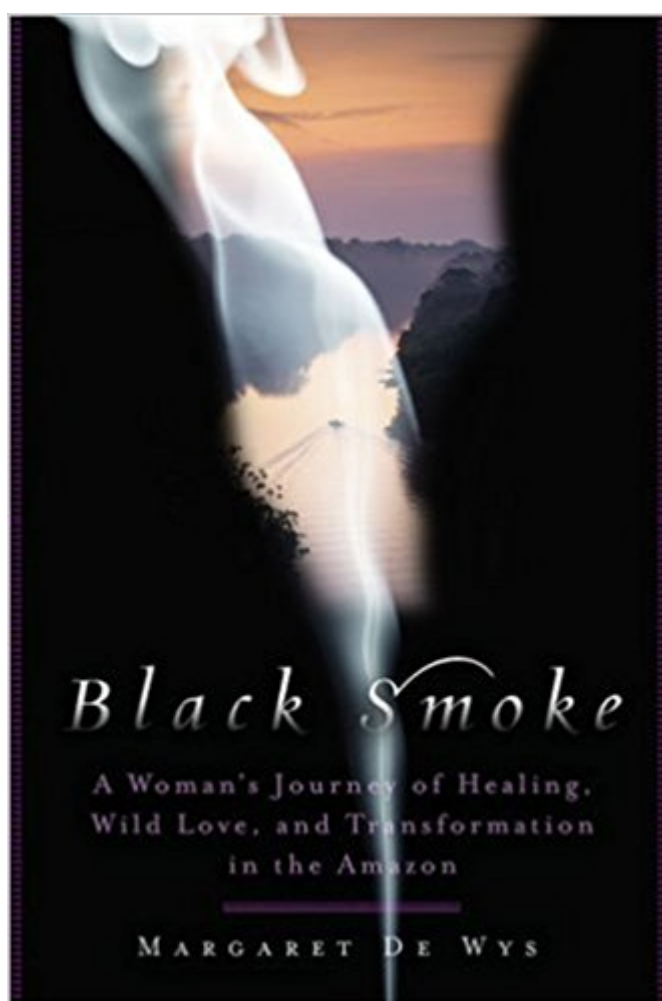


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Black Smoke: A Woman's Journey Of Healing, Wild Love, And Transformation In The



Synopsis

When composer and Bard College music professor Margaret De Wys learned she had breast cancer, the diagnosis shattered her comfortable life. Seized by fear, crushed by existential loneliness, she couldn't respond when her loved ones reached out to her. To everyone's concern, the illness propelled her away from her family and deep into the to work with Carlos, a charismatic Shuar master of medicina milenaria, an ancient mystical tradition with a highly sophisticated and precise technology of healing. In *Black Smoke*, De Wys writes of her amazing encounter with Carlos as he guided her into a world of potent visionary plants, harrowing initiations, and ritual purification. It was, as Carlos called it, "the path of the warrior." At once an adventure story, a romance, and a rich exploration of a little-known culture, *Black Smoke* is destined to become a classic. It captures one woman's physical, emotional, and "holy voyage" through a world that differs vastly from our own in its perception of healing and wholeness. And what emerges is a revealing chronicle of spiritual insight and a trenchant exploration of the limits of idealism. Not only does De Wys offer a probing look at how our modern technological culture can learn and benefit from indigenous wisdom, but she also weaves a cautionary tale about how potentially dangerous it is "on both sides" to try to cross those frontiers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Black Smoke is a wonderful, beautifully written story . . . a true adventure told in a style that

rivals the best of novels. This first-person account by an extraordinary woman of her inner and outer journey through darkness into light is a must read for anyone interested in healing. —John Perkins, The New York Times best-selling author of Shapeshifting, Spirit of the Shuar and Confessions of an Economic Hit Man — "This book will thrill and support all readers traveling or wishing to travel themselves into the unknown and the mystery of the human spirit." —Josie RavenWing, author of The Book of Miracles

Margaret De Wys is a professor at Bard College's Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, as well as a composer and sound installation artist. Her pieces have been performed at the Museum of Modern Art, Pace Gallery, Kitchen and The Knitting Factory. A CD of her music, I Oh, was released in 2000.

This is a beautifully written book, and it rings with authenticity. As an author myself, I do not hand out random praise. Margaret De Wys is a woman with a spiritual calling, and you will be riveted as you read her eye-witness accounts of the miraculous. I have had certain similar experiences, visited some of the same locations, and have enough experience in spiritual realms to know that all of this could have easily happened to someone who decided to "answer the call". This book is definitely one not to miss! I highly recommend it. Luminous Blessings, Lois J. Wetzel, MFA[...]

I heard about this book while shopping at my favorite organic foods store and, since I had previously known a little about the Shuar people, I wanted to read a first hand account from a woman who was actually there, had been healed and wanted to share her experience. I was also impressed with the speed of 's delivery - thank you for that!

I love the honesty with which Margaret took the reader along on the ride of her journey into alternative healing. She asked herself the questions I would ask wondering what she had gotten herself into at every moment. I left my world and joined her in the jungle seeking a solution with no guarantees. I would recommend the book to anyone with the caveat to keep an open mind and imagine the possibilities in life.

Like another commenter, I could not put this book down. I am now passing it around to several people who I know will enjoy it as much. If you are interested in shamanism or "plant teachers," I

highly recommend this book. I imagine it would be very difficult to share such "other worldly" experiences, but the author did a tremendous job. Now, more than ever, I desire to follow in her footsteps to the basin in search of healing and insight.

I wanted to read a first hand account of a case of a woman cured of her cancer by the healing plant ayahuasca because it piqued my curiosity, even after having experienced the ritual for myself several years ago.

This is the book of a journey of a woman to find her health, love and life. If you are interested in healing plants, especially in ayahuasca, it is a book for you. It is informing and entertaining in the same time.

This book is an interesting journey of a woman who has a serious illness and takes an unconventional road to healing. Nice description of her lush surroundings.

I am so excited to tell you all about this book my friend Margaret De Wys has recently published. The book tells of her true experience of her adventures in the becoming healed from cancer, working as a student to a native Shaman healer and a whole lot more. For me it is such a wonderful recommendation not only for what has been so eloquently written but because I personally know the folks involved in this book. Margaret truly captures the essence of her experience in a vivid masterpiece that describes a way of life and healing that we here in the west ignore and refuse to recognize as a possibility.

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