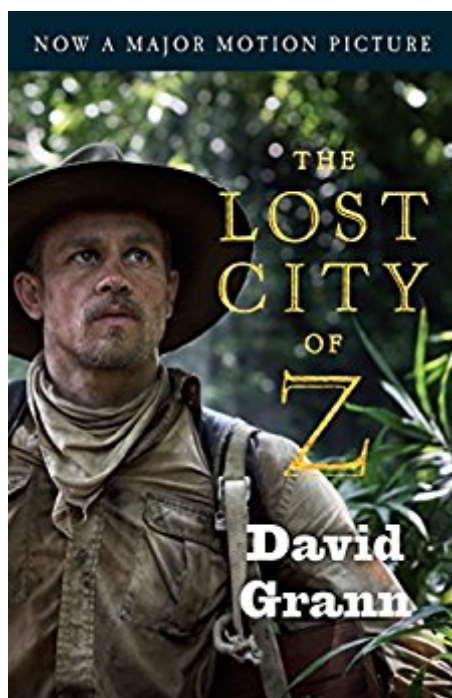


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The Lost City Of Z: A Tale Of Deadly Obsession In The



Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestseller - now a major motion picture starring Charlie Hunnam, Tom Holland, Sienna Miller and Robert Pattinson. In 1925, the legendary British explorer Percy Fawcett ventured into the jungle, in search of a fabled civilization. He never returned. Over the years countless perished trying to find evidence of his party and the place he called "The Lost City of Z." In this masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, journalist David Grann interweaves the spellbinding stories of Fawcett's quest for "Z" and his own journey into the deadly jungle, as he unravels the greatest exploration mystery of the twentieth century.

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Customer Reviews

I loved reading this book because of its diversity. You get a well rounded history from multiple accounts of the many cursed expeditions into the . The crazy men who dared to do it (both present and past), violent tribal peoples (though you understand why they're so hostile to foreigners), the nearly impassable terrain, the odd and bizarre creatures that reside there, and in the end, a plausible archaeologically based theory behind why people thought there was a large rich city once

in the . Like all things, people's imaginations run wild, but the author also brings you back down the earth with the reality of the jungle which left me with the overall conclusion that these grandiose theories of a Lost City of Z were really just grand exaggerations of much more practical evidence of a fairly developed, but long lost, past civilization. Some people criticize the book for only getting to the final expedition at the very end of the book. But I believe this criticism is unwarranted. You can't just jump into the final expedition without getting the backstory and context of the people, place, and time. I feel the author did a marvelous job of jumping around and pacing the book, so that when you get to the final expedition, you're well versed in the context and prepared to understand why things went down the way they did. Fantastic read, and I shall keep this book as a permanent fixture in my collection. Too bad I only got it in paperback... dang.

I rarely read nonfiction and did not plan to read this book, but my husband insisted I read it before our recent trip to the and I'm glad I did. The book is really two stories. The first one is the life story of Victorian explorer Percy Harrison Fawcett who was a member of the Royal Geographical Society. Originally, Fawcett was hired to map the borders between Bolivia and Brazil, but he mapped far more than that over the years. Fawcett and his crew of explorers faced great dangers. In those days the jungle or rain forest was home to many insects such as mosquitos that carried horrible diseases, such as dengue fever, malaria, yellow fever, and maggots that invaded their bodies. There were no preventatives, no antibiotics. Fawcett rarely got sick, but his men did and many died. It didn't help that he drove his men to hike through the thick jungle and mud for unreasonable long hours with little or no food even when they were extremely ill. In addition, they had to explore in uncharted rain forests and rivers without the aid of a GPS or a cellphone or satellite phone. There were no computers or Internet. Furthermore there were tribes who liked to kill outsiders. During these years, Fawcett heard tales of a lost city in the interior of the basin that many called El Dorado. Fawcett called it Z. He became obsessed with finding this lost city. On his final exploration, he took his son and his son's friend and they looked for the lost city. Much of what happened during Fawcett's trips was documented in journals kept by him and those who were with him. Furthermore they sent letters home occasionally. David Grann who was writing for The New Yorker, decided to go to the in the 1990s to learn what happened to Fawcett 70 years previously and to see if the lost city even existed. Grann spent much time doing research and got access to letters and other documents that others never had seen. Despite medical and technological advances and the destruction of much of the rain forest, Grann had some harrowing times and became about as obsessed with his mission as Fawcett had. I actually became more engrossed in Grann's story. It was interesting to

see how even more rain forest had disappeared when we went on the and Ucayali rivers this summer. I highly recommend this book for those planning a trip to the basin and for those interested in the history of the area.

This was a great book, in my opinion. The way the author wove the history behind the disappearance of Colonel Fawcett with his own journey to find out what happened to Fawcett was perfectly executed. I enjoyed the way the author filled the book with information about South America, the changing views on the tribes there, and the obsessiveness of early explorers. One reader felt that the conclusion was a let down, but I found it to be very satisfactory. It made me want to find out more! I can see why it has been developed into a movie, but I can't imagine a movie being able to so much as touch all of the fascinating side-stories contained in the book. I both read and listened to the book and the reader was good, although he did have some odd pronunciations at times.

This is a weird and amazing tale that blends history, ethnography, geography and a dash of good old-fashioned Kiplingesque fun. There are so few facts available here, that David Grann had to jump back and forth among these fields. I found the transitions a bit strained at time, but the book is still a wonderful read. I can certainly see why Hollywood purchased the story. Great summer reading, for sure!

Absolutely fascinating book. The highest accolade that I can give is that it makes me want to read more about Colonel Fawcett and about the exploration of the past and present.

This is an excellent book. The adventure is interesting, engaging and thrilling. The best part of the novel is that it ends satisfactorily. I doubt the movie will be up to the level of enjoyment of the novel, however, I will go see. Loved the research that went into this novel.

Really enjoyed the two stories that this book told; the past converging with the present. I learned quite a bit about how race shaped early exploration and how our knowledge of the complexities of native cultures is expanding today. I look forward to watching the film.

Although I love history and non fiction, even detail (ie The Great Bridge), this book took me down too many fact finding journeys to justify the gratifying ending. I never want to give spoilers and keep

someone from reading a book themselves so I will simply say it was an interesting read, with personally uncomfortable character reveals, and an abrupt ending. I struggled, admittedly for personal reasons, therefore three stars.

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