



## Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest

By Mark J. Plotkin

Download now

Read Online →

### Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin

For thousands of years, healers have used plants to cure illness. Aspirin, the world's most widely used drug, is based on compounds originally extracted from the bark of a willow tree, and more than a quarter of medicines found on pharmacy shelves contain plant compounds. Now Western medicine, faced with health crises such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, and cancer, has begun to look to the healing plants used by indigenous peoples to develop powerful new medicines. Nowhere is the search more promising than in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest, home to a quarter of all botanical species on this planet—as well as hundreds of Indian tribes whose medicinal plants have never been studied by Western scientists. In *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*, ethnobotanist Mark J. Plotkin recounts his travels and studies with some of the most powerful Amazonian shamans, who taught him the plant lore their tribes have spent thousands of years gleaming from the rain forest.

For more than a decade, Dr. Plotkin has raced against time to harvest and record new plants before the rain forests' fragile ecosystems succumb to overdevelopment—and before the Indians abandon their own culture and learning for the seductive appeal of Western material culture. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice* relates nine of the author's quests, taking the reader along on a wild odyssey as he participates in healing rituals; discovers the secret of curare, the lethal arrow poison that kills in minutes; tries the hallucinogenic snuff *epena* that enables the Indians to speak with their spirit world; and earns the respect and fellowship of the mysterious shamans as he proves that he shares both their endurance and their reverence for the rain forest. Mark Plotkin combines the Darwinian spirit of the great writer-explorers of the nineteenth century—curious, discursive, and rigorously scientific—with a very modern concern for the erosion of our environment and the vanishing culture of native peoples.

 [Download](#) Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotan ...pdf

 [Read Online](#) Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobot ...pdf

# Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest

By Mark J. Plotkin

## Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin

For thousands of years, healers have used plants to cure illness. Aspirin, the world's most widely used drug, is based on compounds originally extracted from the bark of a willow tree, and more than a quarter of medicines found on pharmacy shelves contain plant compounds. Now Western medicine, faced with health crises such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, and cancer, has begun to look to the healing plants used by indigenous peoples to develop powerful new medicines. Nowhere is the search more promising than in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest, home to a quarter of all botanical species on this planet—as well as hundreds of Indian tribes whose medicinal plants have never been studied by Western scientists. In *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*, ethnobotanist Mark J. Plotkin recounts his travels and studies with some of the most powerful Amazonian shamans, who taught him the plant lore their tribes have spent thousands of years gleaning from the rain forest.

For more than a decade, Dr. Plotkin has raced against time to harvest and record new plants before the rain forests' fragile ecosystems succumb to overdevelopment—and before the Indians abandon their own culture and learning for the seductive appeal of Western material culture. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice* relates nine of the author's quests, taking the reader along on a wild odyssey as he participates in healing rituals; discovers the secret of curare, the lethal arrow poison that kills in minutes; tries the hallucinogenic snuff *pepena* that enables the Indians to speak with their spirit world; and earns the respect and fellowship of the mysterious shamans as he proves that he shares both their endurance and their reverence for the rain forest. Mark Plotkin combines the Darwinian spirit of the great writer-explorers of the nineteenth century—curious, discursive, and rigorously scientific—with a very modern concern for the erosion of our environment and the vanishing culture of native peoples.

## Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #234902 in Books
- Published on: 1994-08-01
- Released on: 1994-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.74" h x .57" w x 5.08" l, .53 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 328 pages

 [Download Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotan ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobot ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin**

---

### **Editorial Review**

#### *Amazon.com Review*

A century ago, malaria was killing Washingtonians, Londoners, Parisians. Today HIV, along with various cancers, has taken its place among worldwide epidemics. Quinine, extracted from the cinchona tree of the Amazonian rainforest, quelled malaria; alkaloids taken from trees in the West African rainforest may well yield a cure for AIDS. Yet those woods, Mark Plotkin tells us, are fast disappearing, along with the native peoples who know the powers of the plants that dwell there. His account of wandering through the Amazonian jungles focuses on local knowledge about plants, whose uses range from the mundane to the magical. The rainforests of the world, Plotkin notes, are our greatest natural resource, an intercultural pharmacy that can cure woes both known and yet unvisited.

#### *From Publishers Weekly*

Ethnobotanist Plotkin details the alternative medicines he discovered during an apprenticeship to the shamans of the Amazon rainforests.

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### *From School Library Journal*

YA-Plotkin is a scientist who lived with indigenous tribes in the Amazon areas of Guyana and Suriname in order to learn about their native plants and how they use them medicinally. This book covers the 10 years during which he visited isolated villages and recorded their plant lore. Amid tales of adventure and descriptions of exotic wildlife and scenery, the author emphasizes how the coming of modern society has unalterably changed these societies. Young people have lost interest in the traditional way of life and the shamans have no one to whom they can pass on their valuable knowledge. He discusses companies and organizations that are working to return some drug-sale profits to the Indians, establish shaman apprentice programs among the tribes, and preserve this valuable habitat. An absorbing book that goes miles beyond the mass market "save the rain forest" campaign to explain this important issue to teens.

*Penny Stevens, Fairfax Public Library, VA*

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Deemer:**

Book is definitely written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A e-book *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest* will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

**Kevin Swafford:**

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't evaluate book by its handle may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer is usually Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest why because the amazing cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

**Andy Breaux:**

The book untitled Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

**Gordon Lipsky:**

Many people spending their time period by playing outside along with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can really hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

**Download and Read Online Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin #CFTO5K1V3XU**

## **Read Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin for online ebook**

Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin books to read online.

## **Online Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin ebook PDF download**

**Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin Doc**

**Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin Mobipocket**

**Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest By Mark J. Plotkin EPub**