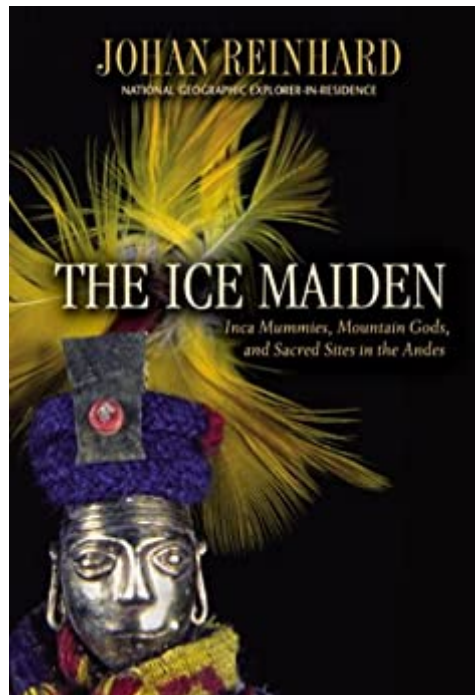


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Ice Maiden: Inca Mummies, Mountain Gods, And Sacred Sites In The Andes



Synopsis

Johan Reinhard's discovery of the 500-year-old frozen body of an Inca girl made international headlines in 1995, reaching more than a billion people worldwide. One of the best-preserved mummies ever found, it was a stunning and significant time capsule, the spectacular climax to an Andean quest that yielded no fewer than ten ancient human sacrifices as well as the richest collection of Inca artifacts in archaeological history. Here is the paperback edition of his first-person account, which The Washington Post called "incredible" and "compelling and often astonishing" and The Wall Street Journal described as "part adventure story, part detective story, and part memoir" "an engaging look at a rarefied world." It's a riveting combination of mountaineering adventure, archaeological triumph, academic intrigue, and scientific breakthrough which has produced important results ranging from the best-preserved DNA of its age to the first complete set of an Inca noblewoman's clothing. At once a vivid personal story, a treasure trove of new insights on the lives and culture of the Inca, and a fascinating glimpse of cutting-edge research in fields as varied as biology, botany, pathology, ornithology and history, The Ice Maiden is as spellbinding and unforgettable as the long-dead but still vital young woman at its heart.

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Customer Reviews

Prior to seeing Juanita in her museum in Arequipa I had no idea she existed. I became fascinated by her and wanted to learn more. This book took me through Johan's discovery of her but also her preservation and the research done and knowledge acquired through it. I had no idea how much more I could learn when the Llullaillaco mummies were discovered in Argentina and are even more preserved than Juanita. I can't wait to learn more about these incredible discoveries and more discoveries to come and what they can teach us in the future.

love archaeology, especially south American? you'll love this

I read Ice Maiden before a trip to Peru. This book gives much information-not only about the actual ice maiden herself, but related discoveries including the difficulties, both physical and political, of such types of archaeology. It is also readable and provides sources, references. Intriguing and moving at times, it inspired me to read more. Wish there were more pictures and maps. Certainly worthy.

A well-written firsthand of a high-altitude archaeologist, not a career I knew existed before! I haven't finished it yet, but so far it's an interesting study not only of archaeology and ancient Inca human sacrifices, but of the logistics and politics that go into this kind of research.

Reinhard has done a masterful job of writing up a fantastic archaeological find for the layman who is without formal anthropological education. The mountaineering aspect of both Reinhard and friends and the Inca 500 years ago is beyond ordinary. The politics of trying to do a scientific adventure in a third world country is described very well. I recently (Nov '08) did similar work; volunteer conservation trail work, teaching mountain rescue to local rangers/police, ruin and trail stabilization, etc. in Peru and can fully appreciate his descriptions of the surroundings. I recommend this book for anyone planning a trip to the Arequipa and Cuzco areas.

I was expecting something a little more exciting with more about the actual discovery of Juanita

rather than further exploits. But interesting nevertheless.

This book is very interesting. I like how the author's story is so well written, easy to read, and full of valuable information. Reinhard includes things that range from the politics behind an excavation to his geological knowledge. Very smart guy!

Very exacting and to the point. If you love Nazca or Peru, you will love this book. Reinhard writes from the viewpoint of an academic, but phrases his views in easy to understand prose.

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