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# The Sharks of Lake Nicaragua: True Tales of Adventure, Travel, and Fishing

Randy Wayne White

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## THE SHARKS OF LAKE NICARAGUA

True tales of adventure,  
travel, and fishing

RANDY WAYNE WHITE

"Randy White is a hell of a good writer, the real McCoy." —JON KRAKAUER

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**Randy Wayne White : The Sharks of Lake Nicaragua: True Tales of Adventure, Travel, and Fishing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sharks of Lake Nicaragua: True Tales of Adventure, Travel, and Fishing:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. These are not trips for ElderHospice folks! By John R. Linnell Randy Wayne White is an authentic character. I suspected as much from reading his fiction efforts, usually involving Doc

Ford. But in this collection of essays about his travels, you can see that he does not subscribe to Travel Leisure or Conde Nast Traveler. He picks the damndest places to go, the damndest things to do when he gets there and writes about his experiences in a completely entertaining and very informative fashion. These are not your traditional outings and Mr. White would have it no other way. Hunting crocs with some authentic, although somewhat legal poachers, chasing pigs through cathedrals, exploring the seldom traveled parts of Australia, or fishing for fresh water sharks in Nicaragua (legend has it they exist), he is seldom far from disaster and you perversely kind of wish you were there..but not totally. He shows another side of himself with the gifts he brings to share with unknown Nicaraguan youngsters. I won't spoil the fun of finding out what it is...but it shows a softer side of the author, which is as welcome as his normal persona.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Sharks of Lake NicaraguaBy CustomerRandy Wayne White, what can I say. I am a true fan of this author. The Sharks of Lake Nicaragua , like Mr. Whites other books, captivates you from the moment you open the front cover until you close the back cover. Another tale knocked out of the ball park for Mr. White. The only thing I can say is I hate to finish his books because I have to immediately go on a search for another one. You can not read his books without being totally transported to the point of action. LOVE IT ... what a wonderful means of escape at the end of a day. Thank you0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Michael P. RyanExcellent book, except p148 was missing. The conclusion of one of the stories. Still worthwhile.

Whether he's engaging in mock aerial combat or riding an Iditarod sled, Randy Wayne White is one of America's most adventurous travelers. In this collection he studies anti-terrorist driving techniques, dives for golf balls in an alligator-infested pond, hunts his fellow man with a paint gun, ice-fishes for walleye with X-ray-stunned night-crawlers, and goes pig-shooting with Dr. Pavlov. With self-effacing optimism, White captures the joys and fears of wandering the earth's surface with an eclectic cast of fellow travelers: a frog that won't jump, a group of expatriate Brits who've developed an interesting cure for "road jaundice," and even a mad Australian scientist. Though he rarely finds what he's looking for - like the legendary landlocked bull sharks of Lake Nicaragua - he develops a Zen-like "passion for the means" and a rare ability to revel in the rib-aching humor of each exotic trip. In the end, White leaves the reader mesmerized by the potential of undiscovered places and the promise of adventure in unfamiliar territory, from Florida to Borneo and everywhere in between. A leader of the new breed of thick-skinned, high-endurance adventure travelers of the 1990s, Randy Wayne White uniquely extols the pleasures of being "alone and on the move."

From Publishers WeeklyFor exciting adventures in feral pig-hunting, salt-water fly-fishing or crocodile poaching, it's hard to imagine a better guide than White. In these stories, originally published in different forms in Outside magazine, White (Batfishing in the Rainforest) proves his mettle as an incisive humorist and a first-rate travel journalist. A "desire not to be whacked" leads him to an antiterrorist driving school, where, with hilarious effect, he learns the ins and outs of avoiding bullets, rockets and bombs while operating a motor vehicle. In fighter-pilot training, he overcomes "sympathetic ocular/auditory response" ("If bounced around in an airplane, my eyes begin to water, so it appears as if I am weeping while I upchuck") and smokes his opponent with imaginary 20mm. cannons. White has a knack for the unexpected adventure. An innocent search for Pepto-Bismol in Panama City ends in a crocodile-hunting expedition. But it isn't until the book's final (and title) piece that White showcases the full range of his abilities as a writer. During his quixotic search for freshwater sharks, he becomes as immersed in the culture of the country as a 220-lb. American driving a Toyota Land Cruiser can be. He chases a pig into a sacred vestry, disrupting a wedding ceremony, and later gives shining new baseballs to children whose love of the game rivals his own. The portrait of Nicaragua and its people that emerges is a refreshingly unpoliticized history, skillfully interwoven with personal experience. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sNovelist White (The Mangrove Coast, 1998, etc.) skimmed the cream off his Outside magazine adventure-travel column for this collection of stouthearted, amusing essays. White is one game hombre who has for years stumbled forth over the boundaries of the day-to-day. Yes, he is paid to get scared witless, to go peer over the last edge and report back. Still, to make a horse's ass of himself in dangerous, or at least compromising, circumstances that takes moxie, and to survive, be it physically, or in terms of self-respect, takes a state of grace. Here he finds himself in 16 hard or strange places, with the usual supporting cast of international low-rent odd fellows. The lunacies for which his editors have volunteered him include dog-fighting in an F-16, dog mushing in Alaska ("I was being dragged by five speed-crazy sled dogs, dragged over hill and dale, maybe being dragged to death or worse, to Nome"), and antiterrorist driving school ("If we dont rally the nerve to explore our automotive limits . . . They'll stop us, box us, then smoke us like cheap cigars"). There are fishing stories, though for White "some people travel to fish, but I fish to travel," and there are a couple of more reflective essays, the goofiness of the assignment a pretext for taking the political pulse of Nicaragua or triggering memories of his mother so pungent your eyes burn. White often makes a reach for his gags rather than nesting them in his stories, but then that is part of his charm: he's not just capable of being a buffoon, he can be a bit of a jerk too, a good trick on the audience-identification front. And he's also worldly, informed, decent, a slap-up writer, and ready as he'll ever be. First-class entertainments, just outrageous enough that when White comes to spin them to his grandchildren, they

won't believe a word. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. For armchair traveler and rugged adventurer alike, this is good, funny, invigorating stuff. -- Chicago Tribune  
What fun it is to join White...vicariously but just about as vividly as if we were there. -- Miami Sunday Herald