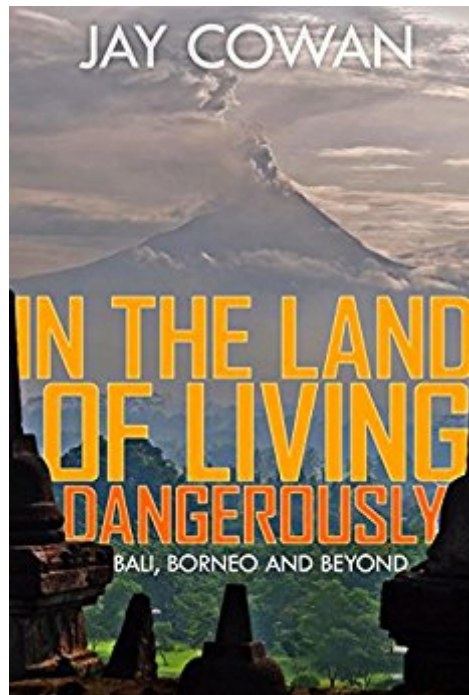




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In The Land Of Living Dangerously: Bali, Borneo & Beyond



Synopsis

With *“In the Land of Living Dangerously”*, an adventure travelogue set in Indonesia, author Jay Cowan explores myriad issues experienced during his travels in the Indonesian archipelago from culture and history to politics and anthropology, from exotic endemic wildlife and huge environmental challenges to one-on-one encounters with volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, the natural disasters that keep the region in the news. Cowan and his wife climbed 13,500-foot Mount Kinabalu, took river trips deep into the interior of Borneo, were on-site for the huge eruptions of Mount Merapi volcano in Java, got a close-up view of Indonesia’s infamous corruption in Bali and witnessed radical Islamic terrorist activities that have rocked the region • all while trying to avoid getting bird flu, dengue fever, malaria, Bali belly and a variety of other brutal tropical diseases that run rampant in the area and are now focal points for battles over who controls the viruses and their potential vaccines. As well as getting up close and personal with Indonesia’s famous Komodo dragons, the author tracked down other seriously endangered species in their native habitats including orangutans, pygmy elephants, tarsiers, giant yellow-lipped clams, proboscis monkeys, mouse deer and several dozen more imperiled species of animals and birds. This exciting and informative travelogue also includes discussions of US President Obama’s childhood in Java, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s visits to the area, a plane ride with Indonesia’s then-Vice-President Jusuf Kalla, and an interview by the author with the Foreign Minister of China on a beach in Bali.

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Customer Reviews

Not a bad read if you are going to Borneo, as I was. A few tips were very useful and it helped me gain a 'lay of the land'. I found myself skipping the Bali section, since I didn't find the writing style particularly engaging.

Jay Cowan's, "In The Land Of Living Dangerously" takes the reader to some of the most exotic locals on earth and delivers him back to his easy chair more or less unscathed. The author's affection for "Bali, Borneo and Beyond" spans politics, art, and the natural world, with the danger part cropping up in almost every category. Few books, and authors, so cheerfully marry unexpected interview opportunities with potentially murderous political figures with the true excitement of attempting to play a round of golf in that part of the planet. Cowan's deep love and respect for nature is in stark contrast with that of callous tourists flaunting their ignorance. He wanders the most beautiful and exotic museums all but alone, as they don't offer much in the way of shopping opportunities, and he is startled by the randomness of unexpected encounters with strongmen who are willing to speak with him. Cowan finds that getting to the golf course and getting to the Komodo Dragons can offer equal degrees of excitement and danger, and sustains an attitude of warmth and humor throughout. If you have an unrequited love for faraway places and can't handle the ticket, this book is for you.

A fast-paced and fascinating account of life on the other side of the planet. With clear and vivid description, Cowan guides us through one of the most interesting places on earth. The chapters on seeing Komodo Dragons in the wild is worth the price of admission alone. In the Land of Living Dangerously is a travel book that takes you far, far beyond the genre, or anything you might expect.

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