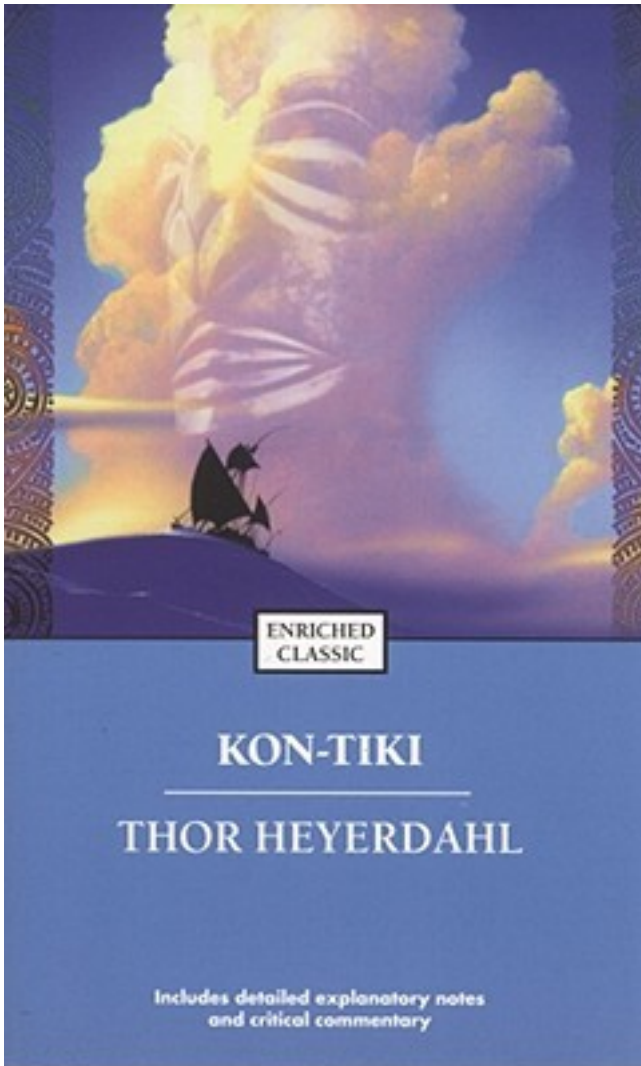


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# Thor Heyerdahl

## Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft



Title: Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft

Author: Thor Heyerdahl

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## Description

"Kon-Tiki" is the record of an astonishing adventure - a journey 4,300 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean by raft. Intrigued by Polynesian folklore, biologist Thor Heyerdahl suspected that the South Sea Islands had been settled by an ancient race from thousands of miles to the east, led by the mythical hero Kon-Tiki. He decided to prove his theory by duplicating the legendary voyage.

On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurers sailed from Peru on a balsa log raft. After three suspenseful months on the open sea, alone among raging storms, whales and countless sharks, they sighted land - the polynesian island of Puka Puka.

Translated into 65 languages, read by millions all over the world, "Kon-Tiki" is a classic, inspiring tale of daring and courage - a magnificent saga of men against the sea.

## Insightful reviews

Annalisa: When nobody believed his theory that the Polynesian islands were settled by travelers from Peru because they had no boats, Thor set out to prove his theory by building his own raft ala early Peruvian civilization and sailing across the Pacific. What amazed me was his determination and optimism. When naval officials inspected the raft prior to departure and insisted he was sailing off to his eminent death and he abort, instead of being discouraged or fearful, Thor was confident his expedition would succeed because his predecessors had.

Call it faith or stupidity, everything fell into place from finding the perfect group of 5 men to join his travel to cutting through government red tape and getting funding and supplies. Even the one seemingly setback where they could not find anyone to supply the balsa logs so they entered the jungle and cut them down themselves ended up being for their benefit when the fresh logs, still containing sap, keep the raft floating longer than dry logs would have.

There adventures on the open water including catching shark, hitting storms, and observing strange ocean life were very interesting and their knowledge, skills, and most of all spirit of adventure amazed me. But it's not all page-turning excitement. There were parts of the book that dragged, parts that found me asleep in the middle of a chapter. I'm glad I read the account, but overall, I think it is a book that would intrigue my husband more and I have recommended that he read it.

K.D. Absolutely: What's in the book cover is correct: "once you start reading this, you cannot put it down". It's an excellent adventure non-fiction book and when I saw Aku-Aku in Booksale, I bought it right away. The vivid narration was so effective that I could actually smell the sea while reading the novel. This was published in 1950 but it is still exciting and informative. I had no chance yet to go the Polynesian islands and South America but after reading the book, I thought I could visualize those places. I finished this book in just 2 days.

Kathleen: My fifth grader self filled in this rating. This book informed my daydreams and

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supplemented those at night, as well. I'm hesitant to revisit this book as an adult but I know if I see it, I'll read it. It will be interesting to see how it compares to its earlier, little girl consumed version. I read this somewhere between Narnia and The Time Machine and I don't think I could have had any complaints about the book except for the team's oversight of finding me through space and time and taking me along, but the book accomplishes that quite well so I'll let them off the hook. I'll read this again, someday.

Bob Redmond: In 1947, Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian anthropologist, determined to turn out his conception that historic humans from what's now Peru sailed on rafts 4,000 miles around the South Pacific to what's now Polynesia. All proficient sailors and scientists advised him it was once no longer possible, despite compelling circumstantial evidence: archeological, linguistic, and geological, let alone latest alternate winds and ocean currents. They stated it was once a suicide project and basically took bets on what percentage days the corporate may final earlier than they sank, smashed to bits, have been washed off the raft by way of raging seas, ran out of food, have been blown off course, foundered in a sea, burned up within the sun, misplaced their minds, or obtained eaten by way of sharks. Heyerdahl concept it was once possible--all he had to do used to be locate five different loopy scientists and students to compliment him, get investment and cooperation from 3 or 4 governments, persuade natives within the Andes to aid him harvest a few titanic timber and drag them from the peak of the Andean mountains down a river to the coast after which 1,000 miles to Peru, construct an actual reproduction of a sixth century raft (based on Spanish descriptions from the sixteenth century), release it, work out easy methods to steer it, and sail it for over 3 months via shark-infested waters till they would primarily waft through their vacation spot and by some means land on islands surrounded by means of harmful coral reefs. Possible? Heyerdahl and his 5 compatriots did it--an striking trip that has the reader head-shaking and mouth agape throughout. As thrillingly inspiring is the story, the emotional undertow is the suspicion that the journey is unusual now not for its success, yet for its non-colonial, open-hearted purpose. what percentage trips have been undertaken with the purpose of pillage and subjugation of a people? Heyerdahl, at the different hand, proves a few historical heritage and means that the sea may perhaps carry humans jointly instead of continue them apart. WHY I learn THIS BOOK: I learn this ebook for a booklet club. i'd by no means have learn it, or in all probability even identified of its existence, with no the studying assignment--here's to the unexpeted brain expansion!

Brian: large enjoyable read, nice trip book. Favorite passage: "Sometimes, too, we went out within the rubber boat to examine ourselves by way of night. Coal-black seas towered up on all sides, and a glittering myriad of tropical stars drew a faint mirrored image from plankton within the water. the area used to be basic - stars within the darkness. even if it used to be 1947 BC or advert by surprise grew to become of no significance. We lived, and that we felt with alert intensity. We discovered that lifestyles were complete for males earlier than the technical age additionally - in fact, fuller and richer in lots of methods than the lifetime of smooth man. Time and evolution by some means ceased to exist; all that used to be actual and that mattered have been an analogous this present day as they'd regularly been and may constantly be. We have been swallowed up within the absolute universal degree of historical past - never-ending unbroken darkness less than a swarm of stars."

Chelsea: What an excellent adventure!! What makes the booklet much more attention-grabbing

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to me is that it was once written in 1947 whilst he challenged a few "known" rules approximately how the Polynesian Islands have been settled anciently. i will learn extra now approximately Easter Island and historic treks taken from South the United States going west. For my pals who're LDS, you'll find the data within the ebook concerning the Incas and their travels very fascinating indeed. :-D

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