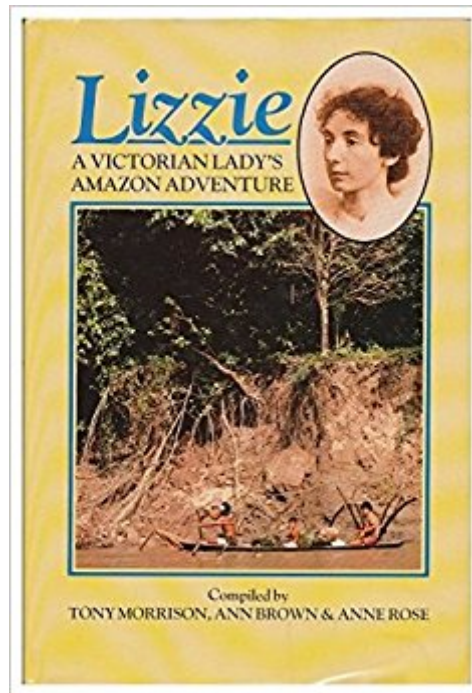




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Lizzie: A Victorian Lady's Adventure



Synopsis

Fine cloth copy in a near-fine, very slightly edge-nicked and dust-dulled dw, now mylar-sleeved. Remains particularly and surprisingly well-preserved overall; tight, bright, clean and strong.; 8vo 8 - 9 tall; 160 pages; Physical desc. : 160p. : [32]p of plates : ill. (some col.), facsim. , 2 maps, ports. ; 25cm. Subject: Hessel, Lizzie, 1870-1899 - Travel - Bolivia - El Beni - River Valley. River Valley - Description and travel - 19th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Married to the manager of a rubber company, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hessel described their travels through the in letters to her family in England from 1896 until her death in 1899. The correspondence was first seen by Brown, Lizzie's great-niece, in the late 1970s; with the help of her close friend Rose, she began to research the life of her remarkable relative. Morrison, a British author and filmmaker (River Journeys, became involved because of his knowledge of the areas where Lizzie lived. Their collaboration has produced a gripping book. The atypical Victorian woman accompanied her husband Fritz to his post with the Orton Rubber Company, which meant journeys through wild, dangerous territory in South America, which is graphically illustrated in period and modern photos, including several arresting shots in color. But Lizzie's lively, uninhibited, uncomplaining reports are more vivid than any illustration. They form an appealing self-portrait of an intelligent, strong-willed woman enjoying foreign adventures, rather than regarding herself in the conventional Victorian light of a woman isolated and excluded from male concerns. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Lizzie Hessel was a British lady who, at a young age right after her marriage, followed her husband to the depths of the forest for him to take the job of rubber tapping manager at Orton, a famous rubber zone in northern Bolivia. This book is basically a collection of letters Lizzie sent her family in England throughout her journey (which took over a year just to get to Orton). In it, she witnessed death (of Fitzcarraldo no less, the man immortalized by Herzog's movie), faced hunger and difficult living conditions with humidity, insects and no shelter in the jungle. The owner of Orton also dies on the way, which makes their situation uncertain halfway through the trip. The authors added commentary to the letters, which provide the reader context to her situation. Maps also give the reader a good sense of where the couple is and where they are headed. It also shows how crazy their trip is, going around the interior of the continent to avoid a yellow fever outbreak. Overall, an outstanding story, with an ending that I will not give away, but is heartstopping.

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