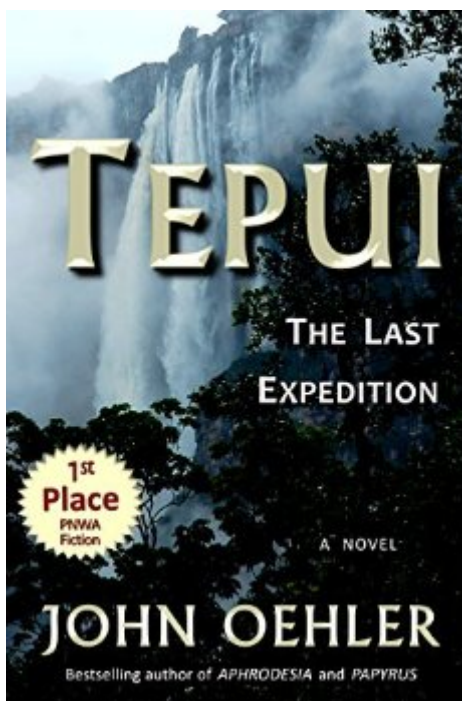


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Tepui: The Last Expedition



Synopsis

WINNER OF FIRST PLACE in the prestigious Pacific NW Writers Association competition.Â Tepui is an "intelligent, cutting edge" tale of adventure, intrigue, and forbidden love. In 1559, forty-nine Spaniards exploring a tributary of the Orinoco River reached a sheer-sided, cloud-capped mountain called Tepui Zupay. When they tried to climb it, all but six were slaughtered by s. Or so claimed Friar Sylvestre, the expedition's chronicler. But Sylvestre made many bizarre claims: rivers of blood, plants that lead to gold ... Jerry Pace, a burn-scarred botanist struggling for tenure at UCLA, thinks the friar was delusional. Jerry's best friend, the historian who just acquired Sylvestre's journal, disagrees. He plans to retrace the expedition's footsteps, and wants Jerry to come with him. Jerry refuses, until he spots a stain between the journal's pages--a stain that could only have been left by a plant that died out with the dinosaurs. Now he has to find that plant. But the Venezuelan wilderness does not forgive intruders. Battered and broken, they reach a remote Catholic orphanage where the old prioress warns of death awaiting any who would venture farther. But an exotic Indian girl leads them on, through piranha-infested rivers and jungles teeming with poisonous plants, to Tepui Zupay--the forbidden mountain no outsider has set eyes on since the Spaniards met their doom. This is a story about life's surprises--the challenges, risks--and how they transform us. It is also a tale of Beauty and the Beast.

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Customer Reviews

Tepui is a captivating tale told by John Oehler, in such detail, that I felt I was actually on the expedition. The journeys and discoveries of early explorers have always intrigued me. This tale takes the reader on an adventure, following the steps of Captain Alejandro de Baza to Venezuela in the 16th century. The reader is casually invited to join the expedition from the beginning of the story. However, as the journey progresses, I found that it was very difficult to place a bookmark in the book and venture away from the story. I could almost hear the birds, feel the splash of the river and see majestic Tepui in the distance, due to the descriptive writing style. Thank you, John Oehler, for this adventure.

I had the privilege of reading this novel before publication, and it carried me away to a place that was completely foreign yet felt as real as my own back yard. Jerry Pace is the essential "reluctant hero," but not because he's timid. His scars speak to that fallacy. But Jerry has the grace to weigh his personal and professional quandary against his concern for a good friend's welfare - and that gets him into more trouble than his adventurous spirit deemed possible. This is not mindless kick-butt adventure - although the butt-kicking happens often enough. This is a thoughtful, edge-of-your seat plunge into a land and culture most of us believe is only myth. Scary at times, tender at times, you'll close this book wanting to know what will happen next in the lives of these wonderful characters.

I like historical fiction because I like learning more about history in an entertaining way and like to think that events may have actually happened in a similar manner as described. That's why I love authors such as Ken Follet. Tepui, on the other hand, should not be called historical fiction, as the book only uses the real life expedition as the reason to go on a modern day expedition, which is completely fictional and very unrealistic. I would put it in the fantasy category. So, if you're reading it as historical fiction, you'll hate it. But, if you go in with an open mind, it's pretty entertaining and definitely not the type of story you read every day. I did really enjoy the two male main characters, who are likeable and well drawn. There is rich detail regarding what life as a archeologist/researcher/university professor is like and that part of the book was great. In fact, I wouldn't mind reading another book about those two characters, if the author decided to have a more realistic plot next time. The female characters are very thin stereotypes, they are not likeable

nor interesting. The book would have also been better off without the completely unrealistic love story, especially with the hard to take ending. While the author sells the convenient ending as a 'happily ever after' moment, I couldn't feel happy for the couple as it was impossible to imagine how the arrangement could possibly end up working out for the woman in the relationship. I think breaking up would have been the way to go!

While I didn't finish this book in one sitting, I did finish it in one day! Very exciting story. The setting was realistic, the plot pulled you along (relentlessly!) and you really cared what happened to the characters. It is always fun to read about places you have lived, and the author did a great job of capturing Venezuela in the late 1990s. The descriptions of the landscape (and the food) are spot on. And of course, who doesn't want to find a living fossil? So even the motivations seemed real. Well worth the candle.

This book was okay. It is not at all memorable. The thing that stands out in my mind was that the plot and action were very facile. Events that must have had many actions leading up to them were omitted completely. It is another "lost world" story. I don't recall what it cost but if it were more than 99 cents I would skip it. The author says as a post script that he had not read the A.C. Doyle book when he wrote this. I have no reason to doubt him but I would recommend that you skip this and read the Doyle book.

A great suspenseful story about a search for a South American archaeological treasure in an -like location. The character development, which is my litmus test, is very good. Parts are a bit predictable, but it is still full of twists and turns. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and would recommend it to anyone who likes this type of fiction.

I ordered this book because of the overall good reviews, my enjoyment of historical and adventure fiction and its price on the Kindle. Unfortunately, I didn't find the book to be worth the money, much less my time reading it. The story is so ridiculously implausible, that I had a tough time sticking with the story. Suspension of disbelief is one thing, but when the protagonist's plan for food, water and direction for an expedition into a completely unexplored, remote wilderness is 'wing it,' I stopped believing. The writing is fair, but nothing exciting. The plot is wafer thin, Both love stories advance much too quickly to hold together. My only qualm about my review is whether this deserved one star or two, but I guess the novel was just good enough for me to finish it, so I'm giving it a two. Not

recommended.

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