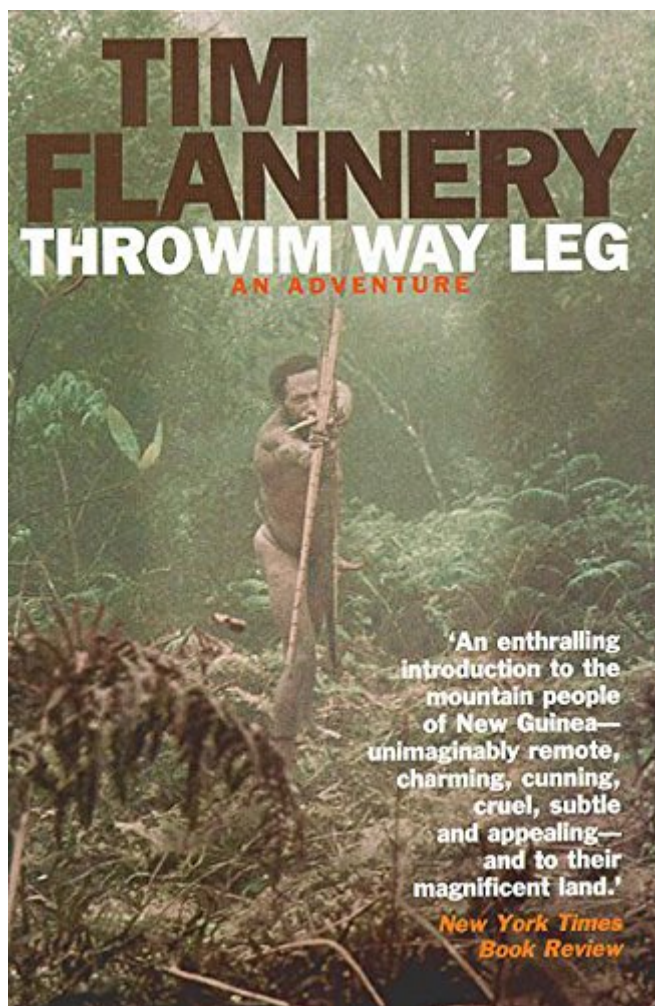


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Throwim Way Leg: An Adventure



Synopsis

Throwim Way Leg is unputdownable, a book of wonder and excitement, of struggle and sadness, a love letter to Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya. This book brims with marvellous stories. Tim Flannery meets skilled hunters and befriends a shaman. He climbs mountains never before scaled by Europeans, discovers new species and stumbles across the giant bones of extinct marsupials. And he writes movingly about the fate of indigenous people when their intricate cultures collide with mining companies and the high-tech world of the late twentieth century. 'In New Guinea Pidgin,' Tim Flannery explains, 'throwim way leg means to go on a journey. It describes the action of thrusting out your leg to take the first step of what can be a long march...' With these words he invites us to share in his breathtaking adventures in the jungles of Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya. You will never think about the bird-shaped island to our north in the same way again. 'An enthralling introduction to the mountain people of New Guinea - unimaginably remote, charming, cunning, cruel, subtle and appealing - and to their magnificent land.' New York Times Book Review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Throwim Way Leg is far more than an adventure book. It is an insight into the ecosystem of New

Guinea and the lives of the people and cultures that live there. An incredibly difficult region to explore due to the terrain of the country for many the only way they would ever be able to imagine how people live there is through a book like this. Not only isolated from the world but also isolated from communities within the region these people have survived. Papua New Guinea is one of those places where new discoveries are still waiting to be found and books like this spark the imagination for those willing to make the effort. I highly suggest this book for anyone interested in the cultures, flora and fauna of New Guinea. Lonnie McCaskill Expedition Cargo

Flannery has painted an excellent picture of how the PNG Highlands was in the '80s and his story is more fascinating because of the science exploration narrative that goes behind the stories of PNG cultures. The impact of intervention and "development", especially extractive industry development, is very accurate.

3.5 stars Throwim Way Leg is the fifth book by Australian mammalogist, palaeontologist, environmentalist, global warming activist and author, Tim Flannery. It describes his many expeditions into Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya in quest of various wildlife species. As well as detailing what is involved in tracking down, sighting and examining his quarry, Flannery comments on the huge challenge faced by those involved with environmental conservation in an undeveloped country such as this. While the myriad of species which get a mention may fascinate (or may make the eyes glaze over), Flannery's tales of his encounters with the locals are interesting, frequently curious and quite often hilarious. Nor is he averse to relating anecdotes that paint him in a less-than-favourable light: the laugh is often on Tim! Accounts of (mis)adventures with pythons and possums, rats and bats, giardia and entamoeba, malaria and altitude sickness, tree kangaroos and a tropical glacier, an angry villager and a tapeworm snacker, all provide diversion and entertainment. Flannery includes a wealth of information about the fauna of New Guinea, about the people and about plundering of natural resources: the last chapter is a sober commentary on the unrest fomenting between the Kamoro (lowlanders) and Amungme (highlanders), PT Freeport Indonesia and the Indonesian military at the time. This is an interesting and thought-provoking read.

If you love natural history exploration books this is for you. Incredible stories relating to the PNG culture and natural environment. An interesting insight into the early expeditions that have shaped the life of Tim Flannery.

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