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Running With Raven: The Amazing Story Of One Man, His Passion, And The Community He Inspired



Synopsis

The Amazing Story of One Man, His Passion, and the Community He Inspired.

In 1975, Robert "Raven" Kraft, a high school dropout and aspiring songwriter, made a New Year's Resolution to run eight miles on Miami's South Beach each evening. Over 125,000 miles later, he has not missed one sunset. Along the way, Raven has changed the lives of thousands who have run with him—many of them hundreds of times. From all fifty states and dozens of countries, across all age groups and backgrounds, they come to run with Raven, and in the process find friendship, inspiration—and a nickname. Among them is author Laura Lee "White Lightning" Huttenbach, who has logged over a thousand miles of Raven Runs. Here she explores the stories of dozens of others about why they started running with Raven—and why they keep coming back. Taxman, an accountant in his mid-60s, has done 1800+ runs. Dizzy, a middle school principal from Cuba, met his wife and his best friend on Raven Runs. Butcher, an ex-convict, credits Raven with saving his life. In an uncertain world Raven shows up, no matter what. Quirky and appealing, tenacious and magnetic, Raven is a legend of the running world. As he says, "I may be the only thing that hasn't changed around here in the last forty years." Laura Lee Huttenbach reveals how one man's daily ritual has blossomed into an uncanny gift for weaving people together—and an invaluable reminder that the journey means little without the connections forged along the way. "Raven left an indelible impression upon me, as he has countless others. I am certain that you will find his story as fascinating and enthralling as I have. Raven, long may you run." --Dean Karnazes, New York Times bestselling author of Ultramarathon Man "An inspiring tale of unbreakable discipline and one-of-a-kind endurance." --Gerald Posner, bestselling author of Miami Babylon

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Citadel (April 25, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806538422

ISBN-13: 978-0806538426

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 77 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #228,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Essays #379 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Running & Jogging #1089 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors

Customer Reviews

Laura Lee Huttenbach, a graduate of the University of Virginia, has been a serious athlete since her older brothers taught her how to slide tackle in soccer when she was four. In high school as a four-sport star, she was named Female Athlete of the Year for the state of Georgia. She moved to South Beach in 2011 after finishing her first book, *The Boy is Gone*, the life story of a Kenyan independence leader whom she met while backpacking in Africa. During her evening runs in Miami Beach, she met Raven and became fascinated by his story. While running with Raven, she learned Miami Beach history and met characters of the past and present who were unlike any she'd ever known. Her website is lhuttenbach.com. To find out more about the Raven Runs, visit www.ravenrun.net.

What a great adventure and a very unique story about a very unique and genuine character. Everyone should put running on the beach with Raven in Miami Beach on their bucket list. Who wouldn't want to be rewarded with a Raven nickname? Great story after great story in the book. I've been a runner for decades and I assure you, Raven is a one of kind personality. And you don't have to be a runner to enjoy this book. Hats off to the author also who has written this so well that you will keep reading it and not put it down.

This is a fascinating look at a man and his obsession and how he built a community consisting of a true cross section of America. Here you will find some humor, some pain and some compassion. The author writes with clarity from a personal perspective. It may be a cliché, but in this case it is really true that the reader actually gets to know the real life characters that populate the pages of this book. The main character, Raven, has put together an incredible record, eight miles at a time. In the process of attracting national attention, he has conscripted more than 2,500 people to join in parts of his quest. This isn't a story that you have heard before. You will want to read this book.

I was riveted and I'm not a runner. It starts with interesting characters who run (nicknamed by Raven) and then it widens and deepens its human perspective till the end. The author, Laura Lee Huttenbach, seems to have a knack for finding spatial locations which over time can get so gritty

that humans feel they will die if they don't re-create themselves right there. Raven's personal story opens doors to a compassionate and ever-wider view. Raven unashamedly lets pain be true. What a relief for human beings who might believe there should be no pain at all, or worse, believing if there is pain it is somebody's fault. Learn from Raven; he went for a run and felt better. He first ran "from" something; then he ran "to" something; and now he runs "for" something. It's a metaphor; we don't all have to be runners. Today Raven is a cultural icon not just because he runs but because he stands for being committed, self-disciplined, generous, aware, open, accepting, lovable, building a community, being a statesman. Even the nicknames he bestows are gifts hinting at a person's true purpose in life, for example, the author, White Lightning, perhaps her countenance striking him as always shedding light on what heretofore has been in the dark. This makes me want to read all her books. Thank you, Raven, for your leadership.

Motivational without being preach-y. I found this observation and examination of one man - one small voice - in these chaotic and often out-of-control times an affirmation. An affirmation that people can change: Raven changed and he has changed many others. He continues to do what works for him and the curious, the damaged, and the survivors of the dark side continue to travel to Florida to share, to observe, and to emulate Raven. I signed my name & the date inside my book when I finished it and gave it to a spiritual stranger. I asked that when he finished the book he, too, would sign inside and pass the book on. Which, after reading the book, seemed the positive energy thing to do. A great book.

I would love to run with Raven. This book is the next best thing, the author makes you feel like you know Raven, many of his fellow runners, and the south beach area.

I bought this book on the recommendation of a friend who knew that it would be of interest to me since my husband was a runner and we were both raised on Miami Beach. (I was actually born in St. Francis Hospital I 1944 which has been demolished and replaced by condos.)Once I started reading I found it captivating and difficult to put down. So many memories flooded back and the way the author was able to weave the stories of the various runners into a really interesting narrative was impressive.I highly recommend this book.

Running with Raven is an anchor to many of my days in Miami Beach, and this book captures much of the history he has seen on the Beach,things you just can't make up.

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