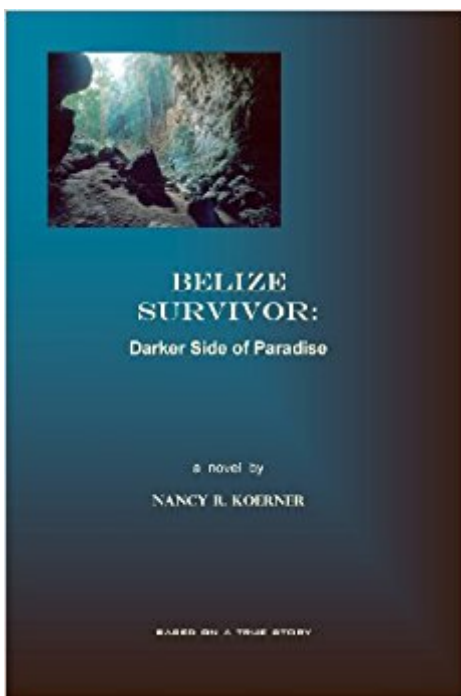


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BELIZE SURVIVOR: Darker Side Of Paradise



Synopsis

In the early seventies, the anti-establishment counterculture evolved into a new movement of health and agricultural purists. Rebelling against the politics and pollution of the U.S., these young people sought to create their own natural paradise outside its borders. This is the story of one such expatriated American, a starry-eyed wild child who searches for a fantasy lifestyle and gets more than she bargains for. The storyline, a colorful tapestry of romantic adventure set in the jungles of Belize, Central America, is flavored with vivid imagery, picturesque characters, wild animals, and Mayan archaeological intrigue. But it is also a compelling story of a maturing young woman and her battle with the darker side of human nature, of innocence lost, deception, infidelity, and heartbreaking exile. Full of poignant moral dilemma, it is a story of one woman's survival, of exceptional courage, strength in overcoming adversity, spiritual growth, and eventual triumph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think i would give this book a different title. I live in Belize and i expected it to be more focused on survival there than on personal survival in an abusive marriage as did several friends of mine who picked it up for a travel read which it is not. It is a very heavy read and i am still reeling from reading her account of abuse. It seems that in choosing to weave the stories of her adopted country and her abuse together she played off the contrast of her many strengths and then the horrid abuse she suffered . It did offer me insight into what it was like in those yrs. and not much has changed, it is still a rough lawless little country which did not help her situation one bit . I have been to many of the places , including Key West and all over Belize in the past 20 yrs. and know of many people

mentioned in the book . I was somewhat stunned to hear such a negative account of The Farm as i have a friend who had a very positive experience w/ childbirth there at that same time. I guess we all have very different experiences and i wonder how much the abusive relationship overshadowed such experiences. I honor Nancys story and her work , i was astounded at how anyone so intelligent and strong in so many ways could tolerate such abuse for so long . I just want to grab her & her children out of the story and say ENOUGH , YOU ARE STRONG ! But i also know that abuse happens to women of all walks of life and she gives an important account of this for anyone suffering abuse. My husband and i read the book because of our Belize experiences and appreciate her story but we both had to skip over much of the abuse as it was just so horribly brutal. Thank you Nancy for sharing this and for all that you do now to help abused women.

I love this book. It is one of my favorite books. It is not pure fiction and based on a true story and true events. It gives readers eye-opening insight into abusive behaviors, that is, how they deteriorate (all those red-flag behaviors) from red flag gut-level "somethingis not right, it must be me" to this is not good to this is bad to this is scary to this is dangerous to flee with the shirt on your back. I love this book. It is recommended for graduate students in women's and gender studies, women's centers, and interested readers. I love the descriptions in here too of Belize itself. In many ways it is a splendid country. Recommended also for Americans considering a relocation to Belize even though times and laws have changed since the 1980's, the time-frame in the book. Recommended for women struggling with broken relationships with the parents also because I believe that the main character's broken/stressed relationship with the parents described in the outset and hinted at throughout the book, creates a framework in the readers' minds that shows a connection to familial dysfunction that if undealt with can lead to choosing a violent partner. One reason this happens is because women (such as the main character) often ignore their gut inclinations that they dismiss chalking it up to jumping to conclusions, negative thinking, PMS, etc. What I'm saying is this is a great book.

On first reading, that it was fiction, I was saddened, but after reading for a short time, I came to realize that it wasn't fiction at all, having spent time in Belize in the 70's and having lived here the past 20 years, no one other than someone who experienced Belize could have written this. I was so absorbed by all the details, so many expats from this day have no clue what it was like back then, there were some expats in San Pedro, but the pioneers of Cayo and rest of the country, were just a small handful. True adventurers, I couldn't stop reading and after put all the characters together,

who was who. I plan to read again, as I, too, spent time in Key West during same time frame, see if I could put some faces to that as well. I read some critical reviews of why, she stayed so long in a abusive relationship, well, there are a fortunate few whom have had the luxury of never being in one, because if you have, no matter how strong and intelligent you are, you can get paralyzed to move, think, act. Sure good times, you would say I would never let that happen to me, but unless you have experienced it, you will never start to know, and you can love so much of your life, children, Belize, the life, you can hope for change, it takes true bravery to make the final move, no matter how long it takes. Belize had a population of around 200,000 at that time, even today, you can know close to everyone, granted growing in leaps and bounds with foreigners, but I was fortunate to having lived here when, it was only the truly strong few that could survive. Even, tho I live in Placencia, those who hacked thru the jungle to build some small little beach hotel were interesting and adventuresome people, now pretty much all have been bought by newcomers whom just had to pay the big \$, not to know what it was like, with no power, water, hardware store, banks, or post office, even roads. Those, who hacked jungle in Cayo are truly amazing. I loved the book and this beautiful spirit who wrote it!

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