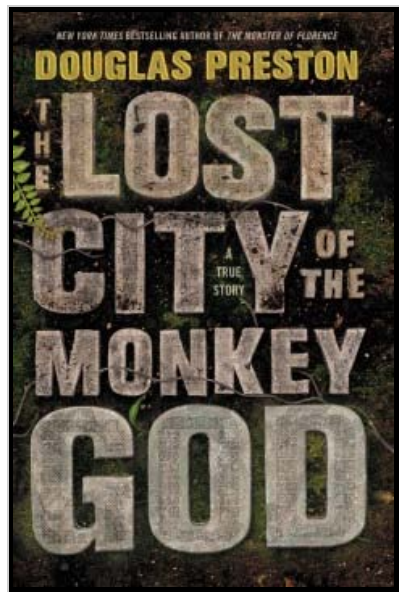


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The Lost City of the Monkey God

A True Story
by Douglas Preston

Price: \$28.00(Hardcover)
Published: January 03, 2017

★★★★★
Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A five-hundred-year-old legend. An ancient curse. A stunning medical mystery. And a pioneering journey into the unknown heart of the world's densest jungle. Since the days of conquistador Hernando Cortes, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden somewhere in the Honduran interior, called the White City or the Lost City of the Monkey God. Indigenous tribes speak of ancestors who fled there to escape the Spanish invaders, and they warn that anyone who enters this sacred city will fall ill and die. In 1940, swashbuckling journalist Theodore Morde returned from the rainforest with hundreds of artifacts and an electrifying story of having found the Lost City of the Monkey God-but then committed suicide without revealing its location. Three quarters of a century later, bestselling author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists...

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About The Author

Douglas Preston
DOUGLAS PRESTON worked as a writer and editor for the American Museum of Natural History and taught writing at Princeton University. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *Natural History*, *National Geographic*, *Harper's*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Atlantic*. The author of...

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What We Say

Great fun for armchair travelers, would-be adventurers who wrongly believe there's nothing left to explore and students of history and archeology. "The Lost City Of The Monkey God" sounds exactly like the latest episode of Indiana Jones. But author Douglas Preston -- co-writer of a string of thrillers along with solo articles and books for New Yorker, National Geographic and many others -- proves that's not so far-fetched. In Honduras, legends have persisted of a legendary White City -- as well as a culture to rival the Mayan -- which disappeared some 500 years ago. Combining serious reporting and just plain fun, Preston shows how "lidar" -- a hugely sophisticated form of radar previously used to map the moon's surface --

- is put into play to "explore" inhospitable areas of the Honduras apparently untouched by humans for centuries. It reveals three promising sites which might indeed be worthy of scholarly excavation, but first the potential must be demonstrated with actual on-the-ground confirmation. Thus does Preston find himself joining a team of scholars and explorers venturing into a gorgeous but highly dangerous Eden. The story combines political coups, scholarly backbiting, genuine sites worthy of preservation that might rewrite the history of the Americas, giant snakes of frightening intensity and the modest little sandfly that proves their deadliest foe of all. Preston gives fair ground to some scholars who criticized the expedition he took part in, though his sympathies (and the general facts) are on the expedition's side. It's an absorbing, fun read until the final section where a deadly illness that strikes much of the team after returning home proves frightening and a potential clue to what wiped this culture so abruptly off the face of the earth. Remember this disease which is already a major threat for the two billion people on the planet who don't have access to safe drinking water and sanitation: leishmaniasis. Thanks to global warming and the ever-increasing intimacy of the world's population, leishmaniasis is coming to a neighborhood near you sooner than you'd think possible. The "curse" of "The City of the Jaguar" (it's newly dubbed name circa the Honduran government) isn't through with us yet. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"A story that moves from thrilling to sobering, fascinating to downright scary-trademark Preston, in other words, and another winner."âKirkus, *starred review* -

"Replete with informative archaeology lessons and colorful anecdotes about the challenges Elkins' crew faced during the expedition, including torrential rains and encounters with deadly snakes, Preston's uncommon travelogue is as captivating as any of his more fanciful fictional thrillers."âBooklist -

"For anyone who dreams of lost times and places--and who doesn't?--this is the book. Revelatory, chilling, creepy, and alive with deadly snakes and insects bearing incurable disease, it's high adventure at its best, and all true."âErik Larson, New York Times *bestselling author of* Dead Wake *and* The Devil in the White City -

"What reader could resist a new book by Douglas Preston called THE LOST CITY OF THE MONKEY GOD? Not this reader. Preston's book offers rewards for both the mystery fan and the nonfiction aficionado. THE LOST CITY is addictive-fast-paced and riveting, but it's...

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