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## Four Corners: A Journey into the Heart of Papua New Guinea

*Kira Salak*

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#752605 in Books National Geographic 2004-11-01 2004-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.99 x .88 x 5.981, .99 #File Name: 0792274172336 pages | File size: 23.Mb

**Kira Salak : Four Corners: A Journey into the Heart of Papua New Guinea** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Corners: A Journey into the Heart of Papua New Guinea:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best travel adventures I've ever read; compelling, a page-turner, didn't want it to end! GREAT BOOK By Oksana I've read many travel adventure books,, this is one of the best I've EVER read. Kira has a Phd. in English literature, so it's well-written. Her tale starts out in southern Africa, where she makes the insane decision to cross Mozambique (alone) during its 30+ year civil war. I wondered if she had a

death wish. Kira details her strange childhood; being raised by Ayn Rand fanatics who didn't believe in loving their children or celebrating birthdays. To fill the void, Kira decides to travel. Her harrowing, near fatal experience with rebel soldiers in Mozambique sets up her journey to cross Papua New Guinea, by river trekking, alone. This book was so involving that I couldn't put it down, but I didn't want it to end either. I would have read another 200 pages. As Kira travels meets ex-pats, tribal people, missionaries (whom all loathe the tribal customs the tribal people) guerrilla fighters (fighting the genocide, that's being committed on the New Guinean tribes that live over the border in Irian Jaya, by the Indonesian government), she grows in confidence begins to discover that she is okay just the way she is: she's worthy of love. Kira's bravery against potential rapists is extraordinary, her ability to learn pidgin relate to the tribes is wonderful. Kira's travel to the deepest regions of PNG her descriptions of the different colors of the rain forest, the Birds of Paradise, the colorful headdresses worn by the tribesmen make you feel like you're right there with her. It's a grueling journey; a trek up down a jungle mountain in a torrential rainstorm at night, barefoot, but she overcomes every obstacle. This is an empowering book for women. My only regret is that Kira didn't bring a camera (this was before digital cameras) so there are no photos. If you want to know what it's like to travel alone, across PNG, as a woman, forgoing all comforts hotel lodgings, this great book will make you feel that you're on the journey with the author. Her empathy for the tribes people whose entire families are being massacred by the Indonesian Muslims is heartrending. It is a holocaust that we don't hear about in the US press. When New Guinea was divided into independent PNG Indonesian Irian Jaya, the systematic destruction of the indigenous tribal people the Indonesian government's illegal deforestation of the rain forest continues to this day. What the Indonesian government has wrought on Borneo; deforestation, burning the remaining brush to make room for palm oil plantations (wiping out the habit of Orangutans) is the same thing that is happening in Irian Jaya, only the tribal people are Melanesian (a different race) not Muslim, so the Indonesian government continues to slaughter entire tribes. I wish Kira would write more travel adventure stories. HIGH RECOMMENDED.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Journey - Highly RecommendedBy C. RothwellI read White Mary a few years ago and was totally entranced by it, one of those books that totally absorbs you. So when I found out I was heading to Papua New Guinea and saw this, also by Kira Salak, I bought it immediately. I was not disappointed at all. Kira's writing grips the reader and she writes extraordinarily well, you feel like you are with her. Probably one of the biggest attractions for me, is her emotional and self-awareness while writing. It is an outer as well as inner journey and she makes this interesting and relate-able for everyone. We are all on a journey of self-identity. I so admire Kira's courage and willingness to put herself in situations that push the boundaries of safety and comfort. This seems stupid at times, too, but it is fascinating to go along for the ride with her. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed this book very muchBy Review349085I enjoyed this book very much. I was able to get through it in about a week, reading it for awhile each evening on the couch. If you like travel, dangerous situations, adventure, unexplored places, or PNG, this book is probably for you.

A New York Times Notable Book about a PEN Awardwinning journalists extraordinary journey through the last frontier of adventure travel. At the age of twenty-four, Kira Salak took a three-month solo trip across Papua New Guinea, making her the first woman to have traversed the whole country. Amid the breathtaking landscapes and wildlife, she navigated the island by dugout canoe and on foot. Along the way, she stayed in a village where people still practice cannibalism behind the backs of the missionaries; met the leader of the OPM, the separatist guerrilla movement opposing the Indonesian occupation of Western New Guinea; and undertook an epic trek through the jungle. Four Corners is also an interior journey as she explores her dysfunctional family's past and the demons that drive her to experience situations that most of us can barely imagine. Reading more like a thriller than a travel memoir, Four Corners is compulsive armchair travel at its very best.

About the AuthorKira Salak is a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and contributing editor to National Geographic Adventure magazine. A PEN Awardwinning journalist, she has traveled alone to almost every continent, visiting some of the world's most remote places, including locations in Madagascar, Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Borneo. She was the first documented person to kayak solo 600 miles down West Africa's Niger River. Salak was also the first woman to traverse Papua New Guinea, a country she writes about in her New York Times Notable Book Four Corners. She lives with her husband and daughter in Germany.