

From The River Gambia Through Woolli Bondoo Galam Kasson Kaarta And Foolidoo To...

By Major Alexander Gordon Laing





Travels in Western Africa, in the Years 1818, 19, 20, and 21 : From the River Gambia, Through Woolli, Bondoo, Galam, Kasson, Kaarta, and Foolidoo, to the River

Niger by Tony Maxwell

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In 1824, Major Alexander Gordon Laing embarked on an epic journey from the Gambia River to Timbuktu, the legendary city in the heart of the Sahara Desert. His goal was to be the first European to reach Timbuktu and return alive.

Laing's journey was fraught with danger and hardship. He traveled through dense forests, across treacherous rivers, and through hostile territory. He was attacked by bandits, robbed by slave traders, and nearly died of starvation. But he persevered, driven by his determination to reach Timbuktu.

After months of travel, Laing finally reached Timbuktu. He was the first European to do so since the Portuguese explorer Heinrich Barth in 1513. Laing spent several weeks in Timbuktu, studying the city's history, culture, and people. He also made a number of important observations about the trans-Saharan slave trade.

Laing's journey was a major achievement in the history of exploration. He was the first European to reach Timbuktu and return alive, and his account of his travels is a valuable source of information about the history, culture, and people of West Africa.

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Chapter 1: The Gambia River

The Gambia River is the lifeblood of West Africa. It flows for over 1,000 miles from the Fouta Djallon highlands in Guinea to the Atlantic Ocean. The river is navigable for most of its length, and it has been a major trade route for centuries.

Laing began his journey up the Gambia River in January 1824. He traveled in a small boat with a crew of African paddlers. The journey was slow and艰苦的, but Laing was determined to reach Timbuktu.

As Laing traveled up the river, he passed through a variety of landscapes. He saw dense forests, rolling hills, and vast floodplains. He also

encountered a variety of people, including Mandinka farmers, Wolof traders, and Fula herders.

Chapter 2: Woolli Bondoo

After several weeks of travel, Laing reached Woolli Bondoo, a small kingdom on the north bank of the Gambia River. The king of Woolli Bondoo was friendly to Laing, and he allowed him to stay in the kingdom for several days.

Laing took advantage of his time in Woolli Bondoo to learn about the kingdom's history, culture, and people. He also made a number of important observations about the trans-Saharan slave trade.

Laing discovered that Woolli Bondoo was a major center of the slave trade. Slaves from the interior of Africa were brought to Woolli Bondoo and sold to European and American traders. Laing was horrified by the conditions in which the slaves were kept, and he condemned the slave trade as a "crime against humanity."

Chapter 3: Galam

After leaving Woolli Bondoo, Laing continued up the Gambia River. He reached Galam, a kingdom on the south bank of the river, in March 1824.

The king of Galam was also friendly to Laing, and he allowed him to stay in the kingdom for several weeks. Laing used his time in Galam to learn about the kingdom's history, culture, and people.

Laing also made a number of important observations about the trans-Saharan slave trade in Galam. He discovered that Galam was a major

center of the slave trade, and that slaves from the interior of



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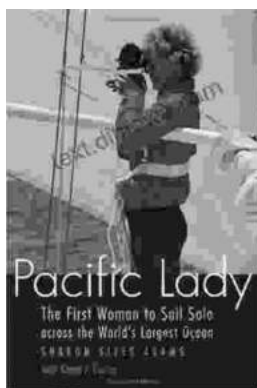
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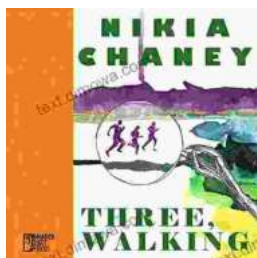
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