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Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon

William Lewis Herndon

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William Lewis Herndon : Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not the original textBy West HanseThis is not the original edition by William Lewis Herndon, but the version edited by Hamilton Basso 100 years after Herndon's expedition and 98 years after Herndon's manuscript, which I thought I was ordering. There was nothing in the product description that indicated that this was the Basso edited edition. I'm unaware of whether the seller knew that this wasn't the original publication; however, the cover clearly states that it was edited by Hamilton Basso - which, as I mentioned, was not noted in the product description.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy dmginazas expected0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Many words barely readable, many others unreadable.By Chris HallAn ok text if you have already read the book and just want an e-book version, but it has been digitized without proofreading so contains many errors, requiring the reader to constantly guess the meanings of words.

Dust jacket notes: "It was almost a hundred years ago that a young American naval lieutenant back from South America turned in a report that Hamilton Basso, distinguished historian, writer, and critic, terms 'one of the best pieces of travel writing in our literature.' Reprinted here for the first time since 1854, this fascinating journal of exploration has been edited and introduced by Mr. Basso. In 1851, during one of the great periods of American exploration, Lieut. William Lewis Herndon received detailed orders from the United States Navy assigning him to a 'most important and delicate duty.' This duty was to explore, singlehanded, the entire course of the Amazon river from its source in Peru to

its mouth in the Atlantic nearly 4,000 miles away. He was told to report on everything he found from the navigability of the stream to the native industries and customs. Herndon's remarkable narrative, published as a Government report in 1854, aroused a tremendous amount of interest in its day. It even inspired Mark Twain with ambitious dreams of seeking his fortune in South America. In spite of its literary and historic value, it has gone unnoticed ever since. Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon is an amazing day-by-day record of Lieut. Herndon's boundless curiosity about the geographical characteristics of the Amazon valley, its flora and fauna, its natives and their way of life. Herndon's exact, colorful pictures of everything he encountered from native fiestas and religious rites to vampire bats and poisonous blowguns are coupled with almost lyrical reflections on the exotic natural beauties of this great river valley...."