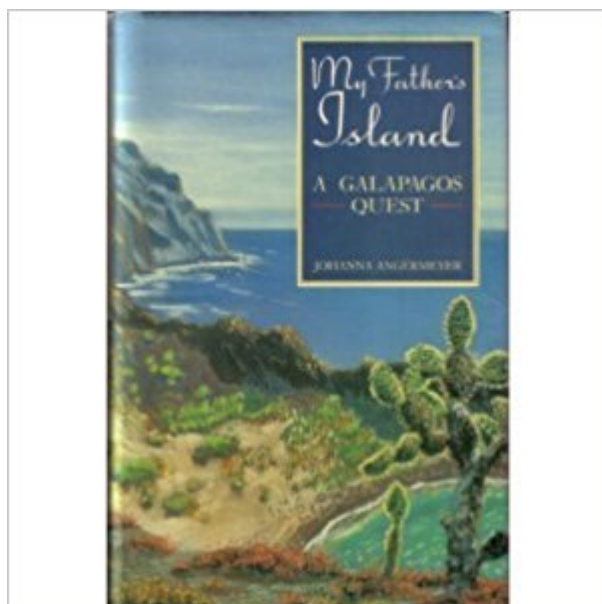


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My Father's Island: A Galapagos Quest



Synopsis

Angermeyer set off for the Galapagos Islands to attempt to solve a mystery about her father's death. Like her father, she came to love the Galapagos and to dream of having a life there. Her experience was filled with the perils and incomparable pleasures of living on the Galapagos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author never knew her father, Hans Angermeyer, nor was she familiar with the circumstances of his last years or death. He was one of five brothers who left Nazi Germany in 1935, sailing to the Galapagos Islands to make a new home. In Ecuador, he married an American widow, Emmasha, who had a small son. They had one child and another on the way when war came. Emmasha and the children returned to the U.S.; Hans, a German national, was denied admittance. When the author was 13, the family returned to Ecuador and to the Galapagos for a meeting with relatives. Living on the island--even without amenities and with its perils--was paradise. Angermeyer learned to hunt, fish and enjoy a Robinson Crusoe-like existence. She gives an engaging account of life on the island with an extended family--and she gradually pieces together the events surrounding her father's death. It is a remarkable story of adventure, romance and the fulfillment of a dream.

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Angermeyer offers an unusual look at the Galapagos Islands from the perspective of its settlers, especially her German family who fled Hitler in the 1930s. She heard of these relatives as a child in the United States and dreamed about joining them in "paradise." (Her father had hoped to settle

there, too, but succumbed to illness.) Later she learned that paradise consisted mainly of rocks, fire ants, and iguanas. Life on these isolated islands was mostly a matter of survival, even in the 1960s, when she went there, but she fell in love with their beauty and eccentric people. Recommended for collections concerning this part of the world.- Beth Clewis, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community Coll., Richmond, Va. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Very educational book to read prior to travelling to the Galapagos. Easy to read, so interesting.

I have long been fascinated by the Galapagos Islands and this first hand account of people from Europe trying to settle there after the war really brings it to life. Lots about the unique plants and animals but also much about the pioneer life and struggles, the joys and hardships too. Very well written. I've been trying to determine if she wrote a sequel as I'd love to read it. I don't think soif anyone knows otherwise please post.

Johanna Angermeyer writes wonderfully. There are amazing things in this book--her trek to get firewood (complete with fire ants), her swimming with sea lion pups, her turning down the slobbery pancakes, her deftly avoiding fony Franz from Frisco. I like the way she put it all together, mixing family accounts with her personal history and observations of LA, Ecuador and Galapagos, with her quest running through it like a vein.

An in depth presentation of life, conditions, and associated hardships for settlers to these islands. Anyone who plans to visit these islands should read this account that is well presented by the author

The service was prompt and the book arrived in condition stated I had heard Johanna speak this past winter on a cruise ship and she was an excellent speaker and expect the book to be just as inspiring.

Good portrayal of Ecuadorian city life and island life, and the dream-come-true of many young girls like myself who never did it!

This is a must read if you are planning a trip to the Galapagos. The history of the islands is in this book as well as true information about the folks who settled there.

Starting as a child in California, the author explains the family connection to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador. The almost legendary account of her father and his brothers escaping Germany just before war, to sail away and live a Robinson Crusoe-like existence on the Galapagos Isles...But what exactly happened to her father? Angermeyer slowly reveals the whole story in the course of telling her own love story with the Islands, as she goes out with her family to live there and meet her relatives, in her early teens. The Galapagos at this time (late 60s) were a pretty tough proposition: privies built over cliff edges, the struggle for food, the primitive houses. Yet set against this were magic moments: tame iguanas, killer whales and 'wonderful secret places in the bush, where no man or woman has ever walked.' Highly readable and well-written, enhanced by the two strands of the story working in conjunction.

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