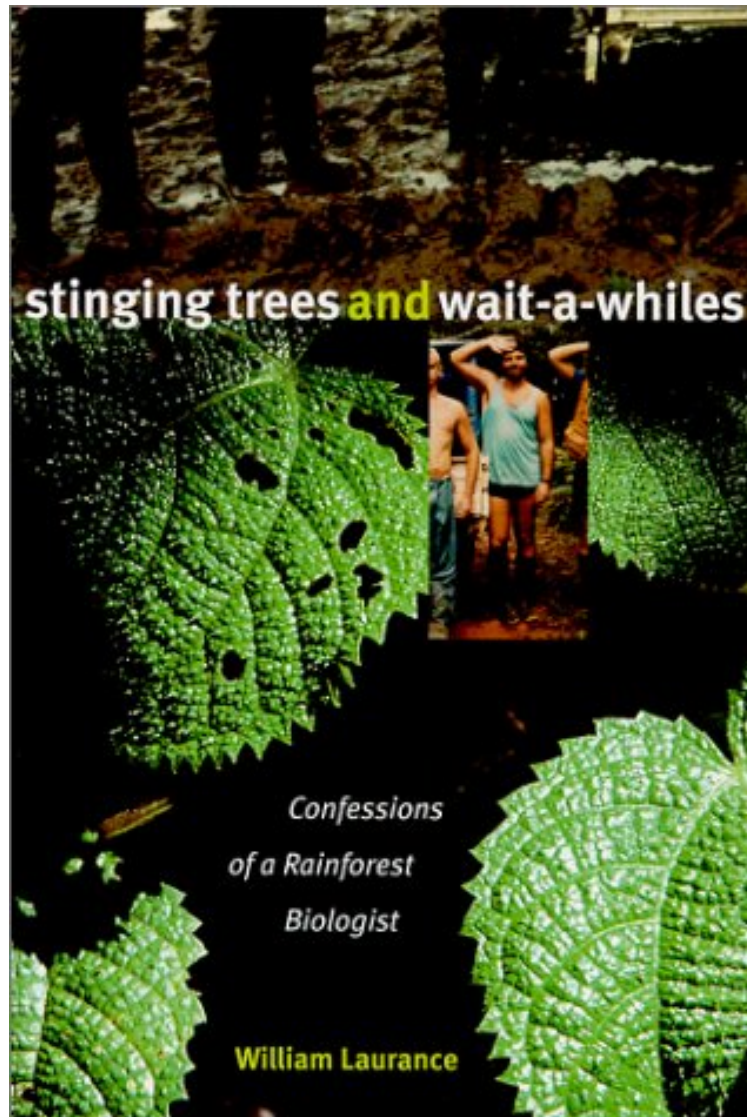


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Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles: Confessions of a Rainforest Biologist

William Laurance

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William Laurance : Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles: Confessions of a Rainforest Biologist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles: Confessions of a Rainforest Biologist:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Stinging Trees ReviewBy Susan HarrisonI had to wait a while before I could get Laurence's book, Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles, but it was well worth the wait. The book is

very well written with a smooth narration mixed with humor and solid scientific descriptions. Laurance is honest in his assessment of the people and situations and objective in all that he reports. As I read, I felt as if I were part of his research group, and can only hope Laurance writes more. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book! By John P. Scott A dear friend sent me this book just prior to a vacation in Queensland. The book, and Queensland are simply wonderful. We experienced many things described in the book, including Stinging Trees, Wait-a-whiles, leeches, crocs and so much more. We recommend both!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wild Bill, Confessions of a Biologist. By Geoff Cunningham I enjoyed Bill's book and highly recommend it. I also worked on the higher mammal crew with Will Chaffey under the leadership of "Wild" Dr Bill Lawrence. Those were crazy times and yes a bit dangerous at times with stinging trees and lawyer-cane (wait-a-while) seemingly attaching to your earlobes or eyelids. Not to mention the constant heavy tropical down pours, blood sucking leeches, getting lost in the forest was my personal favorite. It's all aptly described in Bill's wonderful book. I miss those long days in the rainforest, as I miss Tully's Bill's dog, the smell of the forest, the moldy house in Milla Milla, the people of the Atherton Tablelands and must not forget Bill's odd sense of humor. Will, for instance would never seem to be ready in time to please Wild Bill, solution, 'bounce a basket ball right where Chaffey was sleeping. When that didn't work Bill would use fire crackers, that did the trick. To be fair to Will though he did stay out late, sometimes not returning until dawn. Remarkable that young Will could walk all day carrying heavy traps without any sleep. Finally, In Bill's book you will learn about the tropical rainforest and the wildlife that call it home. An ancient forest that needs our help, the things you and I can do to save these magical forests. Thanks Bill for all your efforts and for writing the book.

The last traces of Australia's tropical rainforest, where the southeasterly winds bring rain to the coastal mountains, contain a unique assemblage of plants and animals, some primitive, many that are found nowhere else on earth. And fifteen years ago, they also contained Bill Laurance, a budding ecologist seduced by the nature of the landscape in north Queensland. Laurance isn't your typical scientist: he wears cut-offs instead of white coats, enjoys the occasional food fight, and isn't afraid to speak his mind, even if it gets him into trouble, as it often did in the Australian rainforest and as he recounts in his marvelous Queensland journal *Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles*. The book is his record of the time he spent in this remote area and his run-ins with plant, animal, and human species alike. Laurance lived in a tiny town of loggers and farmers, and he witnessed firsthand the impact of conservation issues on individual lives. He found himself at the center of a bitter battle over conservation strategies and became not only the subject of small-town gossip but also the object of many residents' hatred. Keeping ahead of his high-spirited young volunteers, hounded by the drug-sniffing local policeman, and all the while trying to further his own research amid natural and unnatural obstacles, Laurance offers us a personal and hilarious account of fieldwork and life in the Australian outpost of Millaa Millaa. *Stinging Trees and Wait-a-Whiles* is a biology lesson, a conservation primer, and an utterly energetic story about an impressionable young man who wound up at the epicenter of an issue that tore a small town apart.