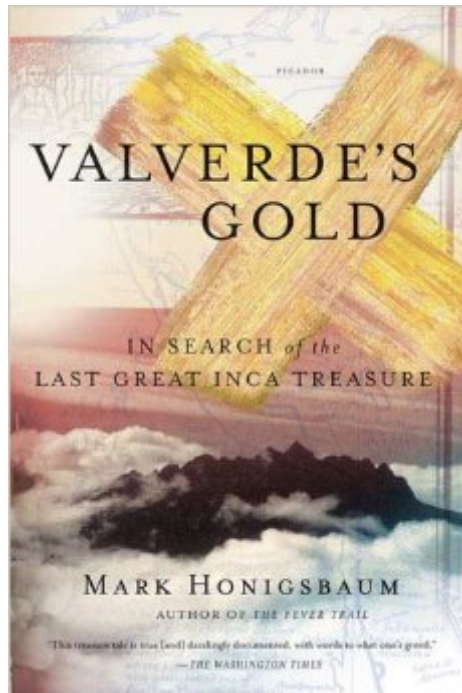


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Valverde's Gold: In Search Of The Last Great Inca Treasure



Synopsis

When Mark Honigsbaum discovers an ancient Spanish treasure guide buried in his research notebooks, he cannot help but be drawn into the legend of Valverde, a conquistador with a treasure trail that has proven fatal for the past 400 years. Undeterred by the cursed history of the gold, Honigsbaum embarks on an epic journey into the last uncharted range in the Andes--the Llanganati Mountains of eastern Ecuador. This is the story of how the lure of gold intoxicates even the most level-headed of historians, and of how men--and women--are seized with the desire to claim treasure from one of the most inhospitable landscapes in the world. Honigsbaum battles through mountains, jungles, and conflicting stories, and, as he draws closer to the hidden cache, illuminates the allure of lost gold and the hold it has on our imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Few topics fascinate me more than the Inca Empire, so when I found out about this account of a hunt for Atahualpa's gold, I had to read it. Unfortunately, this is not the first time I have come upon a book about an engrossing subject with only the subject matter to hold my interest. Perhaps the fault is mine, as I don't often read nonfiction, but when I'm reading a book that promises a riveting story, I guess I'm looking for something, well...riveting. I believe that Honigsbaum did have a fascinating story to tell; he simply failed to tell it. The man took an expedition across uncharted, inhospitable terrain and could have told anecdote after anecdote about his journey through the Llanganatis range in Ecuador in search of Atahualpa's gold. Instead, he went on for 300 pages blathering about searching through archives, reading journals, and looking at maps. I think that was all a vital part of

the story, just not 300 pages worth. A better book would have contained 100 pages or less of the above and spent the next 228 on the expedition. Any life-threatening episodes or adventure were reduced to a couple of sentences rather than told in any sort of riveting way. Biographies of some of the people he interviewed would also make much better reading. While I appreciate the thoroughness of the author's research, I don't think reading about it should be as tedious as the research itself. I also take issue with the book's title, as it is NOT Valverde's gold for which they searched, but Atahualpa's. It was his in life, and hidden on his behalf after his death, by the most cunning stonemasons the world has ever known. It will be a travesty if anyone ever finds it and unleashes the type of greed from which it was righteously hidden in the first place.

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