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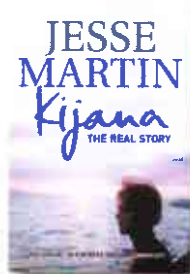
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biography

## Kijana: The Real Story

Jesse Martin

**K***ijana*, led by record-breaking solo circumnavigator Jesse Martin, was to be five young people on a three-year round the world voyage, exploring remote



locations, experiencing indigenous cultures and filming their adventures for a documentary. Jesse wanted the trip to be 'an adventure, not an adventure' but serious sponsorship was needed, which led to unexpected pressures, including censorship. This, together with crew tensions and myriad other problems, led Jesse to the harrowing decision to abandon his dream after just 10 months.

This book explains what happened from Jesse's perspective. In his signature from-the-heart style, he exposes the gamut of his emotions, from the nervous awkwardness of a first kiss, through the adrenaline induced highs of dramas at sea, to the gut-wrenching despair following abuse by his brother.

But he also celebrates the crew's achievements, vividly describing their many adventures, including living off the land with Aborigines, participating in cultural rituals in Toraja and searching for a lost tribe in Borneo.

Jesse doesn't see the trip as a failure, rather part of the ultimate adventure of growing up. His closing paragraphs, which motivate and inspire, are testament to the maturity of this courageous, yet humble, young man. A great read.

★★★★ Allen & Unwin \$29.95

Reviewed by Briar Jensen