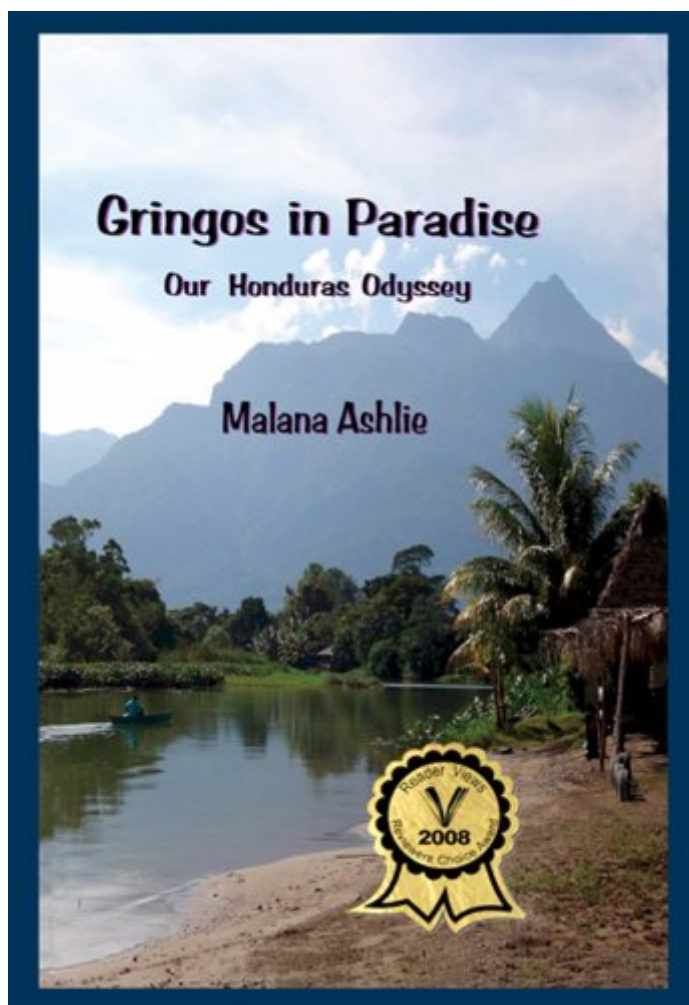


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Gringos In Paradise: Our Honduras Odyssey



Synopsis

Gringos in Paradise: Our Honduras Odyssey by Malana Ashlie is a delightfully amusing and lighthearted autobiography chronicling her move from the U.S. to the Caribbean Coast of Honduras. When she and her husband decide to relocate to a more secluded paradise the fun begins. She shares the trials and triumphs of building a new life in Central America in what can best be described as a spiritual journey of faith.

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Customer Reviews

I have visited Honduras over 20 times in the past 35 years and found this book to provide meaningful insight into Honduran culture and way of life. The author and her husband approached their move to Honduras with open minds and hearts, and obviously with a perspective that cultural differences should be embraced and understood, rather than viewed as "bad" simply because they are different from the way things are done in the U.S. The book is really a series of short stories that range in time from the couple's initial decision to move to paradise (somewhere), to the decision that Honduras was the paradise they sought to their day-to-day experiences - many of which are quite funny - after the move to their new home on the Honduran coast. What made the book particularly

appealing was the depth of emotion and thought that went into the couple's leaving their old life and friends, interacting with new neighbors, local workers, and even their cat, who had to endure the move from the old paradise (Hawai'i) to the new. I recommend this book to anyone who is thinking about visiting or moving to Honduras, as well as to anyone who wants insight as to how to approach cultural differences with an attitude of understanding and sensitivity.

Gringos In Paradise reads like a blog of day to day joys and aggravations in moving to Honduras and is probably similar to what gringos experience throughout Central America. I related to this book since I have visited the town where the author and her husband moved to (El Porvenir, Honduras) several times. The beginning section about leaving Hawaii dragged a bit but once they were on their way and in Honduras, it was a fun read.

This book never quite reached me. Too much about other things in their life and too little about honduran life

I was a little annoyed by this book. The writing is amateurish at best, with lots of punctuation and grammatical errors, but the thing that really got me was the author's apparent lack of interest in really knowing and enjoying her new environment. The scene she writes of holing up in her dark, air conditioned bedroom, watching English language DVDs to drown out the noise of the Semana Santa festival party going on next door stunned me. Did she ever consider going to the party and learning about some of the customs and people of her newly adopted country? If you enjoyed this book, you'll really enjoy the other "Gringos in Paradise" book by Barry Golson.

I agree fully with the other 1 and 2 star reviews. On the positive side, there are a few entertaining mini-chapters, and I'm sure the author and her husband are very nice folks, but unfortunately this book is poor overall. It's written very simplistically, and does indeed flirt with being offensive in a few condescending-sounding spots, where the author describes some of the 'simpler' aspects of the culture while admittedly not really understanding it much or trying very hard to familiarize herself with it. It comes off as a rudimentary writeup of some privileged Americans moving to a new culture with insufficient preparation or experience. It's long on personal musings about spiritual enlightenment and very short on information about Honduras and its people. To be sure, there are a few good nuggets... but they get lost in the sauce about their cat, the other places she's been, her business, her personal habits and musings, etc.. etc.. It's entertaining in a few spots, but not my cup

of tea.

Gringo's In Paradise is not so much about Dr. Ashlie's change of address, but about her personal and spiritual growth. She writes in such a calm manner, that at times, I found myself so relaxed that I had trouble staying awake. I'm by no means saying that the book was boring, but Ashlie exudes a sense of peace in every word she writes. Gringos In Paradise is filled with detailed descriptions of her travels, and lots of information about the people, customs, flora and fauna of the area. The only thing that would make this book better, would be the addition of some color photographs of her home and the city of El Porvenir. After reading her description of the area, and the amenities (of lack thereof) I'm convinced that for me, it would be a nice place to visit.....but I really wouldn't want to live there. I'm too dependent on dishwasher, internet access, and central A/C! Dr. Ashlie is a certified Reiki Master, and I would love to be able to enjoy a session with her, and participate in one of her retreats. I became very interested in holistic healing, when I apprenticed with two massage therapists, who practiced traditional massage, acupressure, and body balancing. They also employed acupuncturists, and chiropractors, and I can attest to the validity of all five modalities. Gringos In Paradise is a wonderful read:-)([...])

Not only do I love to travel, but I love reading about other people traveling and especially from a faraway place like Honduras. With that said, this book did not let me down. It satiated my thirst for high adventure and enjoyable reading. When it comes to moving from one place to the other, I have found there are two kinds of people. The first group - I call the thinker group - analyzes every single detail down to will the new place be nicer than the one I am comfortable in now - and the second group which I call the fly by the seat of their pants group who don't think anything of just upping up and leaving and letting things fall as they may. I am unfortunately in the first group and I so envy the second group which the group I would place Malana. Oh to be able to read about doing the things I'm too fearful to do! But isn't that what reading books is all about? An escape? Learning how others did the things you're too scared to do? Such a delightful book, a pleasure to read and so encouraging for born again nomads like me! I give this book a five star rating for its content, writing style and overall enjoyment.

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