The Footloose American: Following the Hunter S. Thompson Trail Across South America

Brian Kevin
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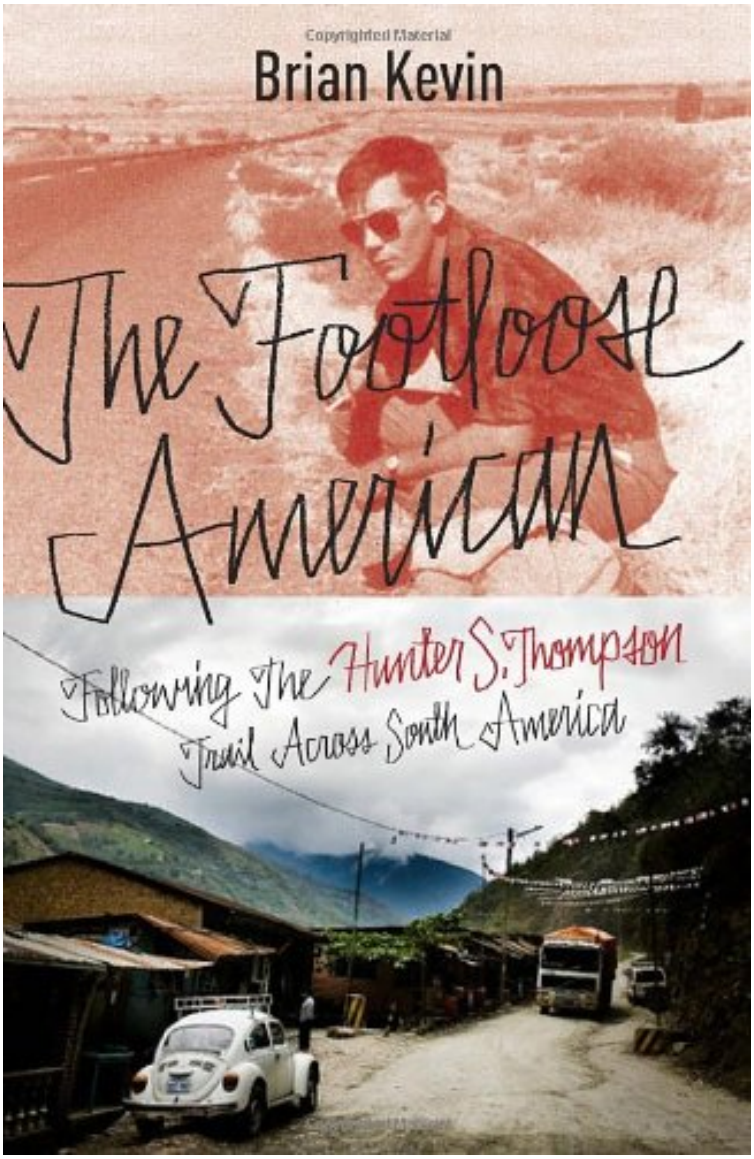

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#592848 in Books Brian Kevin 2014-05-20 2014-05-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .82 x 5.20l, .65 #File Name: 0770436374384 pagesThe Footloose American Following the Hunter S Thompson Trail Across South America | File size: 37.Mb

Brian Kevin : The Footloose American: Following the Hunter S. Thompson Trail Across South America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Footloose American: Following the Hunter S. Thompson Trail Across South America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Engaging and DelightfulBy Michael J. DeVriesI am a child of the sixties but not an expert or even follower of Hunter Thompson. Brian Kevin's book was recommended to me by a member of my family described in the book. I learned to love travel books after reading Steinbeck's Travels with Charley in high school. Kevin's book certainly is an excellent addition to that genre. The prose is delightful and engaging without the sort of sensationalism one has come to expect in contemporary writing. There is a sincerity and warmth to Brain Kevin that comes through in the book. I am certain he makes for a wonderful travel partner. His descriptions of each South American country he visits offer a balance of appreciation and critical reflection. It is a mixture that goes down smoothly just like the beer he so frequently imbibes throughout his journey. What does he learn through his various adventures? Coming to know Brian through his account, one is not surprised to find he is modest about what insights he can offer about Hunter Thompson or the quest to better understand the United States from his encounter with the people and cultures of South America. He leaves us with more questions and doubts about the future of South America than answers. Having spent time in Peru in places far from the popular tourist sites, I certainly resonate with his reluctance to offer grand visions or slogans. He has learned from Hunter what little was accomplished in Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" and how inflated visons of change for South America emerging from North American sources have fared. However, there are glimmers of hope in this book that North Americans have something to offer South America. Hope shows up here and there in the local efforts of individuals striving to make a difference in the lives of the poor and marginalized people in South America. Read the book and discover both the biright and dark sides of South America through the eyes of both Hunter Thompson and his insightful interpreter, Brian Kevin. You will enjoy the journey!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth a read even if you've never heard of Hunter S. ThompsonBy Rachel RonningThis is not my normal genre. I can rant for hours on the differences between the book and movie of "The Fellowship of the Ring". I write postcards to my sister in Norse Runes. I only vaguely recalled that Hunter S. Thompson was connected with one of those movies that was popular when I was in college that I never saw.This book does appeal to non Thompson junkies because it stands on it's own as a witty, insightful, thought provoking, well-researched, novel. Background is provided to help even a novice see how messed up South America was and is. Anytime you start to feel bogged down with history and poverty, there is a recounting about something funny or a well-phrased comment. This balance makes "The Footloose American" an unforgettable read. If you've ever stayed in a Hostel, this book is worth reading for the backpacker scene alone. I enjoyed seeing South America through Brian's mind and would love to meet Lucas the duck, but will probably keep my travel plans to Western Europe. I hope people outside the journalism field give this book a chance. It deserves to be widely read. I look forward to reading more from this author.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Barry KevinGreat read!

An adventure-filled and thought-provoking travelogue along Hunter S. Thompson's forgotten route through South AmericaIn 1963, twenty-five-year-old Hunter S. Thompson completed a yearlong journey across South America, filing a series of dispatches for an upstart paper called the National Observer. It was here, on the front lines of the Cold War, that this then-unknown reporter began making a name for himself. The Hunter S. Thompson who would become America's iconic "gonzo journalist" was born in the streets of Rio, the mountains of Peru, and the black market outposts of Colombia. In The Footloose American, Brian Kevin traverses the continent with Thompson's ghost as his guide, offering a ground-level exploration of twenty-first-century South American culture, politics, and ecology. By contrasting the author's own thrilling, transformative experiences along the Hunter S. Thompson Trail with those that Thompson describes in his letters and lost Observer stories, The Footloose American is at once a gripping personal journey and a thought-provoking study of culture and place.

From BooklistAs role models go, one could not choose one much more problematic than the late Hunter S. Thompson, whose alcohol- and drug-crazed escapades were, largely through his own words, legendary. As a journalistic example, though (those conditions notwithstanding), one could not do much better, and that is what travel writer Kevin has done, literally and literarily following in the footsteps of the young Thompson, who was working at that time (1962) for the National Observer. It was in South America, Kevin states, that Thompson developed that razor-edged understanding of the dying American dream. Kevin wants, like Thompson, to develop a keener grasp of the U.S. by tracing the pre-gonzo Thompsons path, from Colombia to Brazil. Kevin is, like his model, an observant and witty, if inexperienced, writer; this is fine, historically well-researched travel writing in the tradition of Bruce Chatwin as well as in that of the youthful and restrained (partially thanks to dysentery) Thompson. --Mark Levine "A travel story that doubles as a hell of a ride through modern-day South American culture." --EsquireAbout the AuthorBRIAN KEVIN has written about travel, adventure, and culture for Outside, Sierra, Mens Journal, and Travel + Leisure. He received a 2010 Lowell Thomas Award from the Society of American Travel Writers. He currently lives in coastal Maine where he's a contributing editor at Down East.