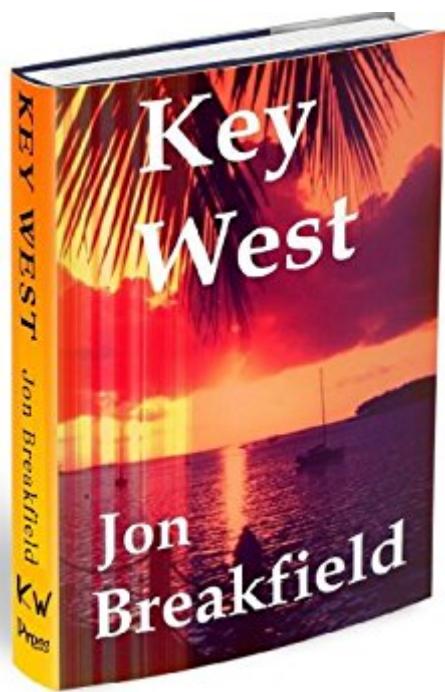


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Key West: Tequila, A Pinch Of Salt And A Quirky Slice Of America...a Year In Key West



Synopsis

'You can certainly count on one sale, I can promise you that' - New York Times best-selling author Bill Bryson
What would you do if you were on holiday and your better half said
Ã¢ œLetÃ¢ ¸s not go backÃ¢ ¸,Ã¢ ¸Would you stay?Would you stay if staying meant giving up everything back home in England to live on the backwater island of Key West, Florida?Come with me to this oddball, bacchanalian corner of the world where anything goes, the closest major city is Havana and where my wife and I lead an eye-popping, adventure-filled life until it is all ripped asunder by a catastrophic hurricane.KEY WEST: Tequila, a Pinch of Salt and a Quirky Slice of America is a lyrical portrait of a couple from England integrating themselves on a startlingly picturesque, joyously wacky island that is more Caribbean than it is American. More neurotic than it is sane. More corrupt than it is law-abiding. And more prone to hurricanes than it should be.This book is a celebration of life, love and adventureÃ¢ ¸an enchanting account of a couple who werenÃ¢ ¸t afraid to jump off the hamster wheel and have a go at a dream..If you are type of person who's ever been on holiday and said 'I don't want to go home!' Then this is the book for you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very pleasant and engaging story about Jon and his wife who do what many of us, especially Parrotheads, would love to do - just ditch it all and live on Key West. Live not just as in make our way in the world, but experience life, people and explore themselves. Having been to Key West many times, it is great to read about the real locations, establishments and yes, (Key West fixtures) people. This engaging book gives a balanced view into what it really means when you leave it all behind. More than the romantic dreams of pina coladas and relaxing on the beach 24x7, it shows the realities of life on Key West, from the people to the "housing", hurricanes, crime, trying to find a way to make enough to live on (I suspect the most broke people on the island are the retirement planning consultants ;-) quirkiness of the lifestyle and (the way I've always described it) "the land that time forgot." A great escape to live vicariously through this couple and just a plain ole fun read.

Actually, I thought this book would be more "fictional", more of a "story". But, having been to Key West (and losing my soul to it, enough so that we're planning to move there very soon), it was a wonderful trip back to the island. As the narrator tells of his walks or bike rides through Old Town Key West, I can go back in my memory and take that trip with him! I found myself looking up spots on Google Earth (Mobster Lobster) so that we make sure to visit it, and actually tracing their steps through the back streets and alleys. If you've ever been to Key West - you'll love going back with Breakfield and his characters! I thought I'd like the book, then thought it wasn't what I'd expected - then LOVED going down Memory Lane!! It's one of those books I'll keep with me and reread on a few lazy Key West afternoon in my hammock!

I lived in Key West during the time that this book took place and though I did not know the author (although maybe I did to nod and say hello) every word is the Gods honest truth. This is a town that everybody wants to visit and once you visit you want to move there and chuck it all. I did for 7 years and it was the best time and the greatest people I have ever known. Your first year is difficult and you find out how tough you really are, after year 1 you are an accepted member, but never a true "Conch", but that is more than good enough...your friends are everyone from strippers to bartenders to delivery people to Dive instructors to boat captains to hustlers to politicians. A weird but amazing "family" that will look after you and maybe even save your life. I highly recommend this book to any one who has ever lived in, visited or wants to chuck it all and move to the Conch Republic...it gives you a really true and accurate picture of what that a wonderful town is REALLY like.

So, I am going to Key West in 2 months and I thought why not set the mood early by finding a good Key West themed book. Boy, did I hit the jackpot! This book had me captured with its colorful descriptions and its strange ability to cause constant Key West daydreams. I felt as if I took the journey to Key West myself and felt all of the joy, fear, uncertainties, and strangeness portrayed throughout the book. I know as soon as I see the key locations from this story I'm going to think about those crazy Brits! They were nudged by the universe and took a leap into an unforgettable journey. If you're looking to experience the Key West lifestyle without taking that first step off the hamster wheel of life, this book is for you...and it may just light a fire in you. A true five star story based on the very real lives of two very brave/wonderful/humble/inspiring people.

Highly recommended. Follow Mr. Breakfield as he leads you on a bright and bawdy, always sweaty, never dull journey...exploring both the highlights and lowlights of this sun-bleached, yet remarkably colorful city. The book had me alternating between coughs of laughter, and fits of nervous giggles, while lifting my feet off the floor, to avoid sticky pub floors, or the things that go bump in the night. Jon's "Key West"...90 miles from Cuba...1000 miles from boring...and so accessible with one click of a mouse. Thanks for an infinitely enjoyable read. Look forward to reading your "Naked Europe" next, and "Death by Glasgow", when it hits the bookshelves.

Loved this book! It was so relaxing to read and the story was great. I love key west! So it brought me to places on the island, like I was there! Hope more key west books by this author continue coming out!

This is the best book for someone who has never been to Key West. My wife and I have been there atleast 15 times. Twice for Fantasy Fest and twice for New Years. We took our neighbors this year in Oct. I bought them the book and had them read it before we went. It gave them an idea of the Key West laid back culture and places to look for. The first nite at Mallory Square, we found Popcorn Joe (of course he was selling popcorn). He is a super nice guy and told us about Jon and Gabrielle. We found the Pineapple Guest House and 404 Aronovitz Lane (Villa Alberto, where they survived the hurricane) and took pics too. One day while riding bicycles around the Island, Popcorn Joe came whizzing by on his scooter, and I hollered at him. He almost wrecked his scooter not expecting anyone to yell out "Popcorn Joe!" He stopped and we talked awhile. Also ate at El Sibonney. Cuban food but not too spicy. It was great. Read then go!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A fun read. I love the Key West locale and enjoyed references to known venues in the area. An adventure story starring the author and his wife. Definitely keeps you engaged!

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