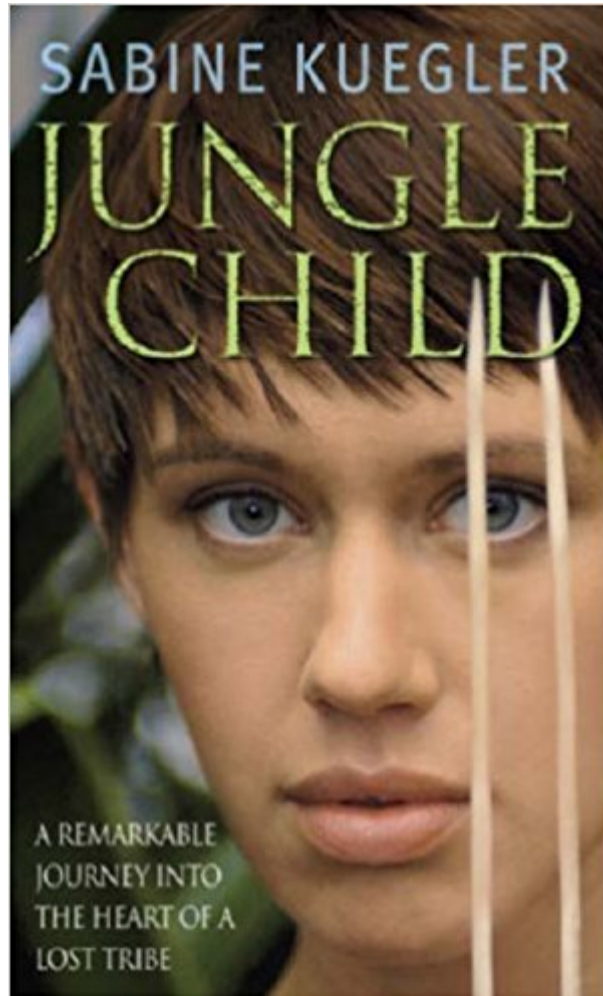




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Jungle Child



Synopsis

A #1 bestseller in Europe, CHILD OF THE JUNGLE tells the remarkable story of a childhood and adolescence spent caught between two modes of existence-jungle life and Western "civilization." Sabine Kuegler was five years old when her family-her German linguist-missionary parents and her siblings-moved to the territory of the recently discovered hunter-and-gatherer Fayu tribe of Papua New Guinea. The Fayu tribe is best known for being a Stone Age community untouched by modern times-they live an existence characterized by fear, violence, and atavistic ritual (including cannibalism in some regions)-but Sabine's family saw another side to them as well. Once the Kueglers were accepted by a clan chief, they found themselves becoming a part of a tightly knit and fiercely loyal community, and living the primal existence of the Fayu-one marked by the natural cycles of day and night, malaria and other diseases, and daily encounters with wildlife, from swims with crocodiles to dinners of worms. As the Kueglers changed, so did the Fayu people, learning from Sabine's family that there was a way out of their cycle of violence and that forgiveness can be sweeter than revenge. At the age of 17, Sabine found her life turned upside down when she left for Switzerland to attend boarding school and entered traditional society head-on. CHILD OF THE JUNGLE is the story of a life lived among the Fayu and the author's attempt to reconcile her feelings about "civilization" with those about a life she knew and loved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 274 pages

Publisher: Virago Press Ltd (2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1844082636

ISBN-13: 978-1844082636

Package Dimensions: 6.8 x 4.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,734,015 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÂ Books > Travel >

Australia & South Pacific > Papua New Guinea #9886 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel #300574 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs

Customer Reviews

In 1980, when Kuegler was seven, she accompanied her German linguist parents into the Papuan

(New Guinea) jungle to live with the Fayu, a Stone Age tribe of naked people with bones through their noses. She felt immediately at home and by her own account had an idyllic childhood till she was 17, even though the Fayu were split into four mutually hostile subtribes in a culture of "hate, fear and tribal war," where children "knew no security or innocence" and had "little love, no forgiveness and no peace." After years of close friendship with Fayu children, eventually Kuegler was sent to boarding school in Switzerland, had a baby shortly after she graduated, married, divorced, sank into depression and attempted suicide. Young readers, and anthropologists, too, will find this account of a most unusual childhood engrossing and will root for the survival of the Fayu. (Mar. 2) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kuegler, who has resided in the "modern world" for only 15 years, begins her extraordinary memoir in 1980, when at age 8 she and her German family moved to the "Lost Valley" in Indonesia's interior, home of the primitive Fayu tribe. Despite the difficult living conditions--boiled river water for baths, a kerosene stove for cooking, an abundance of insects, snakes, and plate-sized spiders--Sabine always feels at home there, living "a life without stress in midst of nature, untouched by modern civilization." She and her siblings teach the native children soccer and hide-and-seek; in return they learn how to survive in the jungle. Kuegler's family gradually teaches its hosts to break the cycle of revenge and murder that has ruled their behavior for centuries, causing the Fayu to live in constant fear, never sure of a viable future. Eventually Kuegler forsakes this world, returning to Germany to pursue traditional education and marriage, but she never forgets the tranquility and comfort she derived from her years in the jungle. Deborah Donovan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I appreciate learning of new cultures through the life experiences of the writers. This life story was shared with humor, clarity and kept me pondering and thinking of a life immersed in such different cultures. Thank you Sabine for enriching my life.

I would recommend this book to young adults, adults, and anyone interested in anthropology. Unlike adults who go to study other cultures, Sabine actually lived it from ages 7 to 17. I have read criticism that she did not address political abuses by the government, but this is not about that. This is a memoir of a girl growing up in one culture but two cultural models - the Fayu and her German parents.

This was a remarkable memoir, marked by its simplicity. There weren't any totally out of the box situations or occurrences in this memoir (which can't be helped, but nevertheless still gives it only four stars), but it was still excellent. When it comes down to it, if you are a person of reverential Christian faith, have a reverence for missions, or if you enjoy cultural studies, this book is for you. The religious tones in this book are not great by any means, but still present, as a forewarning. Great memoir, definitely my top 3.

I loved this book. I went into it semi expecting not to like it as much as I did. I loved every part of it and do not agree with any of the less than stellar comments made about it. We are all entitled to our opinion and I respect those who do not feel this is a 5 star book. With that said.....I loved how the author was truly able to capture the feel of what her life was like with the Fayu. I felt as though I was right there along side her. I loved that the book was written in what sounded like a realistic account of what it would be like to live this life. I think she told her story well and without a doubt I have the utmost respect for this remarkable woman. Because of how she wrote it I could plainly see how difficult it was to fully feel a part of either world. I loved it so much I know I'll re-read it again one day.

I laughed, I cried... I thoroughly enjoyed every page. I did not want the book to end. I would recommend this book to everyone!

this book was recommended by a friend regarding the people of New Guinea, to help understand the culture that these people have and how white Christians have helped to make peace among the tribes of the region, and bring about harmony and acceptance of each other, learning that God is their God as well.

Interesting story but leaves large gaps. I would have enjoyed more detail about the culture and the lives of the natives and how her family was able to integrate themselves into such a different culture.

I like it

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