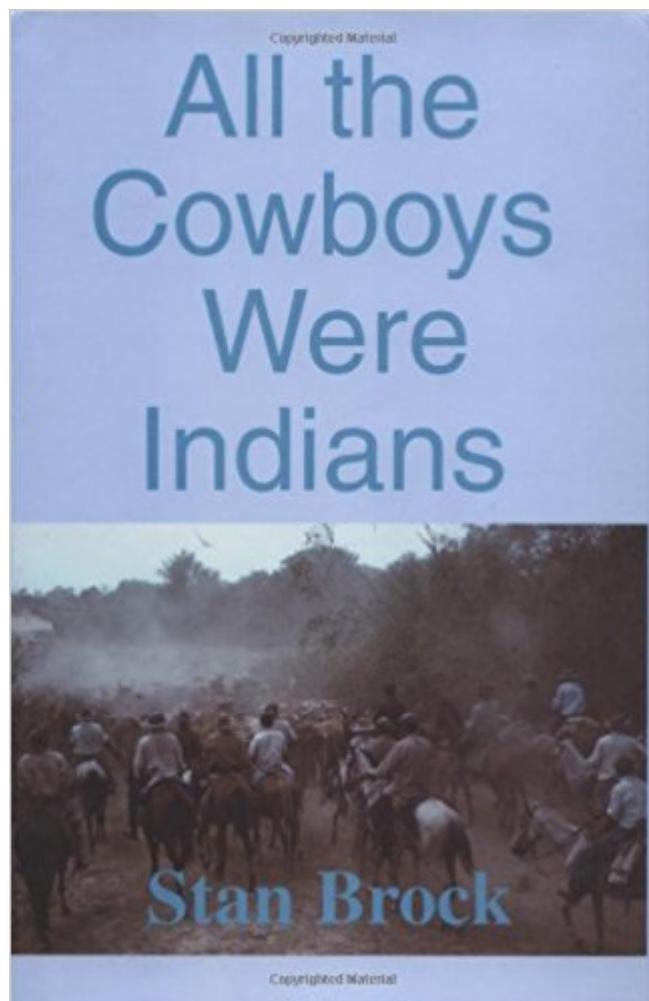


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All The Cowboys Were Indians



Synopsis

All the Cowboys Were Indians is adventurer Stan Brock's account of his life in the rain forest on the Dadanawa, the world's largest tropical cattle ranch. You will meet him as a fugitive schoolboy from England, longing to become a real vaquero. You will agonize with him as he learns bone-crushing lessons the hard way. You will share his triumph as he tames a killer horse. You will fall in love with Leemo, his pet mountain lion, and all the other four-footed and feathered friends he acquires during his days on the Dadanawa . . . days in a faraway time when all the cowboys were Indians..

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Who hasn't heard of Stan Brock? For years, Stan was a regular fixture in America's living rooms as co-host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. That program hasn't been on the air for many years now - but the legacy remains. If you watch TV at all, or if you go to the movies, sooner or later you'll hear a reference to Wild Kingdom. One character will refer to another one as crazy as "that guy on Wild Kingdom who wrestles the snakes." That's the Stan Brock Americans, young and old, have known and loved for years. But that is just one Stan Brock persona. Stan grew up as a proper English schoolboy. At age 17 he moved to South America where he spent the next 15 years living on one of the world's largest working cattle ranches. He eventually became manager of the ranch - and of its crew of Indian vaqueros. It was his experience there that led naturally to his work with the animals of Wild Kingdom and numerous other television and movie projects. Stan also is a pioneer bush pilot, a noted authority on wildlife management and conservation, and an expert on rain forests

and their inhabitants. But for 25 years there was one haunting image that Stan couldn't get out of his mind - the isolated Indian families who had no medical care. When he lived there Stan provided what medical care he could as an educated, but non-medical person, but he always wanted to find a way to provide these people with the basic medical care that most of us take for granted. He did it through an organization he founded called Remote Area Medical, an all-volunteer, airborne medical corps that takes skilled medical professionals from various parts of the developed world, to the undeveloped world. RAM, as the group is called, has completed some 200 missions. RAM volunteer doctors, dentists, optometrists, and nurses have treated thousands of patients for everything from dietary decencies to cleft pallet surgery.. Volunteers sometimes see 500 or more patients in a single dawn-to-dusk day. RAM veterinarians work side-by-side with other volunteers to treat the dogs, cattle, and other animals of the people RAM serves This book, *All the Cowboys Were Indians*, is a detailed chronicle of his early life in South America and of the foundation of Remote Area Medical. All author's royalties from the sale of this book go to support the work of Remote Area Medical.

Imagine what it would be like to live in a place where there was no medical care whatsoever! The life style was punctuated by shootings, stabbings, hangings, drownings, malaria, broken limbs, disfiguring tropical sores, rotten teeth by the mouthful and problem pregnancies. For anyone unlucky enough to need a doctor, the nearest one was over 300 miles away in Georgetown. An airplane might fly into the region once or twice a month, or people who where strong enough could make the trip to medical care on foot in 26 days. Such was life in the 1950s in the middle of the rain forest of British Guiana. The inhabitants overcame sickness with rain forest medicine or they died. Sometimes they came to me, a totally unqualified person unavoidably thrust into the role of medical practitioner. While I prescribed medicine by reading the labels on the bottles, I dreamed that one day I could help bring real doctors to the Rupununi. The country was a British colony back then and the Rupununi District was a forgotten corner of the Empire largely written off as a fly-infested swamp inhabited by roving herds of wild cattle, giant snakes, jaguars and Indian tribes. In one hour's ride I could cross the divide at the Rupununi River and my pony could drink from a tributary of the As the years rolled by, I progressed from dispensing aspirin out of my saddlebags to flying antibiotics in a tiny fabric-covered plane into airstrips hacked out of the wilderness. These primitive and occasional efforts at health care delivery were the roots that grew, decades later, into an organization called Remote Area Medical. It took independence and the efforts of the Guyana Ministry of Health to eventually bring real medical services to the people who live on the country's southern border with Brazil. Years later, Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps offered help to the Guyana government

and thousands of AmerIndians and settlers received free health care through this joint effort. But this book is not about medicine or mayhem in the jungle. It is about other events that confronted me in that primeval wilderness way back at the halfway point in the 20th century. I was running a ranch so big that it took an exceptional horse and a determined rider two days to cross it in any direction. We were the last of the real cowboys, and, except for me, all the cowboys were Indians!

When I was a teenager, Stan Brock was my favorite presenter on Wild Kingdom. He came across as a genuine and aboveboard twentieth-century cowboy and frontiersman. Yet he is an educated naturalist and wildlife expert. He seemed to never think twice about danger and proved that he was totally at home in the wilderness and that he wasn't someone whom Hollywood invented for the cameras by confidently handling whatever came alone. I remember one episode in which he was nearly killed by a giant anaconda in a river and another in which he had to run barefoot from a grizzly bear, only just escaping being mauled by a couple of inches as he swung himself up into a small tree at the last second. All the Cowboys Were Indians is Brock's account of how he went from being a schoolboy in an English public (boarding) school to becoming a cowboy riding herd with the vaqueros on one of the largest ranches in the world in British Guiana (now Guyana) for fifteen years to becoming the founder of the non-profit medical care organization, Remote Area Medical (RAM). It is well-written, engaging, and humorous (some situations remind me of James Herriot and others of Ralph Moody). You needn't be concerned that Stan Brock is one of those people who has written an autobiography in which he comes across as full of himself. He seems to be truly unpretentious and now dedicates his life to helping people who cannot afford or don't have access to medical care. RAM's website, by the way, is [...]. This is a book you won't want to miss.

If you are an admirer of the work that Remote Area Medical does, you'll find this book interesting. Stan Brock has certainly lived a full and interesting life and I am glad that he is devoting his later years providing the services that he does. This is truly a great and admirable man. The book only grazes the origins of RAM but it does provide a biography of Mr. Brock and his adventures in South America and enlightens us on his motivations for devoting his life to the success of RAM. Now, I only wish that he would write a book about Remote Area Medical. I'm sure he would have some tales to tell.

Interesting read. Now I understand a little more about what motivates Stan Brock to do what he does. What a difficult life these people had!

Travel with Stan Brock on his journey to master the art of being a cowboy on the toughest turf in the world.

Great story of Stan Brock's early life before he started RAM (Remote Area Medical)

An excellent story of a fascinating life! Stan Brock's adventures in Guyana, South America, make for a captivating read.

Author Stan Brock wrote this book while living in South America for 15 years, before he founded Remote Area Medical. What a brave young kid he was moving there by himself from England. This book is such a treat for animal lovers; it has some great photos, too. You'll also appreciate the unique ways of other cultures.

Very good book.....I'm glad I got it.....

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