

'A journey in every sense of the word' MARK KURLANSKY

CATHERINE McKINLEY

IN
SEARCH
OF THE
COLOUR
THAT
SEDUCED
THE
WORLD

Indigo

BLOOMSBURY

Catherine E McKinley

Indigo



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A richly-told, personal quest across the ancient trade routes of West Africa, and the unforgettable story of a uncommon, luminuous colour.



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Such an informative book on the colour Indigo and textiles-things I by no means knew I truly enjoyed this publication, for it includes a plethora of details on the textile market mainly focusing on Indigo! The author details her interesting trip on looking for genuine indigo fabric and the brand new people she meets as she seeks this majestic dye and talks to textile traders. It also offers you a glimpse in to the West Africa Markets and culture. the color of longing Before reading this book, I was ignorant of blue to be one of nature's rarest colors. My first insight into world history through cloth ! the rise and fall of indigo in the U. Concurrently, abolitionists over in America had been staging boycotts of indigo and all this information goes very well towards feeding the reader with the zeitgeist of the times. A reader are certain to get much more compared to the story of indigo in the world of textiles. The lush dye-pot indigo blue of the outside cover and the detailed designs on the inside cover certainly are a fitting wrapper for an exquisitely crafted publication where multiple threads of the author's search for indigo unfold in collection after line of gorgeous Renaissance fonts inlaid on rich stock. However, I prefer entertainingly written non-fiction and was sorely disappointed. Truly her seek out indigo revealed the serious tie between cloth and world history just about everywhere. Cloth takes on its persona in "Indigo." McKinley makes cloth stand out as she explores its procedures and its own history in pre-colonial Africa as well. She effectively runs through the various types of cloth which were exchanged from East to West and North to South. Everyone all over the world loved cloth in all its shades and textures. S. Every bit of indigo McKinley will get not only furthers her Fulbright research but furthers her insatiable desire to 'feel' the history of the people when it's not readily communicable from its owners. She believes in understanding by osmosis in order that when she lacks the information to steer her in the proper direction for more lifestyle, rather than assuming there is no more understanding to become gotten, her self-determination, pure faith, and belief in the energy of cloth pushes her straight to the areas she needs to go and the people she needs to meet over and over again throughout her West African journey." I was most fascinated by the cultural procedures indigo performed in West African lifestyle and how world trade and the launch of artificial dyes influenced the near extinction of its organic production. It's not so much about indigo but more about the social conversation through the ages with this dye resource. Zora Neale Hurston meets Ben Okri This book explores indigo-dyed cloth as an object with historical, cultural and aesthetic meanings which range from its valences in ancient Dahomey to its importance as an object of the transatlantic slave trade to the personal meanings ascribed to it by the author, whose aesthetic passion motivates both her research and her thrilling travel memoir. I have not however visited Africa, but the publication recreated it for me personally: the multi-colored swirl and buzz of its marketplaces, the issue and pleasure of travel and lifestyle generally there, the amazing warmth and vibrancy of its ancient cultures: Yoruba, Ewe, Dahomeyan, to name only a few of those depicted in the reserve. What I found particularly transporting were the character types, especially the sensible and witty Eurama, and the masterful manner in which McKinley weaves elements of her personal story with facts about indigo. What sort of book shows the richness and complexity of Africa is certainly mindful of the task of the Nigerian article writer Ben Okri, however the vivid clearness of the writing recalls the task of the celebrated Zora Neale Hurston. A hybrid of memoir, travelogue, and historical and cultural study, this unique book explores and problems boundaries; P. Blues A pal recommended this book if you ask me. Too many errors I have read 4 pages and also have found 2 factual mistakes regarding the date of Gandhi's birth and the invention of the cotton gin. These fabric traditions do more than impart beauty but also translate generational heritage as indigo offers been included in dowries passed down from mother to child and the symbolism embedded in the cloth itself expresses the many cultural ideals from ethnicity to ethnicity and nation to country that she explores. I kept going intrigued by one of Africa's great textile traditions, and also

the sub-plot of McKinley's own search for self, using the cloth as metaphor. I would recommend it to people who like books in which the author is carefully engaged with the topic." I suspect that those that prefer literary memoir and consider non-fiction to be dry will find this an unexpected treasure. the road taken by the cloth from an artisanal ancient practice of dyeing handed down through generations to an industrialized synthetic-based creation by the behemoth Visco, adulterated even further by China's growing grip on the African textile industry; Not so with Indigo. In this narrative ethnography, full of desire and color, the reader will be introduced to the Nigerian physician who discovers a cure for AIDS but then just a couple pages later on the reader gets folded back into cloth while learning that the Netherlands was the fourth-largest, slave-trading nation whose Dutch textiles made up 57 percent of the products exchanged for human being lives throughout their slave trade. An indigo lover myself, I could not put it straight down. Willingly, I meandered intoxicated through tales of the thoroughly concealed hyperlink between slavery and indigo; Unfortunately, Catherine McKinley's "Indigo" is another one of these books that could go grossly overlooked because it's informative. She also succinctly highlights on a general remember that the producing of the 'beauty' during colonialism is also the making of the crisis that consumed many West African countries post-colonialism. South; India's textile traditions; Intoxicating Conventional wisdom says, never judge a book by its cover. African burial practices; Mis-marketing at its worst I have nothing personal against Ms. tradition clash when Africa meets the West; females as economic powerhouses (read, Mama Benzs) and a the West Africa of outdated juxtaposed with statehoods teething pains of the early 21st century. Not lost in this rivetingly woven canvas may be the author's own journey from New Englander and big city New Yorker to Africa where she functions as part obruni, store female, researcher, pilgrim and intrepid traveler searching for her indigo pot of gold. A collector's item, the author brings a piercing eyesight and skilled wordsmithing to a tale whose multiple overlays could have been numbing to the casual reader attracted by the book's cover. I enjoyed the book quite definitely. The mixed testimonials on Amazon prepared me for an extremely individual and ideosyncratic strategy. I don't enjoy reading a publication that requires that I fact check as I examine. Review of 'Indigo: searching for the color that seduced the globe' by Catherine McKinley McKinley, C. We observe the author's family members tree and how her ancestors got encounters with the dye, to her travels to explore and collect unique clothing that used indigo. Her obsession prospects her for some unlikely places, and on the way we do learn a bit about the dye's uses ever sold and the need for it in trade, along with some of the process for preparing and using the dye. Perfecto Great book, great program. Indigo. Buyer beware: the book's cover explanation, 'In Search of the Color that Seduced the World', leads one to assume that the main subject of the publication will in actuality be about the color indigo's historic legacy and manufacture.. This interesting read! Certainly some of her descriptions of the places bring back my own remembrances and her understanding of local customs and traditions really was high grade." McKinley, through her travels as a Fulbright scholar in West Africa, managed to get her mission to seek out those locations touched by this blue gold, for all those females whose hands were dirtied by the dye pot, and to absorb the beauty of the indigo fabric through possession. She admits to getting "romantic for the past, with a satchel of loot. The textile cultures McKinley discovers have been around in West Africa for a very long time and as the requirements of a worldwide economy loom, she explains how that has necessitated that many West Africans begin to place the quest for profit over the maintenance of laborious yet ancient and rare textile traditions. Halfway through the publication, it got a little bit tedious and I'd have appreciated a more substantial map to trace her overland travels better. The heart of the publication for me is Eurama, McKinley's Ghanian friend, for it is definitely she who, through their many encounters, unravels the real signifying of indigo. African

proverbs and world sights; McKinley, but I suspect the reason this book has 60+ reviews and her various other two books possess only 1 one or two 2 is because of the deceptive marketing of this particular work.. Additionally, simply clicking the sample of the book allows you to read the ONLY part of the publication that's in fact about indigo: the prologue. The right description is on the Publisher's Weekly summation: "In this memoir of longing, community, and personal maturation, McKinley half African-American by birth, followed and elevated by white parents who were plant devotees, seeks her roots... Our understanding of her journey about the uses of indigo raises as we progress through the book! Cloth constituted more than 50 percent of European exports to West Africa on a whole by the late 1600s—so that we see the incredible importance of fabric to West Africans that they would exchange lives for it. Review of 'Indigo: searching for the color that seduced the globe' by Catherine McKinley -good but with inaccuracies! Indigo from an individual viewpoint Rather than a straight history of indigo dye, this reserve is more of a memoir of the author's relationship to the dye and its make use of in African textiles/clothes. E. (2011). Indigo: in search of the colour that seduced the globe. I was hoping for even more depth of details than was available in this reserve. Reviewer: Dr W. it really is a MUST Go through for anybody curious about the complexity and uncanniness of global history and aesthetics! Palmer 'Indigo: searching for the color that seduced the globe' may be expected to include a body of information regarding indigo. NY: Bloomsbury. I even hoped to find some hint of its chemistry. Hardly any information about the planning of indigo and none of its chemistry are talked about. Similarly the publication is approximately Catherine McKinley's travels in West Africa and for me the essential necessity about any travelogue can be a map or series of maps that it might be easy to check out where she proceeded to go in each of her journeys. I lived in different elements of Nigeria for a complete of eleven years and also have also travelled to most of the countries plus some of the places that she visited. After that we've indigo, a dye attained from tiny leaves that may create the bluest of blues, ultimately getting the world's most valued pigment, and referred to by some as "blue gold. Generally, her geography is certainly accurate, but there is normally one specific inaccuracy that should be considered.



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