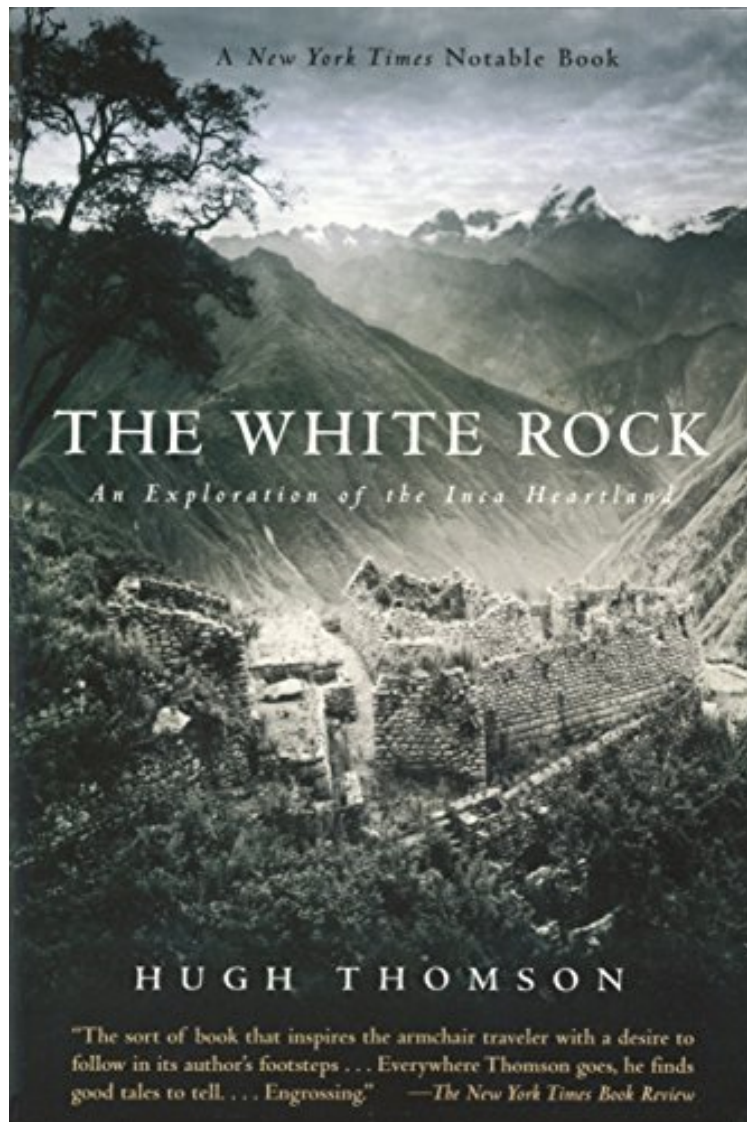


(Library ebook) The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland

The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland

Von Hugh Thomson

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Von Hugh Thomson : The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland before purchasing it in order to
gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca
Heartland:

Kurzbeschreibung More than twenty years ago, acclaimed documentary filmmaker and explorer Hugh Thomson first set off into the Peruvian cloud forest on foot, to find a ruin called Llactapata which, although it had been discovered by Hiram Bingham in 1912, had been "lost" again. With the backdrop of the ever-intriguing Andes mountains, *The White Rock*, Hugh Thomson's intoxicating history of the Inca people and their heartland, is a thrilling mix of information and adventure. The author, an acclaimed documentary filmmaker and explorer, expertly weaves accounts of his own discoveries and brushes with danger with the history of those who preceded him including the explorer Hiram Bingham, who discovered Machu Picchu; the twentieth century South American photographer, Martn Chambi; the poet Pablo Neruda; and the Spanish conquistadores who destroyed the Inca civilization and the eccentric characters he meets on his travels. From Booklist This book, the author posits, "is an attempt to present a clear-sighted view of Inca culture, drawing on . . . journeys throughout the Inca heartland near Cuzco, Peru, and across the vast empire they created." In 1982, Thomson, a journalist, photographer, and filmmaker, traveled to some of the most remote Inca sites and talked to archaeologists and explorers working there. He combines the story of his own discoveries with accounts of famous explorers who preceded him, including Hiram Bingham, who discovered Machu Picchu in 1912. Having hiked treacherous Inca paths with two friends, several native guides, and heavy packs, Thomson describes the region's people; the rain forests and mountains; the ruins of the lost Inca world; the heat and butterflies and condors; and his efforts to cope with snakes, bats, and mosquitoes. With 45 black-and-white photographs, this is a thoroughly and thoughtfully researched narrative of the Inca's rise and fall. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From Library Journal Part travelog, part history lesson, this narrative by documentary filmmaker Thomson (*Out of India, Great Journeys: Mexico*) recounts a successful expedition he led in 1982 to "refind" Llactapata, the "lost city of the Incas," and to explore other Inca sites spanning three countries. Among pages of encounters with flora, fauna, and fermented beverages, Thomson provides a good dose of Peruvian history: the Inca emperors come off as heroic defenders of the land, but we also learn that they had built their empire by subjugating other tribes, exploiting forced labor and other spoils of war. When the Spanish came, some of these conquered tribes were only too glad to help. Thomson returns in 1999 (after the Shining Path guerrilla group is gone) to visit Vilcabamba, the "last city of the Incas," where the final Inca emperor retreated before turning himself over to the Spanish Viceroy. Thomson is an impressive adventurer and an equally skilled writer. Recommended for academic and public libraries. Lee Arnold, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.