



Naked in Dangerous Places: The Chronicles of a Hungry, Scared, Lost, Homesick, but Otherwise Perfectly Happy Traveler

Cash Peters

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Finally, after years as a struggling radio host, Cash Peters has been given his own TV adventure show on a big-time travel network. The idea is simple: “Let’s dump him in an unfamiliar culture in a faraway land with no money and no place to stay, and see what happens.”

Unfortunately, there is one major problem: Cash doesn’t want to go. Not only is he NOT the adventurous type, he is afraid of nearly everything and horribly allergic to the rest.

Bottom line: they’ve given the show to the wrong guy.

Naked in Dangerous Places is the story of one man’s efforts to remain sane in an insane world. Told with wit and shameless honesty, it documents a yearlong journey through exotic lands, from Kenya to Cambodia, Morocco to Dubai, as Cash drops in on fascinating cultures, eating, drinking, even sleeping in cow-dung huts with the locals, and eventually proving the truth of the old saying “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Though, to be honest, killing you is more likely.

Naked in Dangerous Places: The Chronicles of a Hungry, Scared, Lost, Homesick, but Otherwise Perfectly Happy Traveler Details

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Author : Cash Peters

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From Reader Review Naked in Dangerous Places: The Chronicles of a Hungry, Scared, Lost, Homesick, but Otherwise Perfectly Happy Traveler for online ebook

Moira says

I was hooked by the title, and then turned off by what it turned out to be: about a reality TV show set in "primitive" places. I find those types of shows incredibly offensive - wealthy people go to a place and act out a big game while the people living there are in difficult circumstances - struggling with real issues like access to food, water, electricity, sewage, education, health care, crime, political corruption, overcrowding, working multiple jobs...I could go on but you get the idea.

The author is a radio host of some sort - it could be that his on-air 'voice' works well, but on the page he comes across as a bit too much - as someone of Brit extraction, it surprised me! - so the writing could have been tightened up quite a bit, and been a lot less "twee".

Karen Germain says

This book is great if you are fan of traveling and reality television. Cash Peter's is the host of a travel show, that makes it look like he is stranded in a new local every episode. The locations range from the middle east to the small Danish town of Solvang, California. Peters must bond with the locals and get them invite him into their homes for food and shelter. Of course this is television, so the entire thing is set up from the start.

The show, which is never mentioned by name or network, ran for two seasons and honestly sounds horrific, and definitely like something I would have secretly watched, but never admit to having done so! One really funny aspect of the book are the viewer letters. Some are just hilarious.

Peters is very likeable as an author and an unlikely host of a travel show. It was a fun read.

Bill Ward says

From the cover and blurb I was expecting more of an adventure travel memoir, but it turned out to be more of a Hollywood tell-all snarkfest. It's all about his experiences filming a reality TV show for the Travel Channel, which is still interesting in a behind-the-scenes sort of way, but I do feel a bit bait-and-switched. I wonder if he'll ever work in TV again or if he burned too many bridges with this book - but then, I think Hollywood has a tendency to forgive and forget if they think they can make money off someone.

I liked it when he was describing the misadventures of his travels, but I think he spent too much time being cynical and snarky for me to really say I loved it.

Karen says

It was OK, it could have been really funny, actually it should have been really funny. But it wasn't. It was just OK. I'm not sure why. What a great title, but what lame follow through.

Anyway, Cash travels the world and pioneers the idea of a stranded traveler in a remote location. This was before Survivorman and others shows of the same ilk. He talks about the reality of filming a series and all the odd things they do but sadly Cash Peters himself comes off as kind of a whiny jerk. It's odd, I get the idea that he probably isn't nearly as annoying as he makes himself out to be, and his own overly critical self-perception is a serious detriment to a reader looking for the humor they were led to believe they would find in this book.

Sylvia Hunter says

Hilarious and well written with the skillful use of language I've come to associate with this author. This is the account of the making of the TV series in which the host is meant to appear lost in a foreign land without money or a place to stay and is thus reliant on the charity of the natives.

The schedule is very gruelling involving visiting thirty two countries in little over twelve months, taking cheap, round about flights. Not only was the author expected to host the show, but was responsible for co production, script writing, voice overs, promotions etc. The prediction of his neighbour "this is going to kill you" almost came about as he had to have a life saving operation en route!

Much of humour stems from the author's knowledge and admission of his lack of suitability for the adventurous tasks expected of him. In addition to everything else he has to cope with various allergies and phobias, all of which he relates in a very amusing and self deprecating way.

We are taken to Vanuatu, "The land that trousers forgot", Lesbos, Dubai, Alaska and Kenya to name but a few.

I found there was just enough background information on each place, both geographical and historical, to make it interesting - and always entertaining and amusing, especially the footnotes

The characters are well described and come alive, both the crew members and natives met en route.

There is, of course, the added interest of insight into the filming procedure.

All in all an amusing, honest and informative account which I recommend highly.

William Berry says

Every year for Christmas my sister gets me a funny travelogue book such as this one. Unfortunately unlike the others I have read the past few years, the narrator here comes across as quite unlikeable. I had no idea who Cash Peters was before I read this book but coming out of it I discovered that our humble guide was nothing more than a whiny dullard. (Which may be his shtick?) There are a few interesting anecdotes and stories here and there but nothing really worth spending your time on. There are better options out there if you enjoy these sorts of things.

Heather says

What a disappointment. The title of this book might lead you to think that this (nonfiction) piece is actually about the stories of a happy traveler, but it's not. This is a book that Cash Peters seems to have written in order to drag out his fifteen minutes of fame from his stint as a reality TV host to sixteen minutes.

What this is not: a travel story.

What this is: a tell-all musings of a travel radio host who somehow, magically, ends up pitching the premise of a reality TV show (completely copied from the premise of Survivor, if he's to be believed) where he - the host - is dropped into a foreign land with no knowledge of where he is, with no money and nowhere to sleep. Being that this is a reality TV show, there are, of course, crew members. And although technically he has to find someone to offer him a stay in their home, he doesn't actually have to sleep there. Nor does he ever actually go hungry or meet strangers, because those he meets and interviews have all been pre-screened by the producers of the show.

In the end, this book is more about how reality TV is anything but real: it's contrived in every imaginable way in order to get viewers hooked. Perhaps I would have liked this book more if the publishers had been more forthcoming about what it really is, rather than posing it as something else. Much like the show itself, I suppose.

Heather says

I'm a big Cash Peters fan having watched the show this book is based on, but after reading this (and his blog) I'm starting to feel like he's a little bit of a complainer and part of his problems might have to do with how he plays into them.

Not that the book wasn't funny, it was. Not that it wasn't better than his last travel book, it was as well. But the sort of easily shocked and discomfited thing he has that made the show (*Stranded*) so funny is probably what also strained his relationships a little. In short, he's a funny guy, but he strikes me as not the biggest team player. And while he's all right with that, it can make it a little hard for me to be on his side as much as I want to be.

Still, funny book, fast read, and I even learned a couple of things.

Yoonmee says

Cash Peters takes us on a hilarious trip around the world while filming a travel show. The book is a fun read taking us to several really interesting locales such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Solvang in California, and the island of Lesbos in Greece. It's also fun getting a behind the scenes of a travel show. Fun light read.

Joyce says

Funny and unvarnished, this satisfying read recounts Peters' year he spent toiling to make a survival TV show for the Discovery Channel. From Kenya to Cambodia, Morocco to Dubai, he visits many fascinating cultures, eats and sleeps with them, and very nearly doesn't survive at all. This is the perfect short, pick-me-up read. It was only a matter of time until he branched out from his hilarious, public radio pieces.

Beth says

I got about a hundred pages into this real-life glimpse into a short-lived reality-TV travel series, then skimmed to the end - it was a lot of the same thing in different locations, with little insight or growth along the way: Non-nature boy is thrust into survivor like situations, with some degree of scripting. It was an interesting look at how reality TV shows are put together, at the very least. The footnotes were the funniest and most interesting part of the book. At the end, Peters is asked to speak about his experience, and puts together a really good list of things he learned along the way; it's too bad he didn't go that route, for the narrative.

Danielle says

I didn't get too far into this before giving up. I think a few things would have made me enjoy it better:

- 1) Had I been able to hear the author's English accent. I'm sure that does a lot to sell his otherwise annoying personality.
- 2) Had I known who the author was. He may be very charming on the radio or tv, but I had never heard of him, so a book which was, essentially, all about him wasn't too interesting to me.
- 3) If he'd spent more time writing like a travel writer instead of like a self-aggrandizing tv personality. Any descriptions of the locations he travelled to were shrouded in "this is why I was so crazy for going here..." language, or spending too much time describing how he and the rest of the television crew approached this place, rather than the place itself.
- 4) If the writing had been better. He spends not-a-few paragraphs griping about bad writers and reality tv stars who aren't worth their salt, but doesn't make much of an effort to set himself apart from the group he lambasts.

I did like the premise of hearing what goes on behind the scenes of a "reality" show (in quotation marks because it's reality like "Man vs. Wild" not "Survivor." There's no competition aspect.) I found it very amusing that he had to exit the plane in his new, impossibly remote location, three times, each time "looking surprised" so the cameraman could get several shots. Other than that, I just couldn't get into the story. He was a little schizophrenic in his telling of it, and like I said, the writing wasn't good enough to hold my attention, and his personality was grating. I guess next time I shouldn't pick up a book just because it has a naked man on the cover.

Eris says

I started this one somewhat bemused and intrigued by the authors obvious candor. Agreeing to do a travel show on the premise of being "washed up" with no money or contacts (except the very obvious crew accompanying him) was bound to have some interesting moments... except, the man was an absolute weenie and refused to participate in the moments of adventure in most places he landed. WHY did he even agree to do the show if he knew he was so phobic and knew he had no interest in broadening his horizons. His increasing whininess in the travelogue causes the few good points to be quickly buried. Near the very end, there is one redeeming moment - but it was not enough, in my opinion, to relieve the wet blanket of an experience this man had. Had he sucked it up earlier and dove in, even with fear, his experience might have been worth reading. As it is, it sounds like he got a paid vacation to a lot of places someone else might have loved to go, and he moaned the whole way. Who needs to read that?

Xanthi says

When I picked up this book, I had not heard of the author or his TV show. I chose to read it because it looked to be a humorous travel narrative and I like those. I have read a few reviews on this site, where people have grumbled about various aspects of this book. Amongst the complaints are that the author grumbles too much and is not willing to do some things, eat some things etc. Plus, there is too much talk about the show and the crew and not just on his travel experiences. Well, just because you are travelling and are in new and different places, does not mean your allergies magically disappear, not to mention your phobias...or just downright sense of personal safety and common sense. Also, I liked how the author was basically critical about the whole concept of 'reality TV' and even his own show, pointing out the ridiculous premise of it. And I liked how he was not afraid to point out that a place/situation was kinda crappy. There are a lot of shitty aspects to travelling and I liked his honesty...and his sense of humour about it all. He didn't sugar coat everything. My main gripe was that he didn't include stories about all the places he visited, pointing out that the book would have ended up being way too long. How about some follow up volumes, then? If you want a 'feel good, warm and fuzzy' travel narrative, look elsewhere. If you want some biting wit and warts and all commentary on various places, then you have stumbled across the right book.

Jon Miner says

I'm not sure how it's a "snarky Hollywood tell-all" when no names are used.. Seems to me that it's more a "humorous inside look at a 'reality' TV show and the surrounding chaos."

Not quite as funny as "The Sex Lives of Cannibals," it's a humorous look at life on the road with "reality" TV in out-of-the-way places. It's not a documentary and probably not quite entirely true, but it's a humorous memoir, not a research paper.

Overall a good summer vacation read, especially if you're in to travel and TV (or, as I am, dismayed by "reality" TV.)

