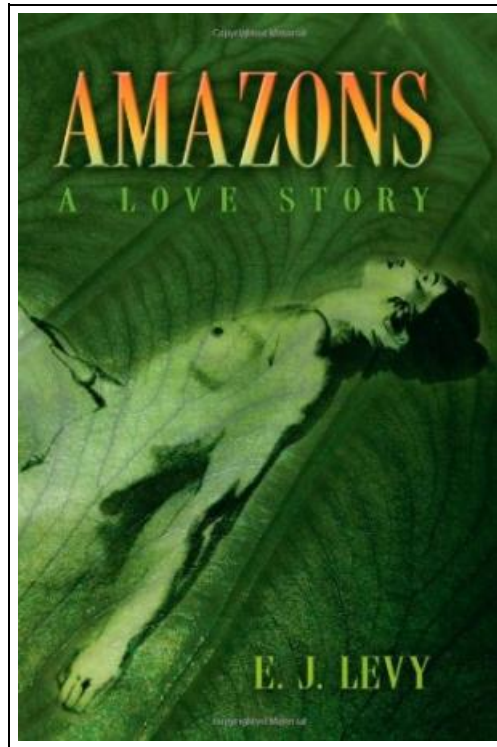


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

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(Trevion O'Hara)

AMAZONS: A LOVE STORY (HARDBACK)



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University of Missouri Press, United States, 2012. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. When E.J. Levy arrived in northern Brazil on a fellowship from Yale at the age of 21, she was hoping to help save the Amazon rain forest; she didn't realize she would soon have to save herself. *Amazons: A Love Story* recounts an idealistic young woman's coming of age against the backdrop of the magnificent rain forest and exotic city of Salvador. This elegant and sharp-eyed memoir explores the interaction of the many forces fueling deforestation - examining the ecological, economic, social, and spiritual costs of ill-conceived development - with the myriad ones that shape young women's maturation. Sent to Salvador (often called the soul of Brazil for its rich Afro-Brazilian culture), a city far from the rain forest, Levy befriends two young Brazilians, Nel, a brilliant economics student who is estranged from her family for mysterious reasons, and Isa, a gorgeous gold digger. When the university closes due to a strike, none of them can guess what will come of their ambitions. Levy's course of study changes: she takes up capoeira, enters cooking school (making foods praised in Brazilian literature as almost magical elixirs), gains fluency in Portuguese and the ways of street life, and learns other, more painful lessons - she is raped, and her best friend becomes a prostitute. When Levy finally reaches the Amazon, her courage - and her safety - are further tested: on a barefoot hike through the jungle one night to collect tadpoles, she encounters fist-sized spiders, swimming snakes, and crocodiles. When allergies to the antimalarial drugs meant to protect her prove life-threatening, she discovers that sometimes the greatest threat we face is ourselves. Eventually, her work as a cartographer of loss, charting...

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