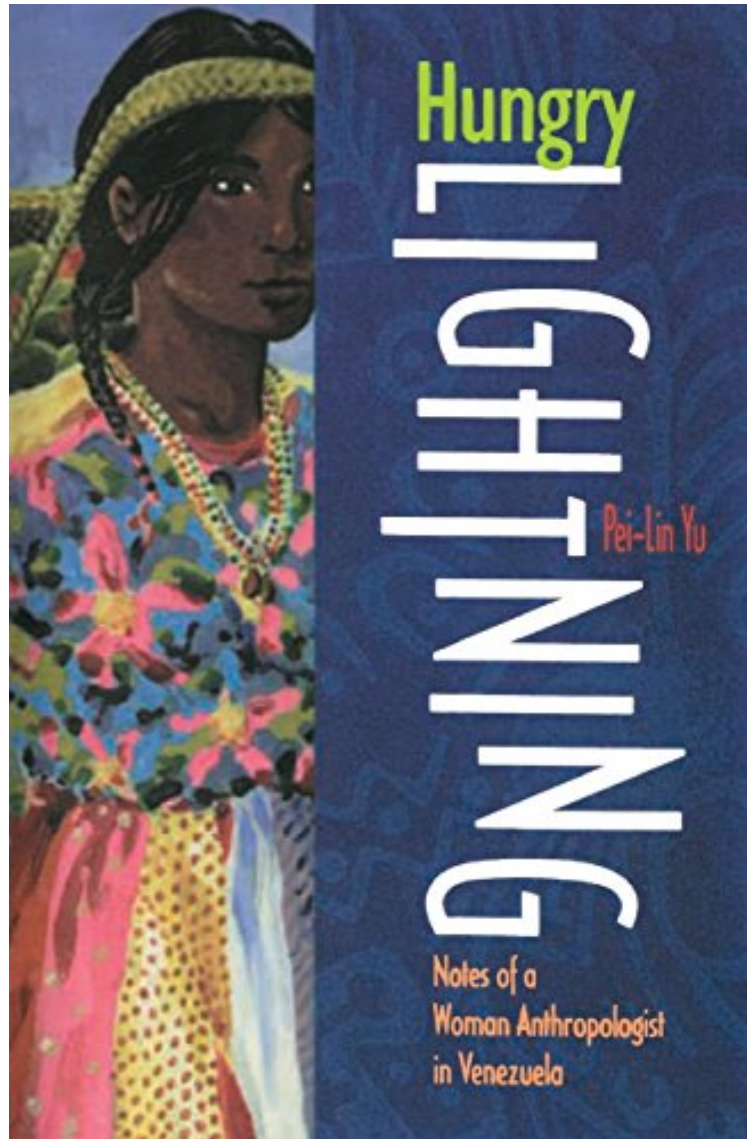


(Mobile ebook) Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela

Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela

Pei-Lin Yu

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Pei-Lin Yu : Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned much about the Pume culture at ...By LyndaThis book was required reading for an Anthropology class. It's an ethnography told in a personal and poignant way. Pei-Lin shares with us her daily journal entries. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned much about the

Pume culture at the same time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. HLReviewBy es90Actually a very interesting book. Not so boring and dry as my other anthropology books are. Also came in a good condition! 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating, engaging, and fun book for non-academics By Michael P. McCullough HUNGRY LIGHTNING by Pei Lin Yu Hungry Lightning is one of the most delightful books that I have read in years. Although Doctor Yu was in Venezuela studying the Pume hunter gatherers on a grant from the Leakey Foundation for research purposes this book is ANYTHING but a dry academic tome. I'm certain that the rigid data filled, theory drenched, anthropology journal language encrusted, esoteric conclusion oriented version of this trip exists somewhere in the halls of academe - but this isn't it. This is a wonderful working of Pei Lin's journal from a year and a half of observing the hunter gatherer Pume Indians. Pei Lin not only observes but becomes emerged in their lives. First a synopsis: Pei Lin is asked by her long time friend (and lover?) Rusty to accompany him on a one and a half year project to gather data on a group of hunter gatherers in the remote Venezuelan grasslands. There are not many people like the Pume left in the world, and the few that are still living the traditional hunter gatherer lifestyle, I would imagine, are probably constantly being followed around by film crews from the National Geographic and other similar organizations. These Pume folk, though, are still pretty original - if you catch my drift. Pei and Rusty have their daily duties of observing everything these folks do, cataloging and weighing their daily food intake, taking "anthropometric measurements," and what not. But more than that Pei Lin is a keen observer of their personal lives, their humor (yes, there is a small section on stork hunting jokes), their religion and their dance ceremonies. In addition to that it is Pei's personal story. While they were there Pei and Rusty "went native" (my term, not theirs) and lived not only WITH but AS the Pume. They ate what they ate, (interestingly Pei Lin went from a nearly lifelong, well fed vegetarian to a half-starved wisp craving a tasty hunk of crocodile tail or anteater steak), drank what they drank, feared what they feared, and so on. Pei Lin encounters death and illness in the Pume and nearly died herself from parasitic infestations. The subtitle of the book suggests that this book is from a woman's perspective and that it is. Pei gossips with the women while Rusty hobnobs with the men and participates in hallucinogenic rituals. When he accompanies the men on hunting expedition she accompanies the women on root and mango gathering trips, or stays at camp to help care for the children. She also aids a battered woman; participates in a tragic birth (wherein one of two twins dies, but the other survives); and must adhere to some strange menstrual rituals (no fish may be eaten while she was restricted to the menstrual hut - even if fish was all there WAS to eat on a given day.) And Pei has a particular fondness for observing and describing the old women in the group. The book also includes some fascinating (but too brief) descriptions of Pei Lin's dreams while she was in Venezuela, and some descriptions of the day to day frustrations of life that follow one anywhere. I LOVE THIS BOOK. This book is not only fascinating, it is tremendously fun and as a bonus the book is peppered with Pei's splendid illustrations. This book is for everybody, not just academic types, and has my absolute highest recommendations

A young student of anthropology receives an offer she can't refuse: the chance to live among the Pume, a South American hunting-and-gathering people who call the tropical Venezuelan savannah home. During their time in the village of Doro An, the author and the principal researcher study a vanishing way of life in which cash money, the written word, automobiles, and airplanes are rare and frightening intrusions. Adopted into a Pume family, Yu's informal and personal accounts of events during her two year stay sparkle with descriptive flourishes and turns of phrase as she describes the daily cycles of birth, growth, romance, sickness, healing, and death among the villagers. Enlivened with the author's own illustrations, Yu's journal entries seek to present through a young American's eyes a sketch of her Pume family, their heroic struggle to survive in a changing world, and the power and mystery of the Pume way of life. "In Hungry Lightning we glimpse haunting fragments of life among the Pume Indians. We find an intimate, deeply feminine--but ever-so-slightly jaded and strangely melancholic--voice savoring the tastes and smells of life lived in the Venezuelan savanna. A complexly sensual portrait." --Barbara Tedlock

... an intimate, deeply feminine voice savoring the tastes and smells of life lived in the Venezuelan savanna. -- Barbara Tedlock From the Inside Flap A personal view not only of a people whose life as savannah foragers is unique and fast-disappearing, but of the thoughts and actions of a young woman researcher during the hardest, and most exciting time in her life. From the Back Cover A young student of archaeology receives an offer she can't refuse, the chance to live among the Pume, a South American hunting-and-gathering people who call the tropical Venezuelan savannah home. During their time in the village of Doro Ana, the author and the principal researcher study a vanishing way of life in which cash money, the written word, automobiles, and airplanes are rare and frightening intrusions. Yu, adopted into a Pume family, provides an informal personal account of her two years' stay, describing the daily cycles of birth, growth, romance, sickness, healing, and death among the villagers. Yu's journal entries seek to present, through a young American's eyes, a sketch of her Pume family, their heroic struggle to survive in a changing world, and the power, humor, and mystery of the Pume way of life.