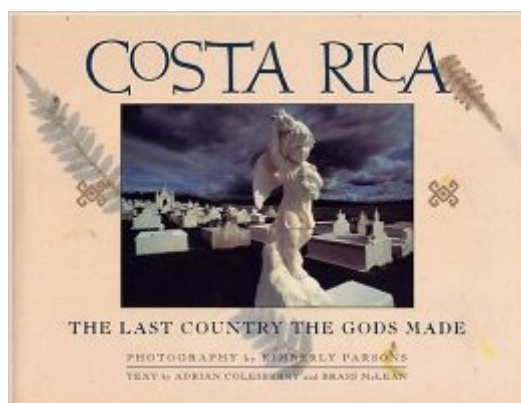


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Costa Rica: The Last Country The Gods Made



Synopsis

A collection of stirring essays from writers Adrian Colesberry and Brass McLean (both veteran travelers), "Costa Rica: The Last Country The Gods Made," tells the history of the country from the inside out, starting with its geological formation and ending with its status as the "Switzerland of Central America." "The Last Country," highlighted by the stunning photos of international photographer Kimberly Parsons, showcases the strength of their collaborative and individual talents. Parson's photos of sugar-processing plants, spider monkeys, oxen at work, cemetery angels, fishermen, school children, street musicians and volcanoes form a vivid rendering of life in Costa Rica. Colesberry and McLean match the more than 65 photos with passionate words, adding a human element to subjects ranging from coffee to indigenous peoples, from ants to women's issues, from bananas to religion; their spirit is infectious. The essays are accompanied by sidebars, short, insightful thoughts on little-known facts about the country. Winner of the 1994 Publishers Marketing Association's "Ben Franklin Award" for "Best Travel Narrative" written in the United States.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book evokes the country of Costa Rica and its influence on its peoples by describing the harsh, desolate, yet sublime landscape that embodies the contradictions of Costa Rican life within its borders and in its geo-political stature in Central America. As dry-witted as it is information soaked, this book gives the traveler a place to begin in the land that never seems to be what the traveler expects. "The Last Country the Gods Made" is a contemplative book, a book of essays that

creates a spiritual geography, explains the eccentricity of archeology and throws light on the urgency of visionary politics. This masterful synthesis is a refreshingly unconventional analysis informed by anthropology, migratory science, architecture, environmentalism, epistemology and political minutiae. There is wonderful mini-essay that the authors' call a "sidebar" entitled, "Why No Empire." In it, Colesberry and McLean address the mystery of why the native people of Costa Rica, though amazingly organized, greatly populated and artistically skilled, never formed any urban centers like the Aztec and Mayan empires. Suffice to say, that they pose an utterly unique solution involving Egypt, medieval French wheat farmers, and Vasquez de Coronado's observations of buzzards! They end this delightful foray with, "...perhaps the local Amerindians had no use for urban zones or concentrations of power that would have placed them in the ranks of advanced societies. If urbanity is the litmus test for civilizations, consider this: in the Diquis area, the leaders lived with not the warriors as one might imagine, but with the artists. How urbane can you get?" I'd like to say one more thing. The Search Inside the Book pages that shows you in no way represent the book's text!

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