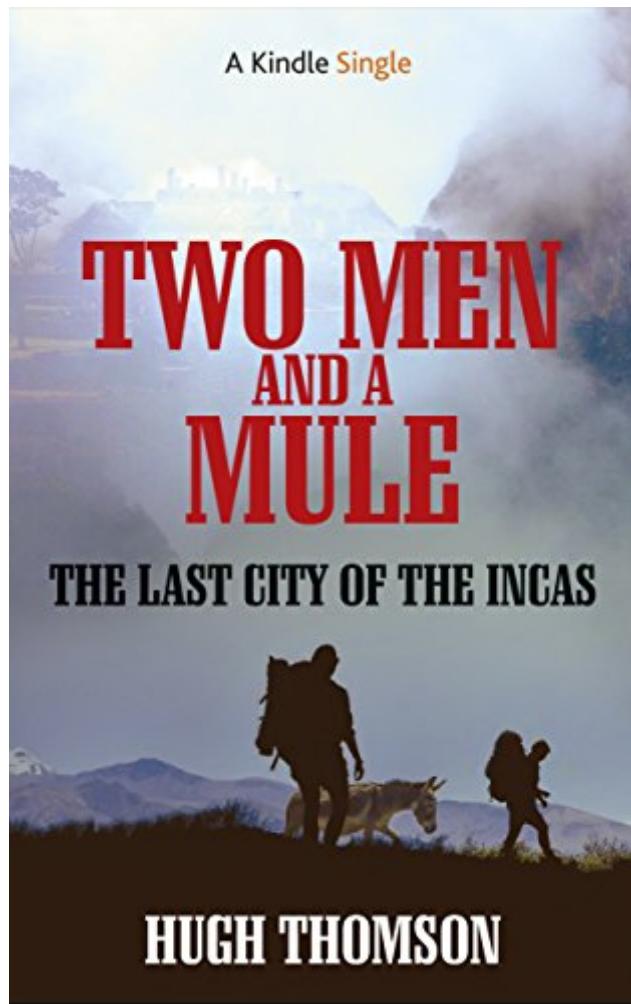


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Two Men And A Mule: The Last City Of The Incas (Kindle Single)



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 – "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

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Customer Reviews

Hugh Thomsonâ™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 Hughâ™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 EspÃ-ritu 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: âœI did try camel once. It was tough, Very toughâ•. Thomson fears for Washingtonâ™s state of mind and has a private chat with him: âœHe 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 pastureâ•. Thomson told the mule that he knew of Allenâ™s reputation for eating his travelling companions (camel, mule) but he would not let that happen to Washington. âœI felt he was telling me that, whatever happened, he wouldnâ™t let Benedict eat me eitherâ•. Thomson tries to explain his own fascination with Peruvian history.

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