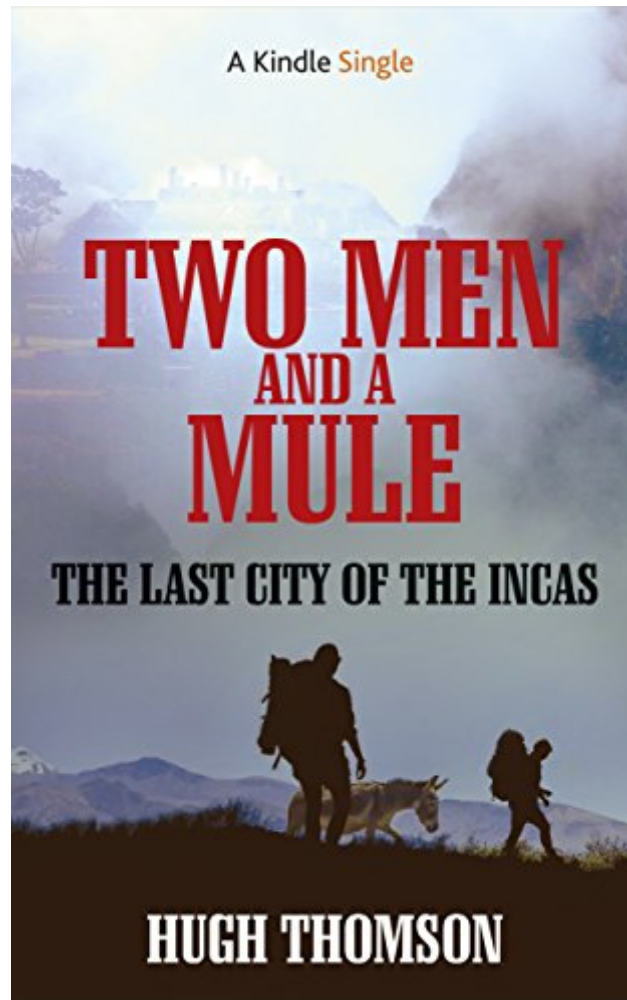




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Two Men And A Mule: The Last City Of The Incas (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

The Andes have become a symbol of a lost world of Inca wisdom and cities in the clouds, of the Celestine Prophecy and Indiana Jones. It needs two men (and their mule) to cut their way through the mystique with some machetes and wit. Renowned explorers Hugh Thomson and Benedict Allen join forces with their trusty mule Washington, to journey to the extraordinary Last City of the Incas, Espiritu Pampa. Deep down in the , this is where the Incas escaped when on the run from the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th Century, and where the very last Inca emperor, Tupac Amaru, was finally captured and brought back to be executed in the main square of Cuzco. This arduous trek takes them down off the steep slopes of the Andean cloud-forest into the steamy jungle and down stone-laid Inca path as they trek to the last city of the Incas - Espiritu Pampa or the Pampa of Ghosts. Hugh Thomson is the author of a series of acclaimed travel books, including The White Rock and Nanda Devi. His memoir Tequila Oil, about getting lost in Mexico when he was eighteen, was serialised by the BBC and he has led many adventurous expeditions to Peru in search of Inca ruins. In The Green Road into the Trees: A Walk through England, Hugh wrote for the first time about his own country: 'An immensely enjoyable book: curious, articulate, intellectually playful and savagely candid.' The Spectator. It won the inaugural Wainwright Prize for Best Nature and Travel Writing 2014. "Everywhere Thomson goes, he finds good stories to tell." New York Times Book Review

Book Information

File Size: 2830 KB

Print Length: 51 pages

Publication Date: October 11, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B016IPQK40

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #513,176 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #39

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Customer Reviews

Hugh Thomson's latest publication, *Two Men and a Mule: The Last City of the Incas*, is a brief account of an expedition to Peru undertaken by Hugh with fellow explorer Benedict Allen and a sympathetic mule called Washington. The short work gives a brief reprise of some of Hugh's previous visits to Peru and provides an introduction to a BBC Radio 4 series, for which they travel down from the high Andes towards the basin and Espiritu Pampa, the pampa of ghosts, the very last city of the Incas, built at the lowest level of the cloud forest, almost in the jungle. It was here that Tupac Amaru and his pregnant wife were captured by the conquistadores and later brutally executed. History comes alive in the current day experiences of the three intrepid explorers. They meet many interesting characters on the way. At one point, they stayed at the home of Don Juvenal Cobos, who helped American explorer Gene Savoy uncover Espiritu Pampa in 1964. I have memories of eating in the Andes what seemed to be dog and dishwater soup out of cracked blue plastic bowls. Benedict has learnt to be tolerant in his eating habits, so the local delicacy of guinea pig is no problem: "I did try camel once. It was tough, Very tough". Thomson fears for Washington's state of mind and has a private chat with him: "He was in a little bog that he clearly liked and was looking particularly sweet, ears twitching, happy after a good night of grazing and munching on the lush pasture". Thomson told the mule that he knew of Allen's reputation for eating his travelling companions (camel, mule) but he would not let that happen to Washington. "I felt he was telling me that, whatever happened, he wouldn't let Benedict eat me either". Thomson tries to explain his own fascination with Peruvian history. Something about the Inca sites, made him, even on his first visit at the age of 21, aware of his own mortality. Benedict, who has crossed the Gobi desert and travelled the Arctic with a dog team, finds Peru a new experience. In other places he got the feeling that exploration was coming to an end. "Here you're in the amazing position where you can still find cities, or at least ruins". There are vivid descriptions of the high mountains and of the steaming jungles, "Where fruit such as mango, granadilla or papaya grew, bright yellow mountain tanagers, one of the most frugiverous of

Andean birds, gathered in gregarious groups. One can sense the serpents lurking in the undergrowth and the appalling insects fastening on to one's blood vessels. There are compensations for the discomforts. "The call of the oropendola bird| a long looping noise best described as being like water being flushed down a pipe. Hugh is not being ungallant when he says this reminds him of his wife. The sound had enchanted her too. This Kindle Single is a handy taster for those who have not yet had the good fortune to read Hugh Thomson's lengthier works. I have been to many of the places described in Hugh's books and, although his explorations have been more adventurous than mine, the books bring back many memories for me.

Mildly interesting but there are better reports available on people who have followed Hiram Bingham's footsteps.

interesting travelling recite but very little new facts for readers of this kind of subject about the Inca's trail and history. Some interesting news about Hiram Bingham.

The best stories and performances leave you wanting more and I will be looking for more by this author.

I quite enjoyed it, an easy read.

Good read. Enjoyed it.

While I was attracted to the idea of this book, I felt let down when I finished it. The author gives glimpses into Peruvian history, but spend way too much time describing trivial things like the name of the mule

Just ok.

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