



The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey

By Candice Millard

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At once an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait, *The River of Doubt* is the true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth.

The River of Doubt—it is a black, uncharted tributary of the Amazon that snakes through one of the most treacherous jungles in the world. Indians armed with poison-tipped arrows haunt its shadows; piranhas glide through its waters; boulder-strewn rapids turn the river into a roiling cauldron.

After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Together with his son Kermit and Brazil's most famous explorer, Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. In the process, he changed the map of the western hemisphere forever.

Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Three men died, and Roosevelt was brought to the brink of suicide. *The River of Doubt* brings alive these extraordinary events in a powerful nonfiction narrative thriller that happens to feature one of the most famous Americans who ever lived.

From the soaring beauty of the Amazon rain forest to the darkest night of Theodore Roosevelt's life, here is Candice Millard's dazzling debut.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ferrone's gravelly, stentorian, hushed voice sounds downright presidential in reading the story of this little-known event from ex-Commander-in-Chief Theodore Roosevelt's postpolitical life. After losing his third-party run for the 1912 presidential election, Roosevelt agreed to accompany a Brazilian explorer on a trip along the Amazon, hoping to map the river's uncharted path. Expecting an uneventful trip, Roosevelt and his party barely managed to escape with their lives. Ferrone adopts a strange tone when providing Roosevelt's voice, attempting to echo his famously brusque boom and sounding oddly strangled in the process. His reading is on steadier ground in conveying the sweep of Millard's prose, uniting the personal drama of the Roosevelt family with the naturalist investigations of the voyage. Ferrone carries the narrative along on the waves of his own raspy, gruff instrument, shuttling readers through Millard's book with a steely self-assurance reminiscent of its subject. *Simultaneous release with the Doubleday hardcover (Reviews, July 11). (Nov.)*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Every critic enjoyed Millard's yarn about an ex-president's fervent desire for adventure and self-acceptance. By focusing on the vivid details of Roosevelt's journey to the Amazon as well as his relationship with his son, Millard creates much more than your typical ho-hum adventure. The beauty of this story is not just that Roosevelt's rich history could spawn a thousand adventure stories, but that Millard's experience with *National Geographic* is evident in her beautiful scenic descriptions and grisly depictions of the Amazon's man-eating catfish, ferocious piranhas, white-water rapids, and prospect of starvation. A story deep in symbolism and thick with research, Millard succeeds where many have not; she has managed to contain a little bit of Teddy Roosevelt's energy and warm interactions between the covers of her wonderful new book.

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From [Booklist](#)

Anacondas, huge snakes found in the Amazon River and its tributaries, can weigh up to 500 pounds. That fact and many others embedded in this marvelously atmospheric travel narrative are here for the reader's asking and edification in Millard's important contribution to the complete biographical record of the great, dynamic Teddy Roosevelt. TR, it will be remembered, attempted a third term as president in 1912, only to make certain of a Democratic victory. Licking his wounds, and reverting to his typical method of "seeking solace from heartbreaks and frustration" by testing his physical endurance, he embarked on an Amazon exploration adventure. A set of odd circumstances led to the River of Doubt as the choice of venue, a large tributary of the giant river that up to that point had been little explored. What with suffering from fever and infection, Roosevelt nearly died on the trip; but live through it he did, and readers of both American history and travel narratives will take delight in living through these exciting pages. *Brad Hooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Mele:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

Florence Lentz:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey as your daily resource information.

Phyllis Ramirez:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Della Francis:

A number of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the actual book The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey to make your reading is interesting. Your skill of reading proficiency is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and study it. Beside that the guide The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey can to be your brand new friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of these time.

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