the isolation of the raft teaches Haslett the hard lessons of leadership, and human frailty.

A lost culture in South America

The book gives a short history of the ancient mariners of Ecuador, the Manteño, and then goes on to show how the author and his colleagues deciphered the methods and secrets of this lost culture. The Manteño were the coastal traders who sailed the giant balsa rafts, equipped with “ropes and sails as fine as anything in Spain.” Within just a few years of the Spaniard’s arrival in South America, most of the voyaging Manteño had succumbed to European disease. They left behind no written language.

Kon-Tiki

In 1947, six men sailed a balsa wood raft from South America to Polynesia, a distance of 4800 miles. Their raft was the famed *Kon-Tiki*, and their voyage set off a variety of other raft voyages that the author discusses in relation to his story. His story, however, bears almost no resemblance to the voyage of the *Kon-Tiki*. Haslett’s perspective is of reconciling the misinformation left by a dying icon, the raft’s captain, Thor Heyerdahl. Knowledge of the *Kon-Tiki*, or other previous raft adventures is definitely not a prerequisite.

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Jennifer Perez:

The book *The Lost Raft: The True Story of Madness, Mutiny, Mud, Sharks, Shipwrecks, Survival, and Extraordinary Discovery* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. The writer makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

Raymond Custer:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *The Lost Raft: The True Story of Madness, Mutiny, Mud, Sharks, Shipwrecks, Survival, and Extraordinary Discovery*, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Rosalyn Kendall:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our understanding for everything. By a guide we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This book *The Lost Raft: The True Story of Madness, Mutiny, Mud, Sharks, Shipwrecks, Survival, and Extraordinary Discovery* was filled in relation to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has various feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

Francisco Garcia:

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