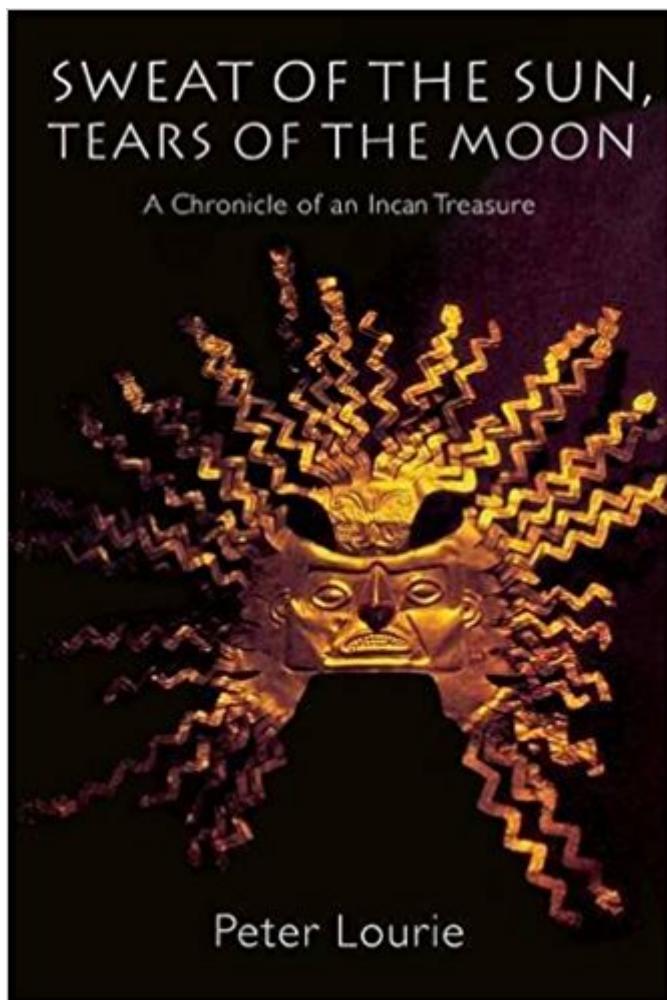


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# Sweat Of The Sun, Tears Of The Moon: A Chronicle Of An Incan Treasure



## Synopsis

Eight billion dollars' worth of Inca gold and silver are rumored to be hidden in an unmapped region of the Andes. This is the captivating story of that fabled treasure and the centuries-old spell it has cast on many, including a young American student, Peter Lourie. While completing anthropological fieldwork in Ecuador, Lourie heard the legend of Atahualpa's ransom. The Incas gathered seven-hundred tons of gold (Sweat of the Sun) and silver (Tears of the Moon) to purchase the freedom of their king, Atahualpa, from Pizarro and his conquistadors. After the Inca ruler's murder, the treasure vanished into the forsaken Llanganati range of the Andes. Lourie abandoned his graduate school ambitions to search for Atahualpa's ransom. His quest for clues and his journey into the heart of the Andes is an absorbing and exciting detective story. Lourie's account is also unforgettable for its revelations about the lives and characters of seasoned treasure hunters, the obsessed few lured by the siren song of legendary gold.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The lost treasure of Atahualpa, the Inca king murdered by Pizarro in 1534, continues to lure gold hunters to the distant, almost impassable mountains of Ecuador, where, legend says, it is hidden. Lourie, a graduate student in anthropology, succumbed to the legend and set off on an expedition to separate myth from fact. His journal captures the quixotic path he followed, often with laughable unreadiness and the self-delusion that propelled many fellow-travelers he encountered en route. In the end, ironically, Lourie concluded that he had no desire whatsoever to disturb the Incas' gold. His

journal is a captivating, if meandering adventure. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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The Llanganati is a remote, high Andean area of Ecuador that has long been rumored to contain a fabulous gold collection hidden by the Incas when the Spanish conquistadors swept through. Over the years it has attracted a colorful variety of treasure hunters, some of whom the author got to know in the early 1980s. Lourie decided to make the expedition himself, but not in search of the treasure so much as the experience of the journey. In doing so, his first book is a rich tapestry of characters of several nationalities that often reads like fiction. The title is a reference to the Incan imagery of gold and silver, respectively. The only major drawback is an absence of maps, yet this is ultimately a fine treasure-hunting book.-Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., AshlandCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I greatly enjoyed this book! It's not only an exciting book but, may I say, an educational & inspiring one as well. It's the type of reading that once finished, makes you want to put down the mobile device/laptop, throw your boots on, and get out there & explore this great big planet we call Earth! What makes it worth while isn't just the story itself (a firsthand account, mind you), but the fact that Mr. Lourie offers up quite a bit of detail in regards to the back-story of not just the treasure, but the Incan people as well. I highly recommend this book; it speaks to the "Indiana Jones wannabe/Adventurer-in-waiting" in all of us.

Great product!

He had incomplete research and, therefore, made mistakes as to certain assumed facts.

Book was ok. Bought as gift did not read it myself but seemed ok. The person I bought it for said it was fine.

I recently received this book as a gift after it was discovered that I, too, have an insatiable proclivity for "treasure hunting", albeit to a much lesser degree than that of the main characters. I immediately took to the style of Mr. Lourie's writing and his incredible ability to capture and relate detail, whether it be his thoughts or the Ecuadorian landscape. I found it easy to lose myself in Quito or to imagine

the hellish terrain along the route to Cerro Hermoso; but then the author reminds me of the absolute remoteness associated with the pilgrimage and I wonder if I would have had his courage. For the moment, I am content living vicariously through his words and his stories. I feel lucky that he did what he did, when he did it, and had the guts to follow through. I wonder if he witnessed the tail end of this fraternity of true and genuine hunters of Atahualpa's treasure! Then again, perhaps he's infected one more!

Although I studied archaeology and ancient history as a "serious" academic subject I have always been interested in legends and tales of secret temples and hidden booty which are usually dubious at best and often pure nonsense. The tale this book recounts is different -- there is a grain of credibility to the story however fanciful it may be. But what makes this book stand out from the crowd is the excellent quality of the prose which is very unusual in a book of this genre. The scenes set in Quito are evocative as are the descriptions of all the locales visited by the author. The portraits of the characters encountered by the author are very well drawn. I am not in the habit of writing book reviews but I urge anyone who likes a good yarn written intelligently and with a praiseworthy lack of egotism to take a look at Lourie's book.

A fascinating chronicle of a search for Treasure and the discovery of oneself: You encounter an old world in the high mountains of Ecuador and feel its beauty, as well as the inner lives of people who are there. Foreigners come in the attempt to find the gold that belonged to the ancient Inca people, which is now hidden in the mountains. As you read further, the cast of characters is vividly described, at times humorous and at times sad. A great read that is clear and very well documented.

I first read *Sweat of the Sun, Tears of the Moon* in the original Atheneum hardcover. What a fine book! It's not your usual treasure-hunt adventure, but a sensitive portrayal of South American culture and dreams. Well, it's also a treasure hunt, and you can't believe Lourie lived through it all to tell the tale. I'm so happy to see it in paperback A really fine book by a fine author. His young-adult books are extraordinary as well. But this one's a must for any reader interested in the Andes, in treasure hunting, in the human soul in darkest peril. Five stars all the way. This is one of those books you keep thinking about for years.

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