



Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time

Mark Adams

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time

Mark Adams

Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time Mark Adams

What happens when an adventure travel expert-who's never actually done anything adventurous-tries to re-create the original expedition to Machu Picchu?

July 24, 1911, was a day for the history books. For on that rainy morning, the young Yale professor Hiram Bingham III climbed into the Andes Mountains of Peru and encountered an ancient city in the clouds: the now famous citadel of Machu Picchu. Nearly a century later, news reports have recast the hero explorer as a villain who smuggled out priceless artifacts and stole credit for finding one of the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Mark Adams has spent his career editing adventure and travel magazines, so his plan to investigate the allegations against Bingham by retracing the explorer's perilous path to Machu Picchu isn't completely far-fetched, even if it does require him to sleep in a tent for the first time. With a crusty, antisocial Australian survivalist and several Quechua-speaking, coca-chewing mule tenders as his guides, Adams takes readers through some of the most gorgeous and historic landscapes in Peru, from the ancient Inca capital of Cusco to the enigmatic ruins of Vitcos and Vilcabamba.

Along the way he finds a still-undiscovered country populated with brilliant and eccentric characters, as well as an answer to the question that has nagged scientists since Hiram Bingham's time: Just what was Machu Picchu?

Watch a Video

Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time Details

Date : Published June 30th 2011 by Plume (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Mark Adams

Format : Kindle Edition 353 pages

Genre : Travel, Nonfiction, History, Adventure, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost Ci ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step

at a Time Mark Adams

From Reader Review Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time for online ebook

Jeanette says

In *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* Mark Adams interweaves his own adventure treks to important Inca sites in and around Machu Picchu - under the expert guidance of Australian John Leivers (and, on the Incan Trail, Ephraim Valles) - with Hiram Bingham's Peruvian expeditions and controversial discovery of Machu Picchu as well as with the history of the Incas both before and after the Spanish invasion.

With a light, and often humorous touch, Adams covers over 500 years of Incan history, major Inca sites such as Cusco, Ollantaytambo, Vitcos, Vilcabamba, Choquequirao, Llactatpata and, of course, Machu Picchu itself (once in October and then in June, at the Winter solstice). He canvases theories and controversies, tracks down elusive experts, treks up and down precipitous and sometimes jungle-choked trails, admires Incan monuments and mountain landscapes and brings to life the people he interacts with and the Incas, who build the timeless cities with exquisite skill and imagination. Maps, glossaries, photographs, timeline and index is included for easy reference. His style (unlike Bingham's apparently) is engaging and easy to read.

This is a great book for the scholar, the traveller or just anyone who is fascinated by the sublime beauty and mystery of Machu Picchu.

Jim says

Most travel books tend to be rather mediocre: There is no sense of wonder, no reason why anyone would envy the traveler and dream of following in his footsteps. *Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time* is a welcome exception to that sad rule. The author, Mark Adams, spent much of his life writing for outdoor magazines, but never had caught the travel bug himself ... until he decided to visit in person and on foot the Inca cities clustered north of Cuzco.

It helped being married to a Peruvian woman, but it was the author himself who found himself a capable guide -- an Aussie named John Leivers -- who was both a personable traveling companion and an extremely knowledgeable one.

Another inspiration was American explorer Hiram Bingham III, the so-called discoverer of Machu Picchu. Throughout his book, Adams cuts back and forth to Bingham's own experiences a hundred years ago. Whether Bingham actually discovered Machu Picchu was immaterial: It was his promotion of the Inca sites, with the help of Gilbert Grosvenor of **National Geographic** magazine that helped preserve dozens of ruins for posterity, together with his book **The Lost City of the Incas**. Again it doesn't matter whether it was "lost" or not. Bingham helped to make sure it never would be lost.

I myself hope to visit Peru next year, and I luckily chose this book as the first step in a rather extensive reading program. Because of my age, I will never take the Inca Trail, or climb to Machu Picchu or any of the other Inca mountain cities or shrines.

Whether or not you are interested in going to Peru, you will find yourself feeling a sense of wonder as you

read these pages. An excellent read not only for real travelers, but also the armchair variety.

Jason Golomb says

Mark Adams' "Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time" is a book that's a bit hard to classify. All at once, it's a serious (and seriously funny) travelogue; a smart and tightly written history; and an investigative report into the greatest archaeological discovery of the last century.

Author Adams spent time writing and editing for the now defunct National Geographic Adventurer magazine and despite working with and alongside some of the world's hardest core adventure travelers, he admits to not being much of one himself. He'd visited Machu Picchu with his son, but he'd done it the tourist way. He wanted to REdiscover Machu Picchu - the way its' original discoverer, Hiram Bingham, had 100 years ago this July. He wanted to hike, climb, slog, tent and explore his way through the Vilcabamba region of Peru and finish at the site that was recently named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

Adams doesn't camp and hadn't been in a tent for years leading up to his Peruvian excursion. His preparation for the trip was extensive, including dressing the part of adventurer. "Have you ever seen Mr. Travel Guy? He's the fellow who strides through international airports dressed like he's flying off to hunt wildebeests - shirt with dozens of pockets, drip-dry pants that zip off into shorts, floppy hat with a cord pulled tight under the chin in case a twister blows through the baggage claim area. All of this describes exactly what I was wearing. I could have been trick-or-treating as Hemingway."

Make no mistake. Adams trip was an uncompromising adventure. There were no soft train rides, or helicopter drops into the jungle. Adams hiked, slept in tents, climbed miles of off-the-beaten-path terrain, and used the same bathroom facilities as Bingham had almost 100 years earlier - nature. His only chance at being successful in this endeavor was to surround himself with quality guides and support. He emphasized when he hired his guide, experienced explorer and discoverer in his own right John Leivers, that he wanted his trip to be about walking in Bingham's footsteps.

The real joy in reading "Turn Right at Machu Picchu" is the frank and insightful humor Adams embeds within his adventurous tales. While Leivers was his primary guide, Adams was surrounded by a colorful and interesting crowd, some of which speak only the ancient language of the Inca - quechua. One guide genuinely feared a man-eating devil goat that guarded the entrance to a farm used as a campsite. Adams points out that rumors and ghosts are abound in Peru and particularly in the Andes where "the mischievous twins of Superstition and Legend tend to thrive." Adams also struggled to communicate with Leivers because they come from such different worlds and experiences. Adams finally strikes a note of commonality when a fairly severe bout of bowel issues made his adventurer guide reminisce about his own time with the same problem.

He takes seemingly meaningless interactions and with only a few words turns them into something substantive, funny and culturally eye-opening. "One of the things about Peru that I'd found it hardest to adjust to - even more so than the popularity of Nescafe in a country that grew some of the finest coffee beans in the world -- was la hora perunana, Peruvian Time. This is the code, indecipherable to North Americans, by which Peruvians determine the latest possible moment that it is acceptable to arrive for an appointment. The statement "I'll be right back" can mean just that, or it can mean that the speaker is about to depart via steamship for Cairo. The habit drove Bingham bananas and hasn't improved over time, despite a widespread

government campaign to combat tardiness a few years ago."

Mark's narrative parallels the expeditions of Hiram Bingham as documented in his books "Inca Land" and "Lost City of the Incas". Where Bingham went, so went Adams. What Adams sees, so wrote the famed explorer. Throughout the book, Adams provides a very smartly written and readable examination of Bingham's extensive and dramatic expeditions. His chapters are short and each thread of his story - his own travel, the history of the Inca Conquest and Bingham's parallel journeys - are woven as seamlessly, intricately and colorfully as a prototypical Andean poncho.

In Adams' parallels with Inca history, he points out the difficulty in separating fact from fiction "because virtually all the sources available are Spanish accounts of stories that had already been vetted by the Inca emperors to highlight their own heroic roles. Imagine a history of modern Iraq, written by Dick Cheney and based on authorized biographies of Saddam Hussein published in Arabic, and you'll get some idea of the problem historians face." Still Adams deftly pulls together multiple resources and his own independent research to trace the earliest beginnings of the Spanish Conquest until they finally subdued the last Inca Emperors.

It was the last Inca holdout that Bingham was seeking. The historical record is confusing, but consistently pointed to a location called Vilcabamba. It was unclear whether Vilcabamba was a town, city, or region, and Bingham's search was further muddled by the historical record pointing to several "final" Inca strongholds. But search he did, and Adams followed.

The first major site on Adams' agenda was Choquequiru, known as the "Cradle of Gold". The site is far less accessible than Machu Picchu despite stop-and-start initiatives by the Peruvian government to create easier tourist access through the Peruvian jungle. It's estimated that only 20-30 percent of the site has been cleared and Adams quotes his guide Leivers suggesting that "When this is all cleared, it'll be one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the world."

Much new modern analysis of Machu Picchu and the entire Vilcabamba region northwest of Cuzco, revolves around archaeoastronomy - the study of archaeological sites in relation to their positions to each other, their environment and the heavens. Leivers and his ever-present handheld GPS would pinpoint locations of buildings and objects throughout the trip and started to pull together the connective thread of the regions' ruins. Upon climbing to the mountain peak that overlooks the Machu Picchu ruins, Adams wrote, "I had to admit when I ... saw how the site aligned with the natural features surrounding it I'd felt a twinge of...something. Awe? Transcendence?"

Adams points out that among the various ruins that Bingham discovered, he also brought to the world the famed Inca Trail which thousands of hikers travel each year. Many Inca trails cross the former Empire, but there's only one Inca Trail - the one that leads to Machu Picchu. Adams followed miles of Inca trail throughout his trip, but needed a second trip with Leivers to explore the Inca Trail itself, and discover the trails' relationship with Machu Picchu. The Inca Trail is dotted with ruins of various sizes. Each ruin, whether placed within a terraced valley, or providing a dramatic overlook across jungle and mountains, in its own way, builds dramatically to the point at which it connects with Machu Picchu. Explorer and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence Johan Reinhard succinctly places the Inca Trail in its' proper context, "you can't finish the Inca Trail and NOT know that this was the end point of a pilgrimage."

As one might imagine, such a hard core experience would have a significant impact on one's life. As Leivers and Adams started their ascent of Mount Machu Picchu, Leivers starts to make a walking stick for himself, but finds that he's left his large hunting knife at their hotel in Aguas Calientes at the base of Machu Picchu.

Adams unzipped his pack, dug around for a moment and then handed his knife to Leivers. The world-wide traveler and adventurer who's led trips across deserts and mountains said "That's good preparation, Mark. Nice sharp blade on it, too." Mark realizes "It was, I'm not ashamed to admit, one of the proudest moments of my life."

Chris says

The best thing about this book, besides the cover, is the fact that Adams, paradoxically, manages to demystify Macau Picu while making it an even powerful symbol of mystery and discover. IT's a wonderful travel log, interspersed with history. Adams has a great sense of humor.

Susy says

At the suggestion of a friend who said she "was LOLing" while reading this book and praised it as being written in the manner of Bill Bryson's *A Walk in the Woods*, I decided to be an armchair traveller to Machu Picchu. Adams does have the same self deprecating style as Bryson; he's an ah shucks writer about his own lack of skill, but let's face it - he made it to all the sites supposedly discovered by Hiram Bingham whose travels of 1911 he decided to follow. Along for the trek and leading the way is the requisite gruff but knowledgeable guide as well as local porters who also serve as guides, interpreters and who can fend off any near disaster. He travelled in good company and the tales of the trek were by far my favorite part of the book.

I occasionally got bogged down in the details of Bingham's explorations and Adams' attempts to validate his conquests. It was also difficult to keep track of all the place names but overall I'm impressed by Adams' research not to mention his ability to hike at elevation.

Still not interested in making the journey myself.

AngryGreyCat says

I read this book for a book club I belong to that is currently following a travel theme. The book follows Mark Adams as he retraces the steps of Bingham, the explorer/adventurer/professor who "discovered" Machu Picchu, on the 100 year anniversary of the discovery. This should have been a great travel adventure but there were some issues with the book. Mark Adams tells his present day story interspersed with Hiram Bingham's original tale and then with tales from Pissarro and the Conquistadors. The switching back and forth is done erratically and is often disruptive. I can't tell whether the author did this deliberately to make a statement about how the journeys were interchangeable even after the passage of time or if it was justerratic.

Another issue is that the author is not the most descriptive of writers, when I am reading a travel book about some place I will probably never see, I would like the author to "paint pictures with his words" so that I can vicariously "see" his views and experience the trip. Some of the writing is very flat and leaves you with a let down feel,... okay we got to Machu Picchu, now we're going someplace else....what?

The main positive of the book is John Leivers, Mark Adam's Australian born guide. He seemed like a fascinating person and I would probably have loved a story about him. There is also information about the controversies surrounding Machu Picchu and antiquities in general that was all very interesting. It seems to me that the book had an identity crisis. It tries to be a little bit of everything, a biography of Hiram Bingham, a travelogue, a historical text of Peru, and some ethics essays about antiquities. In trying to do too much, it succeeds at nothing. It has interested me enough in Hiram Bingham, that I will look for other books about him.

🌹Rose?? says

What a fun filled, laugh out loud romp through history as travel writer Mark Adams follows the footsteps of the so called discoverer of Machu Picchu. Mark Adams quits his day job, hires some very interesting characters and sets out to hike to Machu Picchu. His travel guide is an Australian survivalist, Jon, who very much resembles Crocodile Dundee. A very scrappy interesting man who I would love to see write his own book on his life time of adventures in places people would only dream of ever seeing. And seeing it in a rough and tumble way. What a life. He also employs muleteers and a cook. I cannot tell you how much fun this journey was. Very delightful which made all the facts and historical elements of it so much easier to digest. History for me can be extremely boring. So when I come along and find a book that entertains as well as teaches, it's just flat out wonderful.

Trivia bits I learned: bit of lore surrounding Bingham (the explorer) and Indiana Jones. Speculation that maybe Indy was fashioned a bit after Bingham. Both college pros by day and swashbuckling archeologists on the side and both sported the Fedora.

The other bit I loved was how the Incas connected all the cities together by the stars and now perfectly engineered this all was. How the sun and stars helped them align the buildings perfectly despite how far apart they were and in such dense jungle. Just amazing!

You can be sure I'll be putting this one on the places to travel list.

Grace Komjakraphan says

Machu Picchu was ON the list, but after reading this book, THE INCA TRAIL is on the list.

Librariasaurus says

I really enjoyed this book. And now I want to go to Machu Picchu.

You can definitely tell this was written by a journalist, but Mark Adams had fun writing this book.

As with many adventure travel stories, you can feel yourself going along for every step of the journey.

Adam's writing makes you sympathise. You can feel every bead of sweat, every ache of sunburn, you can taste the coca and you know exactly how it feels to get blistered toes because you forgot the rule of mountaineering: Always wear two pairs of socks.

I could feel Adam's getting sucked further into his obsession with Hiram Bingham's story but I don't feel that he ended the story all that conclusively.

I like the Australian link in the story, which is personified in the presence of John Leivers, Machu Picchu expert extraordinaire.

The humour woven throughout the story, whether it be as a result of John Leivers anecdotes, Adams' own misfortunes or Justo the cook and Efraim the guides stories of cultural quirkiness and tourist idiocy; truly make this book enjoyable and inspiring to read.

The only bad things for me, was not having an in-text guide to the pronunciation of some Peruvian place names, it really slowed the pace of reading to constantly have to flick back and forth between the glossary and the story.

I would advise anyone who reads this not to overlook the footnotes as they contain some of the most valuable and humorous parts of this story, including the little tidbit that explains how the rapper Tupac Shakur got his name.

Read this book and I guarantee you'll be on the travel sites working out how much it's going to cost you to fly to Peru within minutes of beginning.

Gerry Claes says

For most of my life I have been fascinated with Machu Picchu and have always had a desire to hike to this famous lost city of the Inca's. My daughter who is 33 years younger than me hiked to Machu Picchu a few years ago and the two of us have a competitive history of visiting the most locations. I have her beat in states (48 to 46) but she left me in the dust a number of years ago in number of foreign countries visited. I decided to read this book to live my daughter's hike vicariously and perhaps a hike to Machu Picchu is still in my future.

The book tells the story in two different times. Mark Adams decided to retrace Hiram Bingham's "expedition in the early 1900's when he "discovered" Machu Picchu. Bingham ended up taking some relics from the sight that he gave to Yale University and the battle by Peru to recoup these "stolen" goods is covered in the book.

I found the book quite interesting but I must admit that the names of some of the sites and Inca leaders caused me some confusion. I mean why can't they rename Vilcabamba the "Villa" of maybe change Llaqtapata to "LA". Same goes for some of the Inca emperors, Atahualpa could become "Ata" and Manco Inca Yupanqui could become "Yuppie" This would have made it much easier for me to keep track of everything and I am sure the Peruvians would be quite agreeable to these changes. Just a thought.

The book is a good adventure read and if you have any interest in Machu Picchu I think you will find it most enjoyable. I found Mark Adam's guide John Leivers a very interesting character. I think a separate book could be written just about his life.

Caroline says

I was expecting to read about a first-time hiker's experience on the Inca Trail. Instead, I found myself in the middle of a 300-page bromance. I liked hearing about Mark's trip, and getting to know John, and learning about Hiram Bingham, and hearing how Mark met his wife, and reading some of the theories about Macchu

Picchu's significance, but maybe not all in the same book.

An accurate summary: "Intrigued by tales that Aurita had told me of even greater wonders along the Inca Trail, my friend and I tried to enter Peru via the Lake Titicaca ferry but were rebuffed by a menacing teenage soldier carrying an AK-47 and wearing a Barbie backpack. I looked across the water toward Peru and vowed to return one day. Then an old man with a cane picked my pocket."

Kinda how travel really is, though.

Even though I wasn't crazy about the construction, I would still recommend to people who hope to hike the Inca Trail. He does have some good tips buried in there.

*In addition to Macchu Picchu, visit: Sacsahuaman, Llactapata

*Walk rail line to Aguas Calientes instead of riding train - goes through Mandor Pampa

*Take "back door" route to Machu Picchu - train shuttle that runs once a day from hydroelectric plant on the Urubamba river. Take bus to Santa Maria, transfer to smaller bus at Santa Teresa, flag down combi bus to train station and Hidroelectrica and walk along the tracks. Saves you \$103 (163)

*enter via Sun Gate if you walk the trail

*Deserted stone path that runs from Choquequirao to Vitcos is "one of the finest stretches of Inca Trail in all of Peru" (179)

*If you want to hike to Huayna Picchu (tough hike, could take it or leave it) - only first 400 of 3000 visitors are allowed to climb to the top

And a local guide referring to steps on last day of Inca Trail - "We call this the gringo killer."

Erica says

Why did it take 250 pages for Mark Adams to admit Machu Picchu was never lost?

The indigenous peoples of Peru knew of it the entire time.

Why did Mark Adams take so long to build up the beauty and importance of the Inca, only to never spend a sentence on the modern day Inca, those who descended from the original peoples by building lives in the jungle?

Why couldn't Adams censure Yale for keeping artifacts when they really, really shouldn't?

Why was he so fascinated with Bingham, explorer of 100 years ago, in the first place? The guy was a jerk.

This book left me with so many questions, but mostly if Mark Adams knew what privilege is and decided to ignore it, or was just blissfully ignorant.

I'd love to read a real book on the importance of Machu Picchu and of travelling through Peru, and I really hope to hike the Inca Trail someday.

This book wasn't great at history. It was, however, fairly good as a hiking guide and as a guide to taking native peoples for granted. Modern colonialism indeed. Adams should not return to Peru or writing about it until he takes an Anthropology course, preferably several, and human rights course dealing with the indigenous peoples of Peru and their sad legal state. I just don't understand how he could say he's visiting the country to really get to the spirit of the Inca, but then ignore the people who are right there with him. Did he even try to learn Quechua, at least part of it? Ignoring the language is like going to Barcelona having never heard of Catalan.

Anyway. I wouldn't really recommend it, and I'm REALLY glad I got a discount second hand copy rather than one new.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

Mark Adams decides to trace the journey of the man who claimed to "discover" Machu Picchu, Hiram Bingham, and takes a very strenuous hike through Peru. This book chronicles that journey, as well as a return trip he took to hike the "Inca Trail."

If Adams had only written about his own journey, I'm not sure it would have been that interesting. He has worked in travel writing, albeit more as an armchair editor than a traveler, for years. He had connections to help him prepare, research, and advise him on equipment. He was never without a staff of cooks, guides, mule handlers, and hosts. Even though the conditions are hard, it isn't exactly a journey of self-discovery, which is what I prefer in travel writing. Nope. Adams is here to see the places that Bingham saw. And to learn important things like how you should wear two pairs of socks when hiking.

Luckily, Adams didn't just write about his own trek. He fills in the gaps with information on the Incas, the birth of archaeology and what probably happened with Machu Picchu before Bingham ever got there, and how the Spanish invasion of the 1500s and 1600s impacted the direction of history. There were some fun factoids that I enjoyed, like how there are other important mountain-top sites that might be even more interesting than Machu Picchu (but possibly not as breathtaking), that Tupac Shakur's name comes from an ancient Incan leader, and even learning more about the development of National Geographic.

There are two people mentioned in this book that I think have more interesting connections with Machu Picchu. The first is John, who has guided people through this area for decades (and some of his story is here). The other is Johan Reinhard, who has researched extensively about the meaning of the sites, and I plan to read his book, Machu Picchu: Exploring an Ancient Sacred Center.

No matter the tone or reason, this book makes me want to join the many who trek the Inca Trail. I'm not sure I'd ever be physically capable, but it is a nice dream!

MaryG2E says

I greatly enjoyed this well-written travel adventure by Mark Adams. A New York resident, Adams worked

for many years in travel publishing, and his writing style reflects his journalistic skills. *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* is a warm-hearted, funny and entertaining account of Adams' journeys in a remote part of Peru to retrace the steps of Hiram Bingham III, the 'discoverer' of the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu. It is also an affectionate portrait of a remarkable man, John Leivers, the Australian ex-pat guide, with his laconic style, meticulous planning and profound knowledge of the Inca sites around Cusco. It is largely thanks to Leivers' skills that Adams survives, humping his heavy backpack hundreds of kilometres in rugged mountain countryside to re-visit the numerous locations identified by Bingham a century earlier.

Even before the end of his long life, Bingham's claims to have discovered the lost capital city of the last Inca Emperor were being disputed. His reputation was also tarnished by allegations of looting Peruvian national treasures. His highly-readable 1948 book *Lost City of the Incas* captured the public imagination, and he remained a hero in popular culture, despite the misgivings voiced in academia. One of Adams' self-appointed tasks was to examine the criticisms, to see if they hold up today. He also wanted to see with Bingham's eyes the nature of the landscape and the endeavours of the lost Inca empire. I think he succeeded very well - the structure of his narrative swings between chapters about Bingham's original journeys and accounts of his own experiences hiking along rough trails in the company of a bevy of quirky characters.

If there is one key character in this book that never talks, but speaks volumes, it is the stunning beauty and grandeur of the landscapes in which the adventurers travel. With the expertise of Leivers at his elbow, Adams gradually came to the realisation that the Incas viewed their environment on a grand scale, which embraced and interconnected large areas of the landscape in an harmonious and spiritual domain. His final steps on the Inca Trail revealed to him the magnificence of that vision, lost over 450 years earlier with the bloody Spanish invasion.

I had previously read Bingham's book *Lost City of the Incas*, and it greatly added to my reading enjoyment, to recognise sections of the original text being discussed by the modern-day author. A great self-promoter, Bingham's claims need to be viewed cautiously nowadays. Despite this, Adams gives full credit to the original adventurer in terms of his scientific methodology and meticulous planning. While Machu Picchu has been comprehensively disproved as the last capital city of the Incas, it remains a magnificent testament to the powers of that lost culture.

Jean says

The author, Mark Adams, retraces the steps that led Yale Professor, Hiram Bingham, to discover Machu Picchu one hundred years ago, on July 24, 1911.

The chapters more or less alternate between Bingham's and Adams' expeditions. Adams packs a lot of information into the book. He includes anecdotes, observations and sometimes he tosses in hilarious tidbits. He also includes information on the flora and fauna as well as Inca history of the area. He also describes what it is like today. I picked up a bit of trivia: "Peru has twenty of the thirty-four types of climatic zones of the Earth and mules have bowel problems at high altitudes."

The book is meticulously researched. The author does an okay job with intertwining three separate plots. I discovered that the April 1913 issue of the *National Geographic* is all about Bingham's discovery of Machu Picchu. This is available on CD or on line for members. It was great to hike the Inca trail without doing the physical work and deal with the mosquitoes.

Andrew Garman does a good job narrating the book. Garman is an actor and audiobook narrator.
