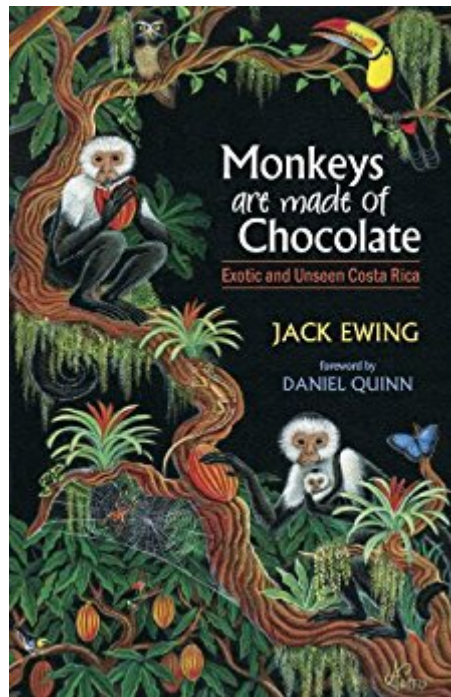


The book was found

Monkeys Are Made Of Chocolate



Synopsis

Discover the mysterious and fascinating ways in which animals and plants and people interact with one another in the rainforests of Costa Rica. Author and naturalist Jack Ewing shares a wealth of observations and experiences, gathered from more than three decades of living in southwestern Costa Rica, home to some of the most prolific and diverse ecosystems on Earth. More than just a simple collection of essays, *Monkeys are Made of Chocolate* is a testament to the wonder of life in all its countless guises, as seen through the eyes of a man with a gift for subtle discernment and a natural flair for storytelling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As the author of *Explore Costa Rica*, a travel guide to Costa Rica, I've known Jack Ewing for more than ten years. Jack owns and runs Finca Hacienda Baru, one of Costa Rica's oldest eco-lodges. Jack has had many fascinating experiences during his years of residence, and he tells about them in this book. I learned a lot, and you will too! I recommend this book to anyone interested in tropical rainforests, ecology, Costa Rica, and animals.

This book is a series of easy-to-digest short stories and essays by a good storyteller. Some are lightweight and merely entertaining, some are likely to change your life. Over 30 years the author, who was born and raised on the midwest plains, gradually turned a typical Central America cattle ranch into a premier eco-resort. By simply being open to what the land and environment were trying to do, some amazing and highly encouraging lessons are taught. The environmental future shown here is lush, varied, and hopeful. This is a bright ray in a field that tends too much toward doom and gloom.

This book gives an excellent overall review of the Pacific rainforest and it's inhabitants in Pacific Costa Rica while encouraging the reader to contemplate preservation of the fragile ecosystems. Very readable. I recommend it to interested travellers to the region.

All I can say is: read it, you'll love it! (as well as learn more than you probably learn in a year of science class, change the way you think about the world, have a better understanding of what nature really is, be highly entertained, want to gather everyone you know and read them entire chapters [or the whole book!] be recommending this book like crazy...you get the idea)

I have to tell you that this was one of the very best nature books I have read in a long time. It has great stories, it is super-engaging, and it has a wonderful yet not overpowering environmental message.

This is a terrific compilation of essays from an author who lives in Costa Rica and makes his living by understanding the nature of this Central American country. The essays range from environmentalism to animals, evolution, and conservation. I purchased this book in advance of a family trip to Guanacaste in northwest Costa Rica. I consider this book a must-have for advance research, planning and understanding of the natural-side of this extremely eco-friendly and eco-aware country. "Monkeys" will provide insight into the country's natural history and you'll feel more prepared and aware of what the country has offer. The short essays (ranging from 3-6 pages each) are a quick read - perfect for the pool, beach or plane.

Interesting stories, but I had to set it aside due to the author's opinion that mankind should not "mess with Mother Nature". Specifically, that human effort to eradicate disease via inoculation and

antibiotics is a foolish endeavor. Ewing points out that evolution (Nature), will outwit mankind. This is true, but evolution is a slow process compared to modern technology. Species, unable to adapt quickly, go extinct on a regular basis (bacteria included.) In contrast, technological development is fast and continues to accelerate. Furthermore, if one embraces Ewing's thesis, then antiseptic practice, which contributes to the development of "super bacteria", is a failed concept. In summary, the author's quasi-Luddite position views human technological endeavor (house construction for example) as wasted motion; his position is Nature will prevail in the end.

Jack Ewing was a Colorado rancher and farmer who bought agricultural property in Costa Rica in the early 1970s. He was so impressed by the incredible richness of the remaining wildlife that he eventually restored the entire property to rainforest, and helped pioneer Costa Rica's now world-class ecotourism industry. Hacienda Baru now employs far more people than his ranch ever did, and has caused the return of many species long lost to that region of Costa Rica. It is a magnet for visitors from every nation. As pointed out by Daniel Quinn in the Foreword, Ewing illustrates a phenomenon not heralded in the press: business people acting to maintain biodiversity, and to mitigate the effects of climate change, while improving the standard of living of people around them.

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