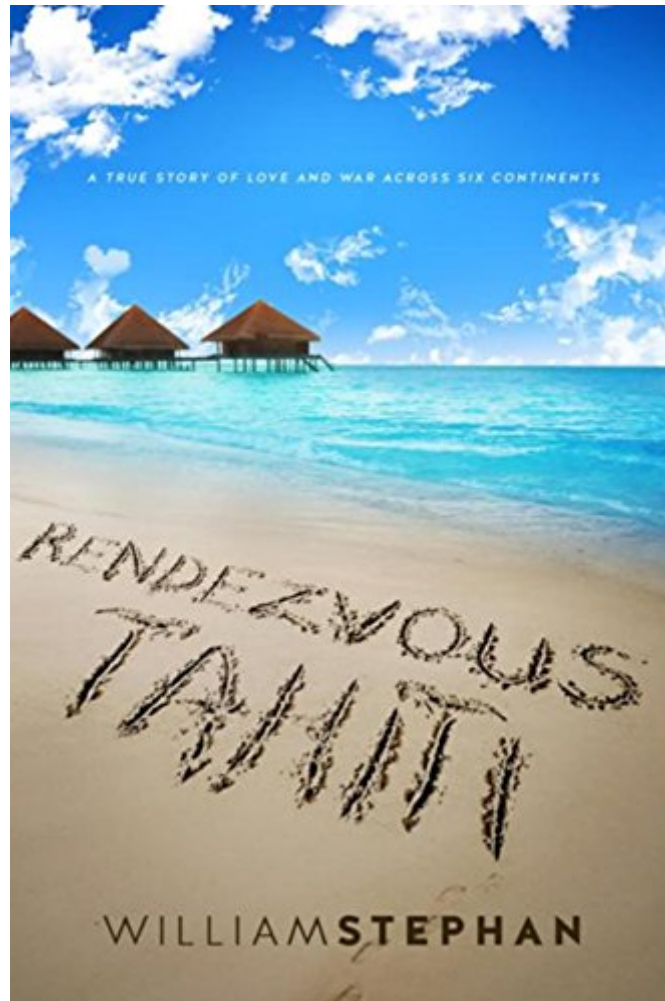




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Rendezvous Tahiti



Synopsis

Rendezvous Tahiti is a true story of love, life, death, and redemption. It takes place during the era of the Vietnam war. A young soldier returns from the war unscathed, or so he thought. He finds the country very different from when he left. Returning troops are spit upon and Americans burn American flags. In his quest for employment in this hostile environment he finds, by an incredible twist of fate, an opportunity that will change his life forever. The author invites you to go along on the incredible adventure that follows.

Book Information

File Size: 983 KB

Print Length: 208 pages

Publisher: Koehler Books; 1 edition (June 1, 2015)

Publication Date: June 1, 2015

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00PAIXOOK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #814,742 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18

inÃ Â Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > Tahiti #34 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > Vietnam #237 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Vietnam

Customer Reviews

This book has it all! Love, exotic locations, and keeps your interest. I enjoyed the descriptions of the destinations and the characters in the book. It makes me want to travel to several of the places especially the South Pacific.

I really don't like to read. I believe I've had ADD since childhood. However, I'm halfway through it in just a couple of days. I read a little each night. I can't wait to get to the end. Awesome story so far Uncle Bill; thanks for getting me on track reading as it helps me escape daily life as I journey with

you while reading your amazing book. Ps. I still have the flags, letter and money you sent me in the late 60s from Vietnam. Jeff Mueller

Enjoyed reading Rendezvous Tahiti! As a Vietnam Vet returning to a changing world and trying to find his path in life. I was captivated by the descriptions of the places Mr. Stephan went to in his travels as a International Tour Director. The love and adventure keeps it exciting right to the very end. A must read!

I'm not at all surprised that all the reviews so far are five stars. I seriously DID NOT want to put this book down. I got upset when I had to leave for some commitments over the two days I spent reading it, and I was late for most of them because I wanted to keep reading it. This book is an emotional rollercoaster! I still shake my head at how randomly he ended up in the business that truly changed his life, and just his traveling alone would have made for a great book with the endless supply of unique travel tales. But throw in a good (and way too dramatic!) love story, and I now wish I could find many more books like that to read. I hope he writes more. I just read his bio and it says he's writing full time now. I'll be the first in line to buy the next one!

GREAT BOOK

The book cover was the lure to reading this book, plus I fancied a literary trip to Tahiti as the weather in my area has been so bad this Summer. These are William Stephan's narratives from 6 continents although the Polynesian Islands and Tahiti in particular are clearly where his heart lies. The memoir starts at the point of his return from Saigon in the late 1960s, where he had spent many a night atop his lodgings watching the military deployments during the war. As a result he suffered nerve damage in later years from coming into contact with Agent Orange. This is his memoir looking back at the life that awaited him in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. By chance he fell into the role of tour guide for AARP, and jumped at the opportunity to be paid to travel. Who wouldn't? Remember, these are the early days of group travel when perhaps there was a single Pan Am flight only once a month to Papeete in Tahiti! How things have changed. And this is what makes this memoir remarkable Stephan writes like a modern blogger, in short chapters, with terrific enthusiasm and open-heartedness, but the style is very much of the 60s and 70s, which makes for a curious mix. As he travels the world, the theme running through the book is the developing romance

between him and his new found love on Tahiti, Amy, and the innumerable hoops he has to go through in order to win her over. A rather large stumbling block emerges, in that she is married to an abusive husband. But the path of true love never did run smoothly. At one point, during a long break in his tour guiding schedule, he decides to join a boat, the Vaitere in hot pursuit of his new found love, only she doesn't know he is coming. Awkward. But a horrendous bout of sea sickness literally takes the wind out of his sails and he struggles with survival as the ship continues its path through the atolls and choppy seas. Delirious at times he uses these periods to reminisce about other journeys he has taken, and this is perhaps the aspect that doesn't work so well. There are brief ventures to Siberia, Russia, South America, and Timbuktu, and although of interest, they are digressions marring the flow of the story. In the end, does he win the girl or not? This is quite some story and I was pleased that this memoir came to my attention as the writing is good, the story is interesting, so much more because it is a true story and there are some wonderful insights into life in Polynesia: the migration patterns, flora and fauna, the French influence, and he discovers the pleasures of a *pousse-café*, an alcoholic cocktail that originated in France and came to New Orleans in the 1840s (different specific gravities are used to create a layered effect). A readable memoir. (Oh, and have you noticed the face in the clouds on the cover, top left hand corner above the word *love*?)

The first chapter I read in this book captivated me. I thought for sure the author was talking about some movie star or celebrity or drop-dead gorgeous political figure who had captured his fancy. Imagine my surprise when I discovered he was talking about... But, wait, you'll have to find that out for yourself. A rare find, this book is a must read for anyone who loves armchair travel, fantasizing, exotic places, life, love, and lore. Oh, yeah, and unbelievable endings! Trust me (what, you're still thinking about it?), you don't want to miss this one. It will be just as fun a read six months from now as you'll find it to be today! Five stars! Unfortunately, that's the most I can give it.

This book is very intriguing and a pleasure to read. The description of Tahiti in the late sixties and early seventies is captivating. As a retiree I was also fascinated by these insights on a "tour guide" career so different from my own. Nevertheless having traveled myself as a student to Russia in the late sixties, I can vouch for the accuracy of the funny observations made there. At its core the book is also an endearing love story.

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