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WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN

Conradin Perner

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The book Why Did You Come If You Leave Again? is an ethnographer’s personal account of the five years he spent in one of the remotest parts of Africa. In the author’s comprehensive monograph (eight volumes published by Schwabe) about the Anyuak, a little-known tribe in South Sudan, there was no space left for a portrait of the person who did the fieldwork, his professional and personal itinerary, his experiences and attitudes, his relationship with the local people—let alone for all the adventures he lived when crossing the wilderness and when struggling to stay alive.

The travel autobiography sheds light on the long and tedious process of ethnographic fieldwork; it is both personal and profound, varying between moments of actions and reflections and eventually leading to an intimate encounter with an African culture. The many riveting stories told in the book are signposts of a spiritual, psychological, philosophical, and physically exhausting expedition through arid savannah, flooded plains, and compact walls of elephant grass to the spiritual home of a courageous people who have created in the middle of wilderness a center of humanity. Though the narrative is essentially about the discovery of a foreign culture, it also relates the exploration of the ethnographer’s own identity in an environment that didn’t offer any possibility to escape.

The book is about thirst, starvation, loneliness and lightening, sickness and death, joy and deliverance, snakes and spirits, shadow, spittle and footprints, and eventually about the author’s quest for meaning, beauty, and understanding of the world. The memoir tells a saga about forlornness, hope, and achievement, and last but not least, growing friendships as the only reward for struggle and pain. The researcher’s autobiography is captivating for the soul and the mind. It is funny, sad, informative, inspiring, and poetic.

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From reader reviews:

Stephen Stover:

The book WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN will bring you to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Alice Black:

Precisely why? Because this WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Corey Mullen:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

David Johnston:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's spirit or real their passion. They just do what the professor want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring in addition to can't see

colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this WHY DID YOU COME IF YOU LEAVE AGAIN? Volume 1: THE NARRATIVE OF AN ETHNOGRAPHER'S FOOTPRINTS AMONG THE ANYUAK IN SOUTH SUDAN can make you sense more interested to read.

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