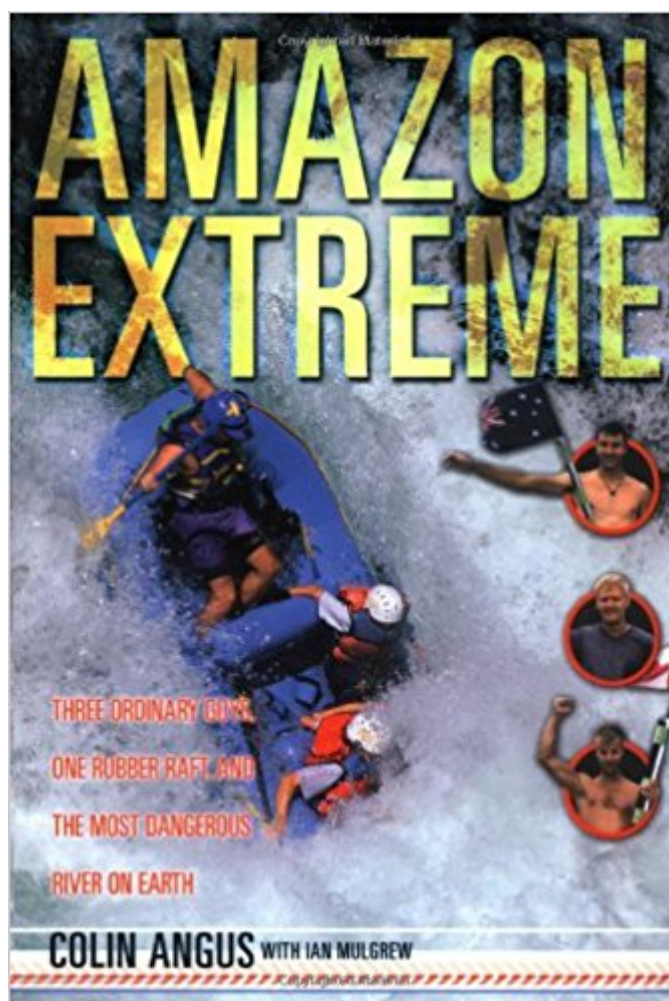


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Extreme: Three Ordinary Guys, One Rubber Raft And The Most Dangerous River On Earth



Synopsis

The true story of three enthusiastic (but inexperienced) adventurers who attempt to become the first team to raft the entire length of the Riverâ “all 4,007 miles--and (barely) live to tell about it. To a trio of twenty-something adrenaline junkies, it sounded like an irresistible challenge: tackle the with nothing more than a rubber raft between them and fate. But when Colin Angus, Ben Kozel, and Scott Borthwick embarked on their fantastic voyage in September 1999, just climbing to the riverâ™s source nearly killed them. Beginning with the dehydration that nearly did the adventurers in as they hiked the Andes to the river's source, Extreme is a breathtaking account of the daily challenges, dangers, and triumphs experienced over the course of this five-month expedition. With no money to speak of and inaccurate, fifty-year-old maps to guide them, this intrepid trio manages to persevere through violent rapids, guerilla gunfire, mosquito-infested drinking water, and numerous bouts of sickness. But in spite of several near-death experiences, including one particularly terrifying moment when their raft is toppled in the raging white water, Angus's crew finds a reverence for the compelling beauty that makes this region so renowned. Amidst the hardship are moments of pure pleasure, from graceful dolphins and lush forests to the intriguing, gracious people whoâ™ve made their homes along the riverbank. An inspiring tale of courage and exploration, this is the story of three guys who truly went off the deep end, and one who came back to write a riveting recollection of it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What were these guys thinking? In September, 1999, three young men set out to float the length of

the River in a rubber raft for the sheer thrill of it. No National Geographic sponsorship, no high-end gear, no support team--just plenty of guts and a desire to do something that had never been done before. Having sailed around the world at the age of 19, author Colin Angus was no stranger to adventure. But he had only one season of river-rafting experience and that was more than the other two members of the expedition combined--hardly impressive credentials for such an ambitious, even foolhardy, exploit. After an auspicious start in which they nearly died of dehydration before even reaching the source of the river, they put their small raft in the water and experienced one adrenaline rush after another, including countless raging rapids, scarce food and clean water, and even Shining Path guerrillas. Refreshingly devoid of bravado and boasting, Angus at times makes the trip sound as if it was just another weekend jaunt into the woods rather than a five-month endurance test. That they survived at all is amazing enough--how they did it makes for an exciting and enjoyable read. The writing itself is not stellar, but they are a likable trio with pure intentions, and Angus, with help from journalist Ian Mulgrew, has created an enthusiastic recollection of the adventure of a lifetime. --Shawn Carkonen

If the word "ordinary" in the subtitle was changed to "irresponsible," it would be a more precise description of this wild tale of three young adventurers who decide to become "the first to extreme raft the ." Beginning with a description of the team's disastrous dehydrating hike to the river, just "three gringos in a foreign desert, slowly dying," first-time author and one of the trio Angus presents himself as a none-too-intellectual buccaneer, "a doer, not a couch potato or an Internet geek." But a little time on the Internet would have helped Angus, since the entire trip is marked by the trio's inability to correctly calculate how much food and water they need, their almost total lack of mapping or directional information, a somewhat condescending attitude toward the poverty-ridden locals they meet on the river and a complete disregard for the dangers of the trip itself, especially the possibility of running into the members of the revolutionary Shining Path, who don't take kindly to strangers. Angus's "Wow, isn't this weird!" journalism is strangely undercut by knowledgeable factoids and historical descriptions of the 's people and landscape that suggest Angus has more "geek" in him than he's let on. But if the adventuring naif conceit doesn't quite hold up, the well-paced, hair-raising tale should still please outdoor adventure junkies if they don't get fed up with the lunatic arrogance of its heroes. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I came across this book at my local library and decided to check it out as my husband and I are whitewater canoeists and have travelled (some) in Peru. Wow! A very good read. Then I decided

this would be a great gift for my son-in-law. He has done a little canoeing with us and has done a lot of mountain climbing and back-country adventures. This will be one of his birthday gifts next week. I know he will enjoy it as we did.

I like Colin Angus as an author. His adventure stories are well worth reading. Hard to put down I have to say.

A great book! Real adventure . Fun read.

This is an amazing, "real life" adventure worth getting lost in. A must for those who love rafting and seeking adventure.

I have been wearing a sleeping aid like this for over 10 years. When they wear out I get a new one. I tried this one but it is hard to get used to . Too much material behind your head and not quite enough to support your chin and cover your mouth. I suffer from a dry mouth because my mouth hangs open while I sleep causing me to wake up every few hours. maybe with a few alterations I can get it to fit better. I prefer the ones with both straps going over head.

This is a great, fun read, full of mad adventure and foolish derring-do. It's about floating down the , but really, the best part is in the beginning, before they even get to the . They actually dip their toes in the Pacific Ocean and then hike over the Andes to find the source of the before they even get into the raft. Hiking the Andes and finding the source was the most interesting part. By the time they actually get into the , most of the adventure is done, and Angus has to work pretty hard to generate some excitement. Anyway, I loved it. I didn't give it five stars just because, well, because it's kind of thin. Not a weighty read, exactly. But so what? Loads of fun. Great read.

Some of the reviewers of this book complain about the quality of the writing, but this is an adventure story told by the young men who lived it. It is not a work of great literature told by experienced professional authors, nor was it meant to be. Consequently, I did not find the quality of writing at all poor. It was, in fact, exhilarating throughout to read these hair raising adventures. I've been on many whitewater rafting trips, organized, and, to some extent, "Disneyfied." I've even fallen out of a raft in the middle of a Class V rapid. That was excitement enough for me! Yet, I would go on such a trip again at a moment's notice. However, to attempt what these three young men did is both

exceedingly brave and exceedingly foolish, and such bravery and such foolishness makes an exciting journey and an exciting read. I commend the men who so rashly went on the journey, and thank them for giving us this souvenir of their adventure.

A great read. The three travelers provide a real display of guts and nerve as they raft to the Atlantic from the site where the is born. Thoroughly enjoyed reading about their experiences.

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