

[Free] House of Miracles (English Edition)

House of Miracles (English Edition)

Von *Craig B. Smith*

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Von Craig B. Smith : House of Miracles (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House of Miracles (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. House of MiraclesVon Aldine SidakAuf Englisch sehr toll und flssig lesbar. Ich konnte mir Figuren und Umgebung gut vorstellen und wurde gleich von Anfang an in das brasilianische Ambiente mit hineingezogen. Besonders gefielen mir die geschickt eingewobenen landes- und kulturkundlichen Infos. Da macht es auch nichts aus, dass die Handlung nicht besonders actionreich ist.

KurzbeschreibungHouse of Miracles takes place in Brazil in the 1960s. It tells the story of one mans quest to create a

new life in the rawness of the Brazilian backlands. There, Steve falls in love with a beautiful and mysterious black woman named Malaikaa mulata descended from the blending of African slaves with the Portuguese colonists. He learns the true nature of love and the sacrifices it entails. Rich with the mystique of Brazil and its blend of African, indigenous Indian, and Portuguese cultures, the story takes the reader through exotic jungles and wastelands and into the seamy side of Brazilian violence and vigilante justice. Meanwhile, Steves religious beliefs are challenged by Macumba, a black religious cult characterized by ritual dancing and sorcery. Assisting Steve are some unforgettable characters, not the least of which are several slightly lecherous but lovable old men who will charm the reader. In the backlands of Brazil, there is a small town called Juazeiro do Norte, home of Padre Cicero. He was a backwoods priest who in life was thought to have performed miraculous healings, and who in death is considered a saint by the local population. His home A Casa das Milagres The House of Miracles contains gruesome wooden carvings, portraying every manner of wound, cancer tumor, or injury. There are carvings of breasts with tumors, carvings of maimed hands missing fingers, photographs of the sick, hand-written pleas for healing, and stacks of crutches left by the lame. These artifacts are placed there in hopes of a miraculous healing. In contrast to the devout Catholics of the region, others believe in the dark gods of Macumba. When slaves were forbidden to practice their religion, they adapted the expedient of identifying their gods with catholic saints to avoid persecution. Iemanj, goddess of the sea, is one such deity, known for the powerful protection she extends to true believers. The priestesses of this cult are known for their ability to foresee future events. Certain ceremonies and fetishes are believed to yield magical powers. Spiritualism and superstition exert a strong influence on the every day lives of many Brazilians. Steves story begins in Juazeiro do Norte, where he experiences Northeast Brazils rich history of farmers, cattlemen, artisans, religious fanatics, and bandits who gradually tamed the dry, thorny desert region of Northeast Brazil and survived its devastating droughts. He wants to start a new business, one that will create jobs and improve the lives of the Nordestinos, while at the same time fulfilling his dream of becoming an entrepreneur. His adventures take him north to the and then south to the spectacular beauty of Rio de Janeiro, where he is unwittingly caught up in a web of intrigue that almost costs him his life as he strives to save the woman he loves. The novel takes place against the tapestry of this powerful and fascinating country, and is an adventure story, a love story, and a coming of age for a young American who finds himself caught up by the country and fundamentally changed by it. For Steve and Malaika, their hope is to establish their own House of Miracles in Northeast Brazil and realize their dream of a new life together.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Once an engineering professor at UCLA, Craig B. Smith has been an entrepreneur, an executive, an adventurer, and a writer/publisher. Smiths career combined engineering design and construction of major projects involving advanced technologies with a love for writing. While at UCLA in 1962, Smith and his new bride of one year sought to join

President John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps. They were accepted for a program in Peru but changed their minds when they learned that UCLA offered a challenging opportunity to assist industrial development in the backlands of Brazil. House of Miracles has its roots in that magical, life-altering experience. During his professional career, Smith wrote over one hundred technical publications but also published poetry and short fiction. He wrote a textbook, Energy Management Principles, in addition to serving as editor of several books on energy conservation and efficiency. In 2003, he began writing full-time and published *How the Great Pyramid was Built* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2004). In connection with this work Smith was featured on the Arts and Entertainment Channels *Great Builders of Egypt* and in PBS's three hour series *Secrets of the Pharaohs*. In 2006, he appeared in the History Channels *Egypt: Engineering an Empire* and in the National Geographic Magazines *Naked Science* series: *Pyramids*. Other non-fiction includes *Extreme Waves* (2006), *Lightning: Fire from the Sky* (2008), and *Counting the Days*, (2012). His fiction includes, besides *House of Miracles* (2010), *Stirrings: Three Novellas*, (2011), a sequel to *House of Miracles*, *Malaika's Miracle*, (2012), and a young adult novel, *Iwa Tales: Legends for our Times* (2014)