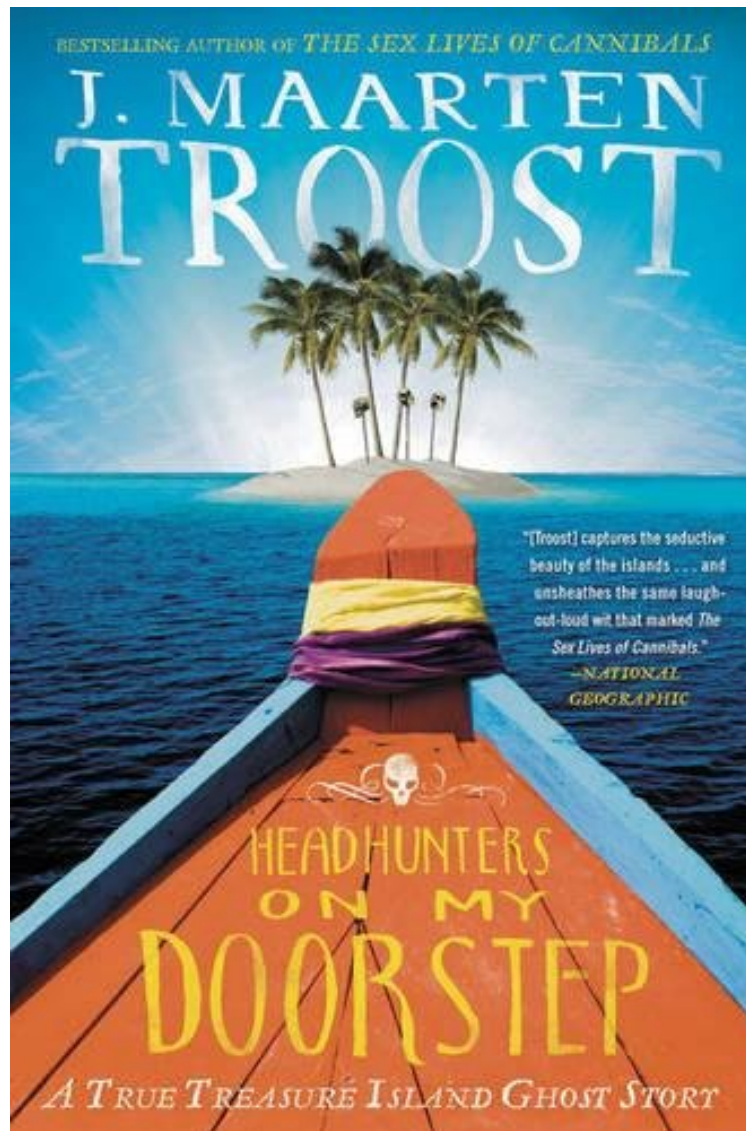


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Headhunters on My Doorstep: A True Treasure Island Ghost Story

J. Maarten Troost

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#63494 in Books J Maarten Troost 2014-06-03 2014-06-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.40l, .50 #File Name: 1592408737272 pages Headhunters on My Doorstep A True Treasure Island Ghost Story | File size: 37.Mb

J. Maarten Troost : Headhunters on My Doorstep: A True Treasure Island Ghost Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Headhunters on My Doorstep: A True Treasure Island Ghost Story:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really disappointing By S. Hill Really disappointing read. As many others have said, this book is pretty aimless and drones on and on about alcoholism and rehab with a lot of

unsuccessful and what I'd consider lazy attempts at humor. While I was a big fan of his earlier books, which were a great mix of actual travel writing and humor, this one provides little of both. When he does focus on the travel writing and the new destinations, the book is enjoyable, but that really only makes up about 25% of what's written. Otherwise it's a lot of bizarre rehab and alcoholism rehashing, over and over, for no one's benefit. I'd pass and read one of his earlier works again. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another wonderful book by J. Maarten Troost!!! By Wezzie I've read all of J. Maarten Troost's books. I was delighted to see that he has a new (to me) book out, *Headhunters on my Doorstep*. It's cleverly written and includes alternating chapters about his adventure to the Marquesas Islands, his interest in Robert Louis Stevenson and Troost's struggles with alcohol. As a lifelong fan of the South Pacific islands' history and culture it was a joy to learn more about the Marquesas, where CBS *Survivor* filmed several years ago. If I could, I'd immediately hop on a cruise or cargo ship to Fatu Hiva based on Troost's description. I've had the good fortune to vacation on Bora Bora and Huahine, French Polynesia and Rarotonga and Aitutaki, the Cook Islands, plus nearly 30 trips to the islands of Hawaii, and I can tell you that J. Maarten Troost's books are honest and informative, not to mention belly-laugh-out-loud funny. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Long, drawn out essay of an alcoholic seeing the Pacific after getting out of rehab. By University Doc Unlike the two previous books, this is just a long extended essay on the author copying Robert Louis Stevenson's trek around the Pacific. Troost became an alcoholic and after getting off work drops him off at rehab. Once out of rehab, the author decides to copy Stevenson. Nothing to this book. Overall, the author is an overgrown, immature, irresponsible idiot just living off his "woman".

Follow in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson with J. Maarten Troost, the bestselling author of *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*. Readers and critics alike adore J. Maarten Troost for his signature wry and witty take on the adventure memoir. *Headhunters on My Doorstep* chronicles Troost's return to the South Pacific after his struggle with alcoholism left him numb to life. Deciding to retrace the path once traveled by the author of *Treasure Island*, Troost follows Robert Louis Stevenson to the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, Tahiti, Kiribati, and Samoa, tumbling from one comic misadventure to another. *Headhunters on My Doorstep* is a funny yet poignant account of one man's journey to find himself that will captivate travel writing aficionados, Robert Louis Stevenson fans, and anyone who has ever lost his way.

From Publishers Weekly Newly sober travel writer Troost retraces Robert Louis Stevenson's route through the South Pacific from the Marquesas to Samoa in this evocative, funny literary memoir. He recounts his voyage upon the *Aranui III* cargo ship rooming with a seasick "family of cheerful gnomes from Lyon," battling the urge for a drink and acquiring a traditional Marquesan tattoo on the anniversary of his sobriety. Troost provides insight into addiction and recovery that, in his case, turned him from alcoholic to longdistance runner, and from Buddhism to the Catholic Church. We learn the history of the islands and view the beautiful landscapes of lagoons, atolls, and beaches through Troost's vibrant descriptions. Troost muses on quotes from Stevenson's *In the South Seas*, such as his thoughts on cannibalism, "to eat a man's flesh after he is dead is far less hateful than to oppress him whilst he lives." He also discusses other literary works about the South Pacific including Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl's *Back to Nature* and Herman Melville's *Typee*. Troost is an excellent travel narrator, clever, bold, and full of captivating visual details. His personal story of recovery is also powerfully told and will surely resonate with many readers. From Booklist *Starred* It might seem odd that Troost, the Dutch American travel writer, had never read Robert Louis Stevenson's *In the South Seas*, the chronicle of Stevenson's South Pacific voyage to the Marquesas, Tahiti, and Samoa. But, hey, to Troost's nimble, rather offbeat mind, RLS was boring. He was stuffy. He was probably English. Troost adds, So I was an idiot. This travel memoir charts the author's own South Pacific voyage, replicating (to a degree) Stevenson's. The trip was partly therapeutic. Troost, a recovering alcoholic, has a big problem with continents (Bad things happened to me on large land masses. Terrible things) and going somewhere small and isolated seemed just the thing to ease a troubled spirit. But there was also an educational component. Troost was trying to experience the voyage in two ways: as a modern-day adventure, but also as a way to explore an episode of Stevenson's life, to get to know this man and writer he'd neglected for far too long. Like Bill Bryson, Troost deftly combines humor, commentary, and education (an aside about the Marquesas episode of *Survivor*, sparked by the author's discovery that he's standing on a beach that featured in the show, leads smoothly into a look at old Marquesas and its odd mixture of wealth and poverty). Troost is a very funny guy, but he also has a lot of serious things to talk about. A splendid travel memoir. --David Pitt "Exuberant." *The New York Times Book Review* A splendid travel memoir. Booklist (starred review) A rambunctious, intimate trip well worth the armchair time. Kirkus (starred review) Troost is a new generation's answer to Bill Bryson. BookPage Troost displays a level of sophistication rarely found in travel writing. His humor is spot on, and one needs humor when reading about the loss of indigenous culture in the Marquesas, the urban sprawl of Tahiti, and the notion that Kiribati as a nation may soon be subsumed by the Pacific Ocean. Acquire this book by any means possible. Library Journal [Troost] crafts exquisite paragraphs that capture the seductive beauty of the islands. National Geographic Traveler Praise for the hardcover Troost's sly wit permeates the narrative, propelling his saga out of the

ranks of many recovery memoirs. The author weaves together entertaining and illuminating pop-culture touchstones, history, and cultural, culinary and literary references with personal experiences while rambling across the South Seas...A rambunctious, intimate trip well worth the armchair time.(starred review) Kirkus s[Troost] crafts exquisite paragraphs that capture the seductive beauty of the islands[and] unsheathes the same laugh-out-loud wit that marked Cannibals Troost is an insightful guide, who can see beyond the superficial shimmer to the complexities underneath...Ultimately, Troost's tale is a celebration of persistence: his own persistent refusal to be seduced by alcohol, Stevensons persistent triumph over the tuberculosis and other diseases that wracked his body but didnt conquer his spirit until he succumbed at the age of 44 on his beloved Samoa, and the persistent allure of those far-flung tropical specks of sand, as much fantasy as reality perhaps, but essential all the same. National Geographic Praise for The Sex Lives of Cannibals Troost has a command of place and narrative that puts him in the company of some of today's best travel writers." Elle "Hilarious"(Top 10 Memoirs) Publisher's Weekly A comic masterwork of travel writing Publishers Weekly A delightful, self-deprecating, extremely sly account of life in a place so wretched it gives new, terrible meaning to getting away from it all. National Geographic Adventure "The Sex Lives of Cannibals is certain to be one of the most harrowing, witty and satisfying books of the summer... hilarious." -Tucson Citizen "Books touted as "laugh-out-loud funny" frequently aren't, but fist-time author Troost has succeeded... Full of tall tales, ironic philosophizing and beer jokes, the book skewers the notion that 'civilized' Western ways are always a good thing." - Newsweek International Troost has found his calling in broadly humorous travel writing. He's a natural: he can evoke a place with an ardor that will have you wanting to jump on the first plane; he's read his history; he's no chump when it comes to the ironies and iniquities of politics He can write an entire engaging chapter on the day the beer ran out in Tarawa. [but] also laugh at himself, almost as often as the islanders do. Troost lives up to the billing as a travel, adventure, humor, memoir kind of book-and a really good one, at that. Kirkus s Praise for Getting Stoned with Savages: Troost is a funny, candid, and down-to-earth travel companion. Entertainment Weekly Troost manages to relate his misadventures in an irreverently funny style . . . this makes for a good beach read on your own vacation. Pittsburgh Tribune- One of Troost's greatest successes is that hes not reporting, exactly, not writing as a journalist would, but simply living his life in a faraway place and writing about it. The New York Times Troost is a travel writer who delivers the gratifying, old-school goods: curious cultural practices; encounters with venomous, nay murderous, creatures; perspective on recent history, with all the chaos wrought by European interlopers.-Kirkus s "Those who enjoyed... The Sex Lives of Cannibals will not be disappointed with this follow-up... readers-sitting in offices, yearning to break free and live on a tropical isle.[Getting Stoned with Savages]provides a wonderful, witty view into the experience- the good and the bad. Recommended for all libraries." Library Journal Praise for Lost on Planet China; One Man's Attempt to Understand the World's Most Mystifying Nation Funny, insightful. China as youve never read it before. National Geographic Traveler At once breezy, funny, and edgy, with enough good reporting to make you feel what its like to walk Chinas real streets. Houston Chronicle There are moments of humor and poignancy: an unsettling dalliance with an English translator called Meow Meow and an encounter with child beggars camped beneath a JumboTron screen in Qingdao thats broadcasting an N.B.A playoff game. New York Times Book Troosts crisp, engaging prose invites the reader to experience his adventures right alongside him. At turns meditative, whimsical, humorous, and shocked, Troost is an excellent guide to the vast, multifaceted country that is modern-day China. Booklist Made me laugh out loud more times than I can remember Troost is already being lauded as the new generations answer to Bill Bryson; in my view , his writing is markedly different, but it will definitely find an appreciative audience among Bryson fans. Bookpage Troosts adventures are peppered with tremendous humor and hes magnificent writing about himself in the role of the bumbling Westerner. Readers will howl over his gastronomic imbroglios as well as his knack for attracting opportunistic, overly friendly women who offer their services as tour guides. Kirkus s Troost is refreshingly upbeat readers interested in a warts-and-all look at this complicated, evolving country will find this rich in education. Publishers Weekly (Starred) This is one of the years best travel books. World Hum Funny and engrossing. Barre Montpelier Times Argus Troost is the kind of guy with whom youd drink a few beers, swap some stories, and laugh until you cry. Winnipeg Free Press Readers of the world should rejoice Lost on Planet China is every bit as entertaining as [Troosts] previous two. With his biting, self-deprecating wit, Troost becomes the perfect traveling companion. An example of travel writing at its best. Settle back and enjoy one of the most rollicking literary vacations yet. Tucson Citizen Hilarious. National Geographic Adventure It's a pleasure to travel with him [a] hilarious and cutting narrative. Chicago Tribune Lost on Planet China seems to follow the Paul Theroux school of travel writing. Lonely Planet