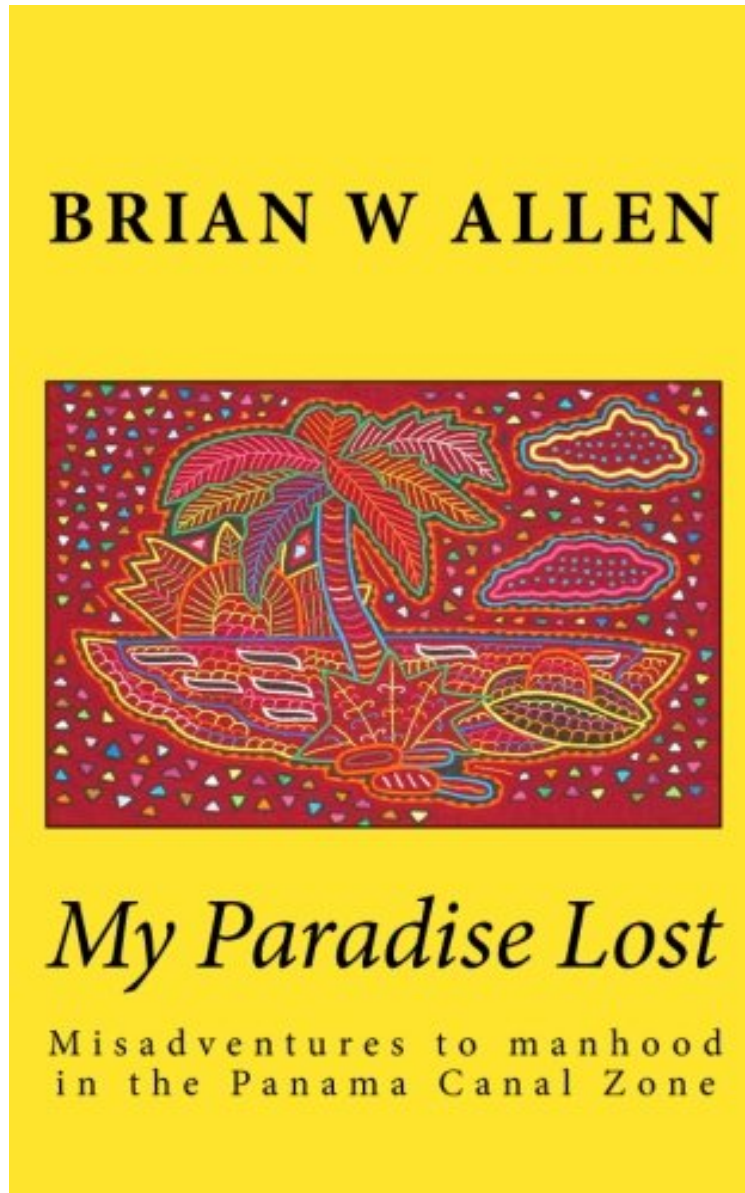


[Free download] My Paradise Lost: Misadventures to manhood in the Panama Canal Zone

My Paradise Lost: Misadventures to manhood in the Panama Canal Zone

Brian W Allen

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Brian W Allen : My Paradise Lost: Misadventures to manhood in the Panama Canal Zone before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Paradise Lost: Misadventures to manhood in the Panama Canal Zone:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Feel as if you have lived in the Panama Canal ZoneBy Cara E.This book speaks to life in the 1950s, playing freely as a child, athletic endeavors as one grows up, the risky behavior that teenage boys will sometimes engage in, and sexual growing of age that affects all of us. This book takes place against the backdrop of the Panama canal zone.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable addition to history textsBy canalpilotAlthough this book is about places, people, and events that are so near and dear to me because I was pretty much born and raised in Coco Solo, I believe it does a great service to preserving an important piece of history. The book does an excellent job of illustrating how normal people lived in an area whose sole purpose was to serve the world through the Panama Canal. Although I explored the nicks and crannies the author portrays and lived these experiences and knew these people, I hope you will read this book so that you can understand what happened here.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A delightful wander through a Zonian's boyhoodBy PepperpodReally enjoyed Brian's wonderful memoir of life in CZ. His descriptions of the jungle, the buildings, the locks, even the heat transported me back to my own memories of growing up in Gatun in the 70's. Brian's memoir captures the flavor of living in one of the largest and oldest company towns during it's heyday and subsequent demise. By explaining a number of the social and political pressures of the time, Brian also helped this Zonian to understand aspects of her own life that hadn't been clear at the time. (Thank you, Brian!)What makes this memoir especially powerful - and will make it appeal to a wider audience - is Brian's willingness to be vulnerable, his candid stories of coming of age with its inherent triumphs, embarrassments, and lessons - for each vignette is redolent of the fears and hopes shared by us all.

One must handle the challenges of growing up with a sense of humor. Though living in paradise can be a dream, life is not without strife. There were no rich, no poor, and no unemployment in Brian Allen's Panama Canal Zone. Yet his home town was utterly destroyed and the dead exhumed. Brian tells his story with humor, warts and all. My Paradise Lost is about a boy growing to manhood in the golden age of the Canal Zone. It was an innocent, Huck Finn in the rain forest existence. His township of Coco Solo was a blue collar world of mangoes and maids, exotica and history. Misadventure abounds and teen romance is just as awkward in paradise as anywhere. There is parental conflict, life, death, and the ghost of Jim Crow racism. At the best time of his life, Brian is involved in a fatal car accident that puts him in the custody of the intimidating Guardia Nacional. His fate rests in the courts of a dictatorship whose El Supremo is bent on sovereignty over his Canal Zone home. You will feel the tropical sun, splash in the canal, ache for love, laugh at the familiar, and cry for the dead. Photos and popular recipes are included. "I thought the wonderful days of growing up in the Zone were gone until I read My Paradise Lost. This Coco Solo girl was transported back to treasured days gone by. Brian beautifully captured the spirit of the Zone, mosquitoes and all. Thank you Brian for a personal peek at an evolving Paradise." --Betty LeDoux-Morris, four time past president of the Panama Canal Society. You learn something when you read Brian Allens work, about history, about the world, about yourself, in a voice that is as familiar and comfortable as your best friends. --Karen L. Barron, English Professor and award winning fiction and non-fiction writer. Reader: be prepared. This is a charming coming-of-age memoir set in the exotic location of the Panama Canal Zone, and filled with humor, adventure, and insight. But My Paradise Lost is also an examination of colonialism, justice, hardship and loss. Through his story, Allen reveals the development of his character. In doing so, he enlarges our sense of what it means to be both Americans and global citizens. --Thomas Averill, English Professor, W.U. Writer in Residence, O. Henry Award winning author.