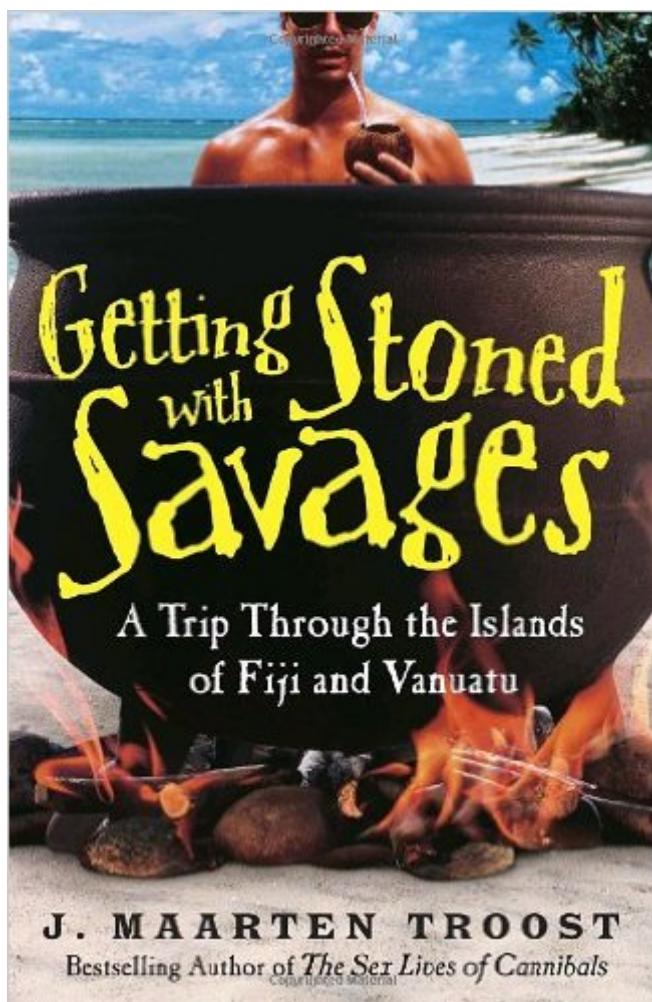


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# Getting Stoned With Savages: A Trip Through The Islands Of Fiji And Vanuatu



## Synopsis

With *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*, Maarten Troost established himself as one of the most engaging and original travel writers around. *Getting Stoned with Savages* again reveals his wry wit and infectious joy of discovery in a side-splittingly funny account of life in the farthest reaches of the world. After two grueling years on the island of Tarawa, battling feral dogs, machete-wielding neighbors, and a lack of beer on a daily basis, Maarten Troost was in no hurry to return to the South Pacific. But as time went on, he realized he felt remarkably out of place among the trappings of twenty-first-century America. When he found himself holding down a jobâ "one that might possibly lead to a careerâ "he knew it was time for him and his wife, Sylvia, to repack their bags and set off for parts unknown. *Getting Stoned with Savages* tells the hilarious story of Troostâ ™s time on Vanuatuâ "a rugged cluster of islands where the natives gorge themselves on kava and are still known to â œeat the man.â • Falling into one amusing misadventure after another, Troost struggles against typhoons, earthquakes, and giant centipedes and soon finds himself swept up in the laid-back, clothing-optional lifestyle of the islanders. When Sylvia gets pregnant, they decamp for slightly-more-civilized Fiji, a fallen paradise where the local chiefs can be found watching rugby in the house next door. And as they contend with new parenthood in a country rife with prostitutes and government coups, their son begins to take quite naturally to island livingâ "in complete contrast to his dad.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Using a format similar to that of his previous work, *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*, Troost creates

another comical and touching travel memoir. Troost and his wife, Sylvia, move from busy Washington, D.C., to Vanuatu, a nation made up of 83 islands in the South Pacific. As Sylvia works for a regional nonprofit, Troost immerses himself in the islands' culture, an odd mix of the islanders' thousand-year-old "kastoms" along with imperialist British and French influences. This really means that Troost gets to live in a nice house while he gets drunk on kava; dodges "a long inferno of magma and a cascade of lava bombs" at the "world's most accessible volcano"; and checks out the "calcified" leftovers from one of Vanuatu's not-so-ancient traditions, cannibalism. At the end of the book, the couple move to Fiji so that Sylvia will have state-of-the-art medical care when she gives birth to their first baby. While modern-day Fiji provides little fodder for Troost's comic sensibilities, the birth of his son enables him to share some deeper thoughts and decide it is "time to stop looking for paradise." A funny travelogue with a sentimental heart, Troost's latest work genuinely captures the search for paradise as well as the need for home. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Praise for *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*:  
"A comic masterwork of travel writing." "Publishers Weekly" "Troost has a command of place and narrative that puts his debut in the company of some of today's best travel writers." "Elle" "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"

I enjoyed the book and went to a kava bar to try kava from Vanuatu. I was okay with the fact that it tasted like dirt because I was interested in the effect, but it did nothing more than numb my tongue. Then I was then told that it's supposed to be downed in one fell swoop. So I did that, but it just made me nauseous. Maybe one has to go to Vanuatu to experience what the author did.

I read his 1st book "Sex Lives of Cannibals" and loved it. After reading this one, I wanted to read every book he's written. It's such delicious reading, that I read it slowly to enjoy every bite and morsel. I also would like to thank his wife for affording him the time to write these wonderful stories/books. How anyone could not love and enjoy these books is beyond me. Thank you J. for the many hours of enjoyment, education and humor which shall stay with me long after their reading!

This was my first Troost book, and I found it laugh out loud funny, witty, and a light, fun, fast read. It was well worth the day it took to read it. I'm not going to suggest it was profound, thought provoking,

or a must read from a literary sense, but it's one of those books that you read when you want something funny and light. It sounds like the people who first read "Sex Lives of Cannibals" were somewhat disappointed in this book. (Which just tells me that "Sex Lives of Cannibals" must be hilarious! Maybe everyone should read this one first.) Without having read that to compare to (therefore rating purely on a stand-alone basis), I found this book really enjoyable. Troost's witty humor, sarcasm, and ability to poke fun at himself make for an enjoyable read (especially between books tackling heavier subject matters). It's like taking your own mini vacation.

The author is terminally irresponsible. Which is generally a good thing in adventure reading; the difference between Troost and Thomas Kohnstamm is that Thomas doesn't cause other people problems through his recklessness. Reading about Troost getting fired from his job, ruining his neighbor's car on the first day and so forth was just too painful, it might be me more than the book but I didn't enjoy it.

Another good one from J. Martin Troost. Have a good laugh and enjoy the trip. Don't let his book titles keep you away. When I first started reading his travel adventures, I was embarrassed to take his book *The Sex Lives of Cannibals* to the checkout counter. But it was well worth it.

Hilarious book! I'm considering a job in Fiji and came across this book which is filled with humorous stories, interesting history, places to see in the South Pacific, and Troost's comical voice. What a great writer, he is continually self-deprecating and has a fantastic voice dripping with sarcasm and curiosity. This was an enjoyable read, start to finish. I recommend his other South Pacific book, *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*. This is the epitome of travel writing.

Great book for everybody that has lived abroad. One of the few books I'll read more than once.

Troost, is the ultimate life hacker. His brave story about cutting the chord of corporate America and moving to Micronesia is testimony that we can design a life based upon what we want, rather than what we do for a living. He is the ultimate life hacker and career hacker...

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